

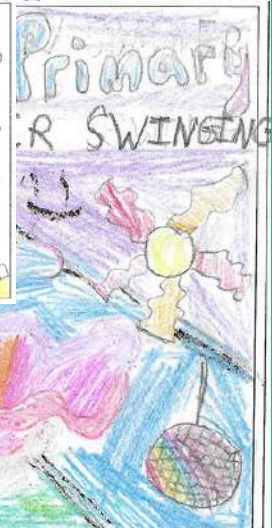
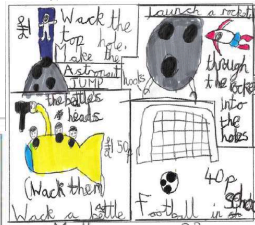
JULY 2025  
ISSUE #8

Poplar Primary

POPLAR  
SUMMER  
FAIR 2025



THANK YOU ❤️







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# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The PTA would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to every single one of you who has supported us throughout the year. Whether you donated for mufti days, volunteered at an event, created a magical grotto, sponsored a plant, donated prizes, baked treats, helped with decorations, designed hampers, carried boxes, recycled clothing, contributed to our pre-loved uniform sales, or offered your time and talents in countless other ways – we see you, and we are truly grateful.

Your generosity and involvement reflect the incredible community spirit, strength, engagement, and diversity that make Poplar so special. The list of contributions is endless, and while we may not have named every act of kindness, please know that each and every effort is deeply appreciated. Everything you do helps enrich the lives of our school community, and every bit of support goes straight back into the school we all care so deeply about.

Thank you!



We are beyond delighted to share with our Poplar community that this year's Swinging 60's Summer Fair, to date, has raised an incredible ...

**£11,600**

We anticipate our final closing amount to be £12,200.



# OUR SUMMER FAIR

## A Celebration of Community, Creativity, and Heart.

Poplar Primary School's Swinging 60s Summer Fair, held on Saturday 5th July from 12-3 pm (well, officially – but we had such a great time it went on until 4!), was a vibrant, joyful, and unforgettable celebration of community spirit, creativity, and resilience.

The day began with a dramatic twist – heavy rain poured down just as we were setting up. Gazebos had to be relocated, stalls were rushed indoors, and plans were quickly adjusted. But in true Poplar fashion, teachers, staff, parents, volunteers, and friends pulled together with incredible teamwork, laughter, and determination. What could have been a washout turned into something truly special, thanks to the unshakable spirit of our community.

And once the event kicked off, the rain couldn't dampen the atmosphere. The energy was fantastic. From live music by T.A.K.E., an incredible band led by one of our very own ex-students, to an energising DJ set and a brilliant live singer, the sounds of the 60s echoed through the school grounds. A roaming photographer captured smiles, laughter, and special moments throughout the day, giving us memories to treasure. **[Here is the link to the pictures. Click here.](#)**

The fair was packed with an incredible variety of activities and treats. There were **34 colourful stalls** run by our ever-enthusiastic volunteers, creative arts and crafts, retro games, face painting, delicious food, sweet treats, and of course, decorations that gave a real nod to the swinging sixties – bold, bright, and full of personality.

Pupils, families, staff, and local residents, young and old, mingled, played, danced, and laughed together, showing once again just how powerful and joyful our community can be when it comes together.

**Our volunteers were the true stars** behind the scenes – setting up, running stalls, guiding visitors, offering help with endless patience and energy, all with big smiles and good humour.







# OUR SUMMER FAIR

Their support was invaluable, and the event simply wouldn't have happened without them. We had **244 volunteer slots** covered by **162 volunteers** on the day.

The fair was so successful and well-attended that we extended it by a whole hour, with people still enjoying the festivities well into the afternoon. And we're thrilled to share that, thanks to everyone's generosity and support, we raised a **phenomenal £11,600 for the school so far** – funds that will go directly back into enriching the experiences and opportunities for our pupils.

