



ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL BLACKHEATH
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION


All Saints' is a thriving Church of England school situated in the middle of the heath just a short walk from All Saints' Church.

As a proud Christian school, our mission is to educate the saints of today for the world of tomorrow, and our vision is for every child to let their light shine. Through collective worship and daily activities, we encourage children to develop spiritually and to be reflective learners.

Our ambition is to make sure every child is equipped with the skills they need to succeed as they progress on to secondary school and the wider world.

We nurture them as unique individuals with skills and talents which we seek to identify and promote through activities both within the school and beyond.

*In our pupils, we develop
resilience and the tenacity
to be successful in their
goals and to grow into
happy, healthy,
ambitious individuals.*



WHY ARE WE ASKING YOU TO DONATE TO THE SCHOOL?

All Saints' is a Church of England voluntary aided school. This means we are funded differently and receive less money than other schools of a similar size in Lewisham.

As with other public sector services, schools are currently facing unprecedented financial pressure. Schools particularly, face significant uncertainty about their future, as they don't know from year to year how much funding they will receive, and this makes planning especially difficult.

Mrs Tompkins and her team regularly go above and beyond to ensure that the children are not affected by this situation. It says so much about their care and dedication that they have already done so much to absorb the current financial pressure and make sure the children are not affected.

The Governors, the School and Friends have come together to create the All Saints' School Blackheath Alumni Association. It is our intention to grow the Alumni Association so that children at the school today will be able to have a meaningful connection with All Saints' throughout their lives.

We are committed to helping the school raise funds to continue to educate our children and ensure that they have the best opportunities in life.

We have chosen three specific projects which we would like to raise funds for in our first year.

SWIMMING

We strongly believe that every child should have the opportunity to swim as part of their primary education.

At the moment only our Year 4 children go swimming and only for one term. It is our initial aim to ensure that Year 4 can swim for the whole school year. This would cost £1,300 each year. Eventually we would like to find a way for all children to swim at some point in each academic year.

We know that many of you have very special memories of swimming at All Saints' whether it was on a Monday afternoon at Ladywell Baths or at the Arches in Lewisham and we hope that you will be able to donate so that our current pupils can enjoy that experience and create the happy memories you have.

Allow Year 4 to swim for entire school year

— £1,300 EACH YEAR

*Help the school pay for families
unable to pay for trips*
— £800 PER CHILD

SCHOOL JOURNEYS

The school journeys for Years 4, 5 and 6 are now a vital part of our curriculum. All children participate, and the school pays for those whose families are unable to do so. For many, it may be their first time away from home.

School journeys are, most importantly, fun! However, the benefits of taking the children into different environments allows them to understand these varied areas and compare them with inner London.

In Year 4, children spend two days and a night away from home at the Surrey Outdoor Education Centre in Boxhill, where they enjoy the natural beauty of woodlands and the English countryside. They build dens, explore the animals and mini beasts and sing around campfires.

In Year 5, children spend three days and two nights at the Children's Youth Christian Enterprise Sailing Centre in Chichester. They stay on a converted London barge and sail a variety of vessels such as dingy, canoes, kayaks and drive motor boats.

In Year 6, five days and four nights are spent at the Bryntisillio Outdoor Education Centre in Llangollen. Children go bouldering, gorge walking and explore the Snowdonia National Park. There's also a visit to Chester Zoo to understand the importance of conservation.

The benefits to the children are enormous in terms of developing their independence, building resilience and teamwork skills, but it currently costs on average £800 per child for the 3-year package, and that is not affordable for every family at the school.

We do not want to reduce the programme but want to ensure that as few children as possible miss out on this opportunity. Contributing to this means paying towards a vital part of a child's educational development.

So many of you have memories of Wrotham, and it is so lovely to hear that some of your children have been on school journey there as well and are already creating their own memories.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROGRAMME

It is vital that we help children to flourish and overcome barriers to learning and achievement and prevent mental health problems occurring.

There are many ways in which all school staff can promote children's mental health and well-being through formal teaching strategies, informal, light-touch, day-to-day interactions and intervention programmes.

Recently we have lost our Learning Mentor who supported children and families who have emotional needs. These can range from the death of a close family member to poor self-image leading to a lack of confidence.

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to fund this position and it is sorely missed in the school. To have the opportunity to employ a learning mentor, on a part-time basis, would mean so much and the cost would be £15,000 per annum.

We would like to put a programme in place to support the mental health and wellbeing of all our pupils across a range of areas, including: social media workshops for children, parents and carers; wellness workshops for the children, to help them cope with stress.

Employ a part-time learning mentor and implement a mental health and wellbeing programme to support the school's pupils
— £15,000 A YEAR

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We would encourage you to consider how you might contribute financially to the school. Please consider how much you might be able to commit.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

This all depends on your household. We appreciate that you may already give to your former secondary school or university as well as other charities. Anything that you can give will be appreciated.

HOW BEST CAN I GIVE?

You may decide to give to a specific item that we want to fundraise for. You may have special memories of swimming and want to enable children to do that regularly or you may have loved your time on your school trip and want to ensure that every child can have that same experience. We are more than happy to ringfence your donation for a specific project.

We would be grateful if you would set up a standing order, they are easier to process and include the recovery of gift aid.

We appreciate that some of the sums we need are large and we are setting a high bar for the amount that we wish to raise but we would appreciate whatever you might be able to give, whether it is a one off donation or a monthly standing order.



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You can also keep up to date with Alumni activities by following us on Facebook.
