

Annual Report 2018/19

Abridged version



2018/19 was a pretty fantastic year for the PTA. We started the school year off with a brand-new PTA core team, all excluding Chair were new parents to the team but with the help of parents, carers, teachers and children we have achieved so much!

The main objective of the PTA is to enhance the education and experience that the children have whilst at St Thomas. We raise funds to provide facilities within school that tight school budgets do not allow for. Some the biggest purchases the PTA have funded this year are:

- 15 iPads with cases and charging trolley, allowing every Junior pupil to have access to an iPad during IT lessons
- Scooters and tricycles for the Early Years
- A leavers' hoodie for every Year 6 pupil
- Transport for the Christmas pantomime/cinema trip for every KS1 & KS2 pupil
- AstroTurf in the Infant playground
- Chessboards to establish a popular