



From: Teacher in charge of Charities, Kate Ley

17 September 2021

Dear Parents

Abingdon School Biennial Sponsored Walk 2021

We are writing to inform you that the school's biennial sponsored walk will be taking place on Thursday 30 September 2021. The whole school, including teachers, will be taking part in the event to raise money through sponsorship for Agape and SSNAP.

The walk will comprise of a circular route from school taking in sections of the Oxfordshire Greenbelt Way and the Thames Path. The walk is of 10 miles for all students as we would like them all to participate in a collective experience. Some members of the cross country club will be invited to run the walk and if your child is involved in this they will be contacted with further details by the group leader.

The proceeds from the walk will be split between two charities:

Agape

Agape, a Christian NGO, based in Moldova was set up to "serve the educational, emotional, physical and spiritual needs of those suffering the effects of poverty". Abingdon School has worked in partnership for over 20 years and has undertaken fundraising for their work on a regular basis. Much of this money has been used to support projects in the village of Ialoveni, especially providing equipment for Grigore Vieru School.

Nicu Bocăheală, Executive Director of Agape, said, "This is an important programme for our country, education is key and the partnership with Abingdon supports our community as well as students and teachers."

In addition to fundraising since 2003, sixth form students from Abingdon School have visited Moldova to run a summer camp for disadvantaged Moldovan children. During these camps the Abingdon pupils teach English, organise sporting, musical, and art based activities, and have run film and photography workshops.

SSNAP

Supporting the Sick Newborn And their Parents (SSNAP) was founded in 1982 and has supported the Newborn Care Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital since then. Formed initially by a group of parents, who wanted to support other parents with premature and sick babies, SSNAP has continued this ethos to the present day - with family support at the centre of all the work they do. The Newborn Care Unit can now care for up to 47 babies at any one time and is a Level 3 Centre, meaning that the most sick and premature babies from across the

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk

Thames Valley, and often further afield, are looked after here in Oxford. When newborn babies need specialist, often lifesaving, medical care at birth it can be a traumatic and difficult time for parents and families. Funds raised for SSNAP go towards supporting parents, specialist medical equipment as well as life changing research.

SSNAP was chosen as one of our charities after being nominated by a number of staff who have benefited from their support during challenging times.

On the day of the walk students will leave the school at staggered intervals and will be supervised by teachers and senior pupils throughout the walk. A picnic lunch will be provided which your child will need to carry during the walk so a backpack will be required. This year we will not be providing plastic bottled water: as a school we would like to reduce our environmental impact where possible and so ask that your child brings his own reusable water bottle. There will be the opportunity to fill the bottle before departing and some top up points on the route if necessary. Your child may wish to bring additional snacks and there will be a tuck shop on the route.

Students will need to wear well-fitting shoes that they have worn before, and bring clothing appropriate for the weather (hats/waterproofs as needed). They will also need to carry with them any inhalers, epipens or other daily medication. Suncream is also advised if the weather is fair.

Sponsorship can be made via the Virgin Giving Website <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AbingdonSchoolCharitiesCommittee> or alternatively your child has been given a paper sponsor form by his tutor. We have challenged each student to aim to raise £40 and it would be much appreciated if you could encourage them to collect as much money as possible - perhaps you could take it to your place of work on his behalf? A number of companies will match the sponsorship of the children of employees. The last sponsored walk raised over £28,000, something we would love to better this year.

Many thanks for your support of this event.

Yours sincerely

Kate Ley
kate.ley@abingdon.org.uk