

Edwinstree School Association Annual Report 2023

Many thanks go to all the ESA committee, trustees, volunteers, teachers, parents and students who have attended and supported our events throughout the year. Since the establishment of this current ESA (February 2022) £15,973.28 has been raised and £11,257.36 spent on advancing the education, development and wellbeing of the pupils of Edwinstree Middle School.

Events this year which have contributed to this are as follows.

Smarties Challenge

In February half term 2023 we challenged the Year 5 and 6 to the ‘Smarties Challenge’. This involved them enjoying a treat from us, and then passing on the good deed by doing jobs for others, collecting money at the same time (which is returned in the empty Smarties tube). A profit of £73.71 was made and a good start to the fundraising for this year’s big project of an outdoor classroom.

Family Quiz

“The Bearded Geckos” walked away as the winners of our family quiz on 24th February 2023. A great evening was had by all and some of us might have learnt a thing or two. We hope to make this an annual event, with our next quiz booked for 9th February 2024. £279.26 was raised

Easter Eggs

School enquired if the ESA could provide all the students with an Easter egg this year. With our drive to fund an outdoor classroom we didn’t feel in a position to spend too much money, so gifted each child a small (actual egg sized) Smarties (or food intolerance alternative) egg. Thus £185.80 was spent on nearly 500 little treats.

Spring Disco

This was the second year that we have hosted this disco just after year 6 finished their SATS. Even an unexpected rain shower couldn’t dampen spirits as the children, staff and parent volunteers danced the evening away on the playground and school field. £1108.49 was raised, really helping towards our target of £12000 for an outdoor classroom.

Family Fun Night – Escape Style Challenge

When it came to the evening (9th June) we only had 3 teams competing to solve all the clues and win the pirates booty. We still managed to make a profit of £41.94 and all the competitors (and ESA volunteers) had a great evening. We will be repeating this event but hope to have learnt several lessons about how to improve attendance. We are already advertising this event which will be held on 10th November 2023.

Summer Tree’t & Wildlife Photography Competition

Mrs Van Wyk and the Year 8 Leaders planned and held a little summer fair know as the Summer Tree’t on 24th June. Gardening club sold plants they had propagated and the Year 7 textile club sold items, many from recycled materials including old school jumpers. The ESA helped by hosting a raffle and selling refreshments. On display at this event were all the entries for our Wildlife Photography competition. In total

£806.59 was raised. Of this £103.75 was raised by some students specifically for new library books and £93 was donated to the outdoor classroom campaign, leaving £609.84 ring fenced for Mrs Van Wyk to spend.

Sports Day

4th July saw the first sports day for several years due to covid restrictions and extreme hot weather last year. Needless to say School were a little out of practice at welcoming parents to the event and with the weather a little overcast and chilly nevertheless, the ESA made a £213.24 profit selling hot drinks and refreshments.

School Musical

£209.39 had been ring fenced from money raised at last years musical and £157.48 was spent on providing costumes for this year's production of 'The Island that ROCKS'. A pleasant evening selling refreshments along with a raffle raised £377.65. £175 will be ring fenced for next years production along with £51.91 still held from the previous year.

Year 8 Leavers

Camping out on the field is becoming a bit of a tradition for the year 8 leavers, but we were only asked to supply a few refreshments this year so £13.78 was spent.

September Ice Lollies

The new school year started on 5th September with hot weather and with only the year 5's in for the first day we were able to just about meet demand selling ice lollies from our single cool box at the end of the school day. £23.49 was made and introduced the ESA to many new parents meeting their children at the school gate on the first day.

New Friends Disco

22nd September we held a disco for year 5 and 6's to help make new friends. We also had some new ESA committee members and volunteers for this event. Fees are due on the school gateway payment but provisionally £660 was raised.

Pre Loved Uniform

Attend2Health have generously been allowing us to store stock and hold a couple of pop up events on their high street premises. Along with sales at parents evening and the online SumUp Shop we have generated £118.01 this year. This has saved parents approx £301 compared to buying new and helped the environment.

Other Income

Easy Fundraising has generated £81.18.

We finally managed to gain access to the old ESA Barclays savings account of £46.41.

Wildlife Area

Students, parents, grandparents, teachers, gardening enthusiasts and local handymen gave up several Sundays in the spring to revamp the wildlife area. A viewing deck for the pond was built, stinging nettles were brought under control (but this is still an ongoing battle – it needs to be natural, not neglected). With funding from Dandara and the spring Disco 2022 £3483.06 has been spent over the past 2 years installing a

shed, pupil shelter and waterproofs along with the improvements to the growing garden.

Outdoor Classroom

All our fundraising efforts this year have been to build an outdoor classroom and with the generosity of the school, local community, businesses and grants we did it!

The classroom is already in use, but once the renewable energy components have be fitted (October 2023) we'll have a little opening ceremony to celebrate! £14134 (£4600 in school account from the Co-op) was raised to fund this project.

Stock

We have still have £190.37 worth of refreshments stock (securely stored in the home of the Chair) and £17.70 of cushion inners for the textile club.

Current Financial Situation

Current funds £4,715.92 of which £3,847.30 has been allocated as follows:

Musical production 2024	£ 226.91
Music Department	£ 80.00
Summer Tree't	£ 609.84
Outdoor Classroom	£ 2826.80
Library	£ 103.75

Thus remaining ESA funds of £868.62