

St Mary and St John CE Primary School

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

Annual Report

September 2018

This report sets out the work of the PTA over the past school year (September 2018 to July 2019).

If you are the parent or carer of a child at the school or you teach at the school you are automatically a member of the PTA. The PTA this year was led by a Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting in September 2018. During the year, we have been very thankful for the support of parents in offering practical and moral support in a variety of ways. We were also supported by the staff and governors during the year and we thank them for all the work they do for the school and for their continued support of the PTA

The PTA has three objectives: to organise events which bring parents together and build the community around the school, to raise funds which add value to the children's school experience and to provide a forum for discussion between parents and staff and encourage parent involvement in the school.

One of these objectives is easy to talk about in a report. How much money did we raise and what did we spend it on? Throughout this report I'll note the totals raised at various events and near the end talk about how that money was spent. This is important information and there is also a separate financial report available to maintain transparency. What is harder to quantify, and what I hope to show a little of as well in this report, is the impact these events have on the community aspect of our school and how they and the money raised add value to the children's school experience.

EVENTS

During the academic year, 2018– 2019 the PTA organised 4 main events: the Winter Fair, Ceilidh, the Car Rally and the Summer Party. In addition to these events we organised regular, weekly activities to raise funds and bring the school community together. In total the PTA raised £12,998 for the school during the year. The Treasurer's report also published for the Annual General Meeting will give a full breakdown of this and our expenditure.

WINTER FAIR

The Winter Fair was held on Saturday 24th November, raising £6,235 for our school. As ever, this was our largest event of the year and took an awful lot of planning and preparation. The Winter Fair Planning committee began meeting in September in order to allow plenty of time to pin down the practical aspects of the Fair. Local businesses are approached by parents to provide prizes for raffles and the lower school children start getting competitive over who can fill up the largest

number of jam jars for the ever popular jar tombola. Parents who make jams, chutneys, mince pies and Christmas puddings get their aprons on and join in. In my home, a group of parents meet every week to try out new crafts, make new friends and find community support in amongst the piles of glitter and yarn. In all these ways, the Winter Fair impacts our community not only on the day, but also in the many connections made as we work together in the build up. On the day, the hall was full. Stalls selling second hand clothes, toys and books were popular. Homemade products of all kinds were shared. Parents and children alike enjoyed good food and drink and maybe even won a prize. There were games to play and crafts to make along with carol singing and a visit to see Santa. The event only happened due to the support of the many volunteers who help in the build up to the day as well as on the day itself.

For example, work on the school calendar started in early October to secure sponsorship from local businesses to enable the calendar to go ahead. Many parents together with Jo Acty worked with classes to produce the art work which was then photographed and designed raising £1240 for the school (included in the Winter Fair total).

This year there are many people to thank for setting up and taking care of the stalls on the day. To give you an idea of the work involved, among the stalls there were:

A craft stall

wreath and winter greenery stall;

jar tombola;

Voucher Tree;

the raffle;

the mulled wine and mince pie stall

Tombola;

the toy stall;

the book stall;

the second hand clothes stall;

tea stall;

the games room;

the home produce stall;

a magical Santa's grotto,

In addition to all the volunteers who helped out with the stalls I would also like to thank;

Kelly Jones, the PTA Treasurer for organizing floats and collecting takings;
Becky Woodard who organised the cooking and set up and ran the kitchen;
Everyone who prepared food, to the soup makers and cake bakers;
The set up and clear up team: a huge effort by many parents.
Stall volunteers who helped out on a stall during the day.

Finally, thank you to Liz Burton and all the staff who helped out on the day.

Ceilidh

It was dark and wet on March 22nd this year but that didn't stop families turning out for our first ever St Mary and St John Ceilidh. There was very little sitting on the sidelines as we danced the Dashing White Sergeant and stripped the willow together. It was a fantastic way to spend a rain Thursday evening and we have had many requests for a repeat next year. The event raised £41 for the school and also raised spirits.

CAR RALLY

Just as last year, the car rally on 9th March proved popular with the children, who worked hard on their entries and competed fairly and enthusiastically on the day. Children and parents enjoyed racing individually designed and built cars down the specially constructed track. Lots of families thoroughly enjoyed the event which raised an amazing [£186](#) for the school. Many thanks to Anthony and Rob for all their hard work putting the event together and to the team of volunteers on the day who made and served refreshments.

SUMMER PARTY - INTERNATIONAL EVENING

Our Summer Party, held on July 5th, brought parents and children together to celebrate another successful school year. The event was held on the school field and yet again we were incredibly lucky with the weather. The party was organised by the PTA Committee and many parents helped both in the run up and on the day to put the event together. Thanks to the parents who helped set up on the day, hanging up bunting, organising the stalls and setting up the food area.

The party went with a swing, including the bouncy castle, the raffle and plant stalls, live entertainment and refreshments, both those brought for sharing and drinks and desserts available to buy. Thank you to all our young performers for their acts and to our bands. Thank you also to everyone who brought a dish to share on the night and to all the parents who took a turn in the kitchen. There was also a well-stocked bar, Pimm's stall, soft drinks and ice cream stall and strawberries and cream on offer. Thanks go to all the parents who helped keep those treats cool despite the hot weather.