More than just a fundraiser, this event was a celebration of everything Poplar stands for – unity, creativity, resilience, joy, and inclusion. It reflected the strength, diversity, and engagement of our school community, where every contribution – big or small—makes a real difference.

To every single person who gave their time, their effort, their creativity, and their heart: thank you.

Whether you baked a cake, carried a box, donated a prize, ran a stall, sponsored a plant, sang a song, or simply came along and soaked up the atmosphere, you were part of what made this day so magical. We appreciate you deeply, and we're so proud of what we achieved together. Here's to the Poplar community – groovy, generous, and full of heart. Until next year!







# ECO AWARENESS

As an Eco school, we take our responsibilities for running our summer fair sustainably very seriously to minimise the impact on the environment as much as possible.

## Advertising and Signage

- Our 'Summer Fair' banner outside the school is reused each year, with an easy update of the date.
- We went for a digital programme, with the cover expertly designed by our talented pupils to reduce our printing and paper usage.

## Decorations

Our beautiful fair decorations were lovingly handcrafted; we used old cardboard boxes for the iconic 60s pictures, old poplar uniforms for the wonderful bunting and even old pallets for our fabulous photo stands!

## Prizes and items for sale

- Pre-loved teddies were re-homed on our teddy tombola.
- Plants on the Flower Power stall were homegrown in reused pots and even old wellies!
- Old jam jars were reused for our 60s jar hoop-a-jar, old lolly sticks for the 'Pick a lolly' game.
- Bric and Brac and our 2nd-hand book stall, found happy new owners for unwanted items
- Parents, teachers and friends of Poplar generously donated services to our school community
- The Merton council passed us plenty of smaller prizes from their earlier 'Merton is 60' celebrations
- We begged and borrowed equipment for our games equipment (thanks Old Ruts!), catering equipment (thanks Zac and also Donhead PTA!)
- Our luxurious hampers were crafted from donations and re-used cardboard boxes (one from my sister's wedding cake!)

## Tokens

We trialled tokens this year and opted for paper-based to test the concept; the committee have researched sourcing ocean-waste plastic tokens in the future if they are deemed a success.





# ECO AWARENESS

## Food Containers

All newly purchased food containers or cups are Vegware, including the Pint glasses and Strawberry pots. Vegware specialises in plant-based, compostable food packaging made from renewable, lower-carbon materials like cornstarch and sustainably sourced paper. Vegware has received over 70 awards in areas like sustainability, innovation, composting solutions, and business growth. We also have wooden cutlery

## Rubbish and Recycling

Three 'rubbish and recycling' stations were set up in key positions around the fair; bins for general rubbish and green boxes (to mimic what we have at home) for 'paper, cans, glass and plastic bottles'.

The food containers used for strawberries and cream and the cups for the bar were not recyclable but instead are 'commercially compostable'. Some people, thinking they were plastic, put them in the recycling.

### However, at the end of the fair:

- Every single bag of recycling and general waste was hand-sorted, absolutely everything and anything that could be recycled (cans, plastic bottles, clean cardboard) was rinsed from all food waste so none of it was contaminated
- Food waste went into the school food waste bins.
- All glass bottles from the bar were recycled.
- A final check in the school bins also retrieved any bags that had bi-passed the recycling station and sorted all those bags too for plastic (like the candy floss sugar plastic tubs) and the waste from our coffee van (washing out all their cream and milk bottles).

## Next year

We will ensure we have clear pictures and 'Yes please', 'No thanks' to help guide everyone as to what can and can't be recycled.

We are always looking for ideas on how we could improve further, or help from those passionate about the environment for future events, so please do get in touch!







# PTA THANK YOU

Off the back of such a fantastic event, I also want to take the opportunity to extend a special thank you to our incredible PTA team, who work tirelessly – and entirely on a voluntary basis – to bring events like the Summer Fair to life.

Their dedication, creativity, and hard work throughout the year create countless opportunities for community engagement and joy, while also raising vital funds that directly benefit our school and its pupils. We are so grateful for all you do behind the scenes to support Poplar in such meaningful ways.

