

ALL SAINTS BENVILTON SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



All Saints
Benhilton
School
Association

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ASBSA NEWS & EVENTS

Welcome Back! We hope you are all looking forward to the autumn term events we have planned for your entertainment!

Sadly we had to cancel our back-to-school BBQ / picnic this year due to poor weather conditions. We were sorry to disappoint all those who were interested in coming along. We did still go ahead with the uniform sale in the hall, which raised **£169**. Thank you to all who helped on the day.

Our AGM was held on Monday 26th September, where we elected our committee members. A full list of members and class representatives will be in the notice board in the office and on the school website shortly. We also heard from Beth who told us all a bit more about the charity **Reverse Rett** which we will be supporting this year. She has kindly produced some information for this newsletter which you can find overleaf.

This term will see our Bake Sale on **Tuesday October 11th**, with delicious goodies coming from star bakers in our infant classes (*nursery to year 2: look out for further information in your book bags!*) Cakes and treats will be on sale after school with a special mini sale after morning nursery.

We will also have our secrets room operating on **Friday 2nd December**, giving children the opportunity to buy small Christmas gifts for their families in secret! Finally we have our Christmas Fayre – the Extravaganza – which will be running on **Saturday 3rd December 11am – 2pm**. This is a huge event for us so we do hope you can come along and support us.



We will be doing our Christmas card fundraising again this year. Anyone who wishes to participate can **pick up a pack from the office** and decorate their own cards at home over half term, returning them to us with your order and payment by **Tuesday 1st November** to be printed and ready for the 1st week of December. *Unfortunately any cards received after Wednesday 2nd will not be ordered.*

Please come and join us for our next ASBSA meeting to be held on **Monday 10th October at 7:30pm** in the staff room at school. We will discuss in more details our plans for the Christmas events.



Our chosen charity to support this academic year is **Reverse Rett**. 10% of all our profit will be donated to this wonderful cause. We raised nearly **£800** for The Royal Marsden last year.

Nearly New Uniform

Don't forget the ASBSA nearly new uniform sale, which will be at our events throughout the year. Any donations of good quality used uniform would be gratefully received – please place them in the red basket in the school office.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED WITH ANY OF THE ASBSA EVENTS LISTED, OR HAVE ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS PLEASE EMAIL:

ASBSA@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Monday 10 th October	ASBSA Meeting 7:30pm at the school
Tuesday 11 th October	Bake Sale at 3:15 pm
Tuesday 1 st November	Deadline to return Christmas cards
Monday 7 th November	ASBSA Committee Meeting at 7:30pm
Friday 11 th November	'Choose Your Shoes' Day (Donations of gifts for Secrets Room)
Friday 25 th November	'Wear a Christmas Item' Day (Hamper donations for raffle prize)
Friday 2 nd December	Secrets Room
Saturday 3 rd December	ASBSA Christmas Extravaganza



Help us raise further funds by doing your Christmas shopping online via The Giving Machine at

www.thegivingmachine.co.uk

It takes 1 minute to register and you can shop at over 1500 shops including Tesco and Sainsbury's! Just enter **All Saints Benhilton School Association** as your cause and every time you shop via their website we gain donations!

Please visit the website to find out more!



OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE OUT MID-NOVEMBER WITH FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OUR EXCITING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

DONT FORGET TO VISIT THE ASBSA PAGE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR ALL THE LATEST ASBSA NEWS. THIS IS ACCESSED UNDER THE PARENTS TAB FROM THE HOME PAGE.

AUTUMN TERM 2016

REVERSE RETT

BY BETH JOHANSSON

Imagine the symptoms of autism, cerebral palsy, Parkinson's, epilepsy and anxiety disorders all in one child. This is Rett Syndrome.

Hannah was born in 2007 after a textbook pregnancy and completely normal delivery. For 18 months she developed normally and was a picture of health, happiness and everything any parents could ask for. But then things changed. Her hands started to shake, she began crying uncontrollably, she pulled out chunks of her own hair, and her development slowed. Between her 2nd and 3rd birthday, the skills she had acquired started to slip away – her hand function deteriorated, her words vanished, her mobility faltered. One month before her third birthday, on February 3rd 2010, after 9 months of tests, we were told she had Rett Syndrome.

We didn't know then what Rett Syndrome was, but we quickly learned that it was far more devastating than we had feared. We learned that this little girl before us would most likely lose all her mobility, all her speech, all her hand function. We learned that she would develop epilepsy, scoliosis, digestive issues, breathing difficulties and heart problems. We learned that she would never read, write, skip, climb a tree, sing a song, ride a bike or have her own family. We learned that her future was one of regression, uncertainty and total dependence. We were broken.

But then we learned something else. We learned that in 2007, Rett Syndrome had been reversed in mice, and that a charity called Reverse Rett were working to fund research to replicate that reversal in girls. We learned that the hope for a cure is tangible, and that there IS an alternative possible future for Hannah. As parents, this became the only option – we needed to support this charity and do everything we could to help fund the research to make that future happen.

Hannah is now 9 years old and many of those difficulties we feared might happen have developed. She has no words, her mobility is highly limited, her hand function is poor, her breathing is laboured, she has partial epilepsy and she is fully dependent on us for every basic function. But she is also engaged, alert, sociable, sparkling and mischievous. Rett Syndrome has locked her in to a body which betrays her mind every second of every day, but her brain is not damaged and she has the same potential as any other child, if we could only set her free.

Reverse Rett send 97p of every £1 we receive to research, pursuing both the ultimate goal of reversal as well as researching ways to alleviate particular symptoms in order to improve girls' health and quality of life. The progress is immense and the momentum is gathering – it is a matter of 'when', not 'if,' we get there. We rely entirely on committed parents, families and friends to continue supporting and fundraising to get us there as quickly as we can – our girls need the cure yesterday.



If you are free on **Sunday 16th October** please join us in supporting Reverse Rett with their Virtual 5K or 10K Run. For more details see:

<https://www.webscorer.com/reg>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORK OF REVERSE RETT PLEASE GO TO
WWW.REVERSERETT.ORG.UK OR, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL
BETH@REVERSERETT.ORG.UK