Thank you to all the parents who helped set up, staffed a stall or helped clear up, and to **Liz Burton, and all the staff who helped out** during the evening. Special thanks to the Committee for all their hard work. The event raised £1,847 for the school and was a testament to our ability to

pull together and create a really fun event.

TEA STALLS and Coffee mornings

Tea stalls continue to be a popular event with parents and children and a great way for the school community to come together. They are held in the KS2 playground after school each Friday with a different year group taking the lead each week. We have had delicious contributions from many parents who have also helped out on the stalls.

Thank you to everyone who baked, and helped to run the tea stalls. Special thanks to Anthony Larcombe who co-ordinated tea stalls over the year.

Comper welcoming tea stalls

During the summer term, three cake stalls were held in the KS1 outdoor area with the particular aim of welcoming children and parents from Comper who were due to start at Meadow Lane in September. Many parents commented on how lovely it was to have chance to relax in the garden and allow their children to explore their new school surroundings in an informal way. Thank you to Rachel Buchanan for organising these events and to Jane Godby and the KS1 staff for staying to meet parents and allowing the use of their classrooms.

There have been a number of opportunities for parents and carers to join their children's assemblies during the year and to enjoy refreshments and meet other parents beforehand. KS1 parents and carers can join the achievement assembly on Friday mornings where a group of KS1 parents serve tea and coffee to help ease us into Friday morning. In KS2 there is a termly parent's assembly and the PTA also served coffee and moral support to Year 6 parents attending the Leaver's assembly in July.

Over the course of the year the tea stalls and refreshment stalls raised **£4.252** for the school.

Second Hand Uniform

One second hand uniform stall was held during the year. They are an excellent way to buy good quality second hand school uniform and help prevent waste whilst saving money. This raised a total of £112.00 for the school.

SPORTS DAY

The PTA served cold drinks and fruit to all the children in KS1 and KS2 on a particularly hot and sunny sports day. Thank you to all the parents who helped out on the day and covered the stall in shifts in order to allow one another to watch their children compete. There were a larger number of helpers this year which made it a much more enjoyable event for all.

School Disco

On 14th June a group of parents and teachers led by Rachel Buchanan put on a year 5 and 6 disco

as a treat for the children and a way for them to enjoy socialising outside of school hours. This was not a fundraising event but an opportunity to use PTA funds to enrich the children's experience of school. Thanks to the parents and staff who organised this event and ensured the children's safety whilst they let their hair down!

OTHER PROJECTS

Comper Liaison

In 2018 we welcomed Rachel Buchanan onto the PTA Committee to continue the work of the previous Comper liaison, Mhairi Cavers in helping us better liaise with Comper parents interested in finding out more about PTA activities. All Comper parents are part of the PTA and we want you to feel welcome at wider school events and at PTA meetings. Our thanks go to Rachel for her work in this role. Rachel is moving on from this role so please do talk to a committee member if you would be interested in taking this over.

Spring clean Sunday

On Sunday 25th March parents and children met up at Meadow Lane to tidy up our green spaces. We are fortunate to have beautiful green spaces around our school and this yearly one off event helps to keep them looking good.

It has been another fantastic fundraising year thanks to the hard work of so many parents and children. The money will be used to help the school and all the children with extras to make their school life even more rewarding.

Main expenditure

Our main expenditure this year was the £10,000 we gave the school to fund the refurbishment of the new library. This was money that we had previously loaned to the school to buy a set of i-pads for the children to use and which they subsequently paid back. We are really looking forward to seeing the library open and being used by the children to further their learning and enrich their experience of school.

Other items bought with PTA funds include netball and football equipment, a KS2 friendship bench and a ukelele workshop for Year 6 during the Summer term.

In addition to these items, the PTA was also able to donate £1,500 to the school's social fund. This fund enables children who would otherwise be excluded from school activities such as class trips due to financial restraints, to take part.

Details of this and all other expenditure and income will be published in the annual financial report.

THANKS

We have had a very busy and productive year. We would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported the school through the PTA over the past year.

Thank you to all the staff who supported our events, to Ruth Tarry and Grahame Godby for their support throughout the year and particularly around our big events. Thank you to Caroline who runs the school kitchen for letting us make use of the equipment and space for our events.

The Governors too have been a great support. In particular, we'd like to thank Sarah Franklin, Rob Green and Robin Morris for their attendance at and contribution to our PTA meetings.

We thank the Committee; Anthony Larcombe, Kelly Jones, Becky Woodard, Rachel Buchanan, Rich Heap, Eva Sommer, Emma Woo, Claire Nixon and Rob Green, all of whom have put considerable effort and time into the various projects and events.

And finally we thank all the parents and carers who have generously given their time and energy in helping with and attending events. Such joint effort and willingness to help makes all the difference to the continued success of the Mary and John PTA.

Emma Woo

Secretary, PTA