

Fundraising is a piece of cake for youngsters

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A PAIR of primary school pupils have teamed up to raise funds through baking for the support group founded by their mums.

Madeleine McGuirk, aged eight, and Emily Jackson, nine, from Woodland Community Primary School in Heywood, are holding a bake sale on Sunday, February, Sunday 24, at St John's Scout Hut, Manchester Road, Hopwood.

The pair - in Year 3 and 5 respectively - will be selling cakes and running a raffle

and 'name the doll' competition, hoping to raise £1,000 for Heywood Awareness and Help for Autism and SEN (HAHAS).

The organisation, which aims to be a listening ear for parents and carers of children with autism and special educational needs, was founded by mums Zoë McGuirk, of Lostock Close, Heywood, and Carina Jackson, Longridge Drive, also Heywood.

The women need to raise money to fund the first year of the newly-launched organisation, which will offer a drop-in session every Wednesday morning from March onwards at

Bearded Baristas along with other support services available Monday to Friday. Zoë, aged 34, said: "We offer advice and education to them and our community, along with experience to guide them through daily life. No one should feel alone and a being a carer can be very secluded.

"We are absolutely over the moon that the girls want to help raise funds for our organisation.

"HAHAS has only just been set up in the last few months, so apart from a few raffles we've not done any of our own events for the group until now.

"There are a few more fundraisers in the pipeline, with an autism friendly sponsored spring walk on March 30 around Queen's Park. (we're encouraging the community to join our families and get sponsored) and some Easter hamper raffles too."

Madeleine said: "Emily and I decided we wanted to help out, as we know our parents are trying to help others who care for others with autism.

"I am autistic and so is Emily, so I know my mum and dad do a lot more to help me every day. We would love to raise lots of money to help get to that 'golden number' of £1,000.

"We are both very excited about it. I love helping my mum bake, so I get to do it and help raise money at the same time. I've even made little invitations for it to give to my class friends at school."



● From left, Madeleine McGuirk, 8, and Emily Jackson, 9

Chess teams suffer defeat

HEYWOOD Chess Club have again been in action during the last week with three games played.

In the Bury & Rochdale League Div. B there were two matches with Heywood's B team losing away at Blue Club C of Rochdale by 3 to 1 with draws from Con Carey and Tony Jinks.

In the other match in the same division the club's C team were beaten at home by Tameside B.

The score was 1.5 to 2.5 with a win from John Pickersgill and a draw on

top board by Derek Marsden.

In the Manchester League Heywood's first team beat Chorlton's first team by 5 to 2 with wins from James Carrington, Bill O'Rourke, Carl Tillotson and Nugth Jayawarna and draws from Martyn Hamer and D Brett Lund.

The club was also 'extremely well represented' at the recent Lancashire against Yorkshire County matches in Bradford. Among the 72 Lancashire players to take part were Nugth

Jayawarna, Bill O'Rourke, James Carrington, John Addison, Steve Mason, Peter Hurn, Dave Thorp, Tony Jinks, Ian Mitchell and young Tarini and Thisumi Jayawarna.

All of the Lancashire teams now progress to play in the national stages.

Club night is Wednesday evening at Hopwood Constitutional Sports and Social Club, with games beginning at 7.30pm.

If you would like to visit one evening, email Bill O'Rourke at worchess@ntlworld.com.

High praise for school as pupils get their sums right

A HEYWOOD primary school has been praised by the government after being named one of the best in the country for maths results.

All Key Stage 2 pupils at All Souls CE primary 'reached or exceeded the expected standard' in maths assessments and ranks the school in the top 1pc in England. In a letter to headteacher Gaynor

Rennie, Secretary of State for Education Damian Hinds MP said: "We would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on the very high standard of achievement in the mathematics Key Stage 2 assessments last year.

"Your school's results, as published on December 13, show that 100 per cent of your pupils reached or exceeded the expected

standards in mathematics, your school is in the top 1pc of primary schools in England. We want to equip every child with the fluency in mathematics necessary to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond, and your school has provided this for all your pupils.

"Thank you for producing such high standards through your

hard work and professionalism, and congratulations again to you and your staff for all you have achieved."

Bosses at All Souls on Rye Street said they were 'delighted to receive this letter recognising the achievement of our pupils'.

A spokesperson said: "We are very proud of our staff and pupils. Well done everyone."