**Thank you to** Julie Davies, Bhavini Patel, Dina Soliman, Jenna Tredwen, Julia Crawford, Kathryn Innes, Carla McDowall, Nicki Hedges, Rebecca Fry, Claire-Anne Strydom, Catherine Marston and Desire Senior.

You are all absolutely brilliant!  
Nicole De Caires



# MARIA'S GARDEN

This vibrant, living space is a heartfelt tribute, a sanctuary, and a symbol of what a community can achieve when it comes together with love and purpose.

The PTA would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this transformation possible. Whether you sponsored a plant, donated funds, offered your time, or shared your talents, your generosity has helped create a garden that will be cherished by both staff and students for years to come.

Maria's Garden stands in memory of a beloved member of staff and parent whose warmth and kindness touched so many lives. It is a space where children can explore, learn, and grow – and where her legacy of care, strength, and joy will continue to bloom.

Thank you for being part of this beautiful journey.





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPT 2025 - DEC 2025

## SEPTEMBER

- 2** Second Hand Uniform Sale  
3:15pm | PTA Room
- 12** Little Recyclers Collection  
9:00am | PTA Room
- 26** McMillian Coffee Morning  
9:15am | Studio
- 26** Back to School Parent Social  
**BOOKING DETAILS BELOW**

## OCTOBER

- 7** Second Hand Uniform Sale  
3:15pm | PTA Room
- 17** Laser Light & Diwali Silent Disco  
**EVENT DETAILS BELOW**

## NOVEMBER

- 4** Second Hand Uniform Sale  
3:15pm | PTA Room
- 7** Year 1 - Year 6 Disco  
3:15pm - 5:30pm
- 21** Year 1 - Year 6 Bake Sale  
3:15pm
- 28** AGM | Quiz Night  
Tickets on Sale Soon

## DECEMBER

- 2** Second Hand Uniform Sale  
3:15pm | PTA Room
- 12** Children's Christmas Fair  
School Hours
- 13** Winter Fair \*  
Details to Follow

## PTA MEETINGS



- 5 SEPTEMBER | 9:00am**  
Welcome New Parents  
Studio
- 22 OCTOBER | 8:00pm**  
Online
- 21 NOVEMBER | 9:00am**  
Studio
- 5 DECEMBER | 9:00am**  
Studio

All Poplar Parents and Carers are welcome to attend PTA meetings.

We will circulate online meeting options in the PTA newsletter prior to the meetings.

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?



Volunteer your expertise, creativity or time, and help spread the word!

## USEFUL LINKS FOR NEXT YEAR..

### EASY FUNDRAISING

[Click here to start shopping.](#)

### STAMPTASTIC (SW193JZ)

[Click here to book](#)

### MY NAMETAGS (28464)

[Click here to book](#)

### ECO PARTY PACK

[Click here to book](#)



E-mail the Committee at:  
[poplarprimarypta@gmail.com](mailto:poplarprimarypta@gmail.com)



Join our **Whatsapp**  
**Community HERE**



IG: @poplarprimarypta  
FB: @friendsofpoplarprimary





**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH**  
**7:30PM ONWARDS**

**£15 PER PERSON (INCLUDES ENTRY +  
WELCOME DRINK)**

**DRESS CODE: FEEL-GOOD FUN!**

**BOOK HERE**

Poplar Primary School, Poplar Road South,  
SW19 3JZ

**\*ADULT ONLY EVENT**



*Poplar Primary School  
Presents*

*Diwali  
Laser Show  
& Silent  
Disco*

**17. 10. 2025**

**TOGETHER, WE LIGHT UP THE NIGHT!**

The date is set, and now we need your input! We want our Poplar community to help shape this event. What food would you like to see, can you cook? Can you DJ? What crafts should we include? Could you run a stall?

What music would make it special? Please email [poplarprimarypta@gmail.com](mailto:poplarprimarypta@gmail.com) - we'd love for you to be involved to help run the event your way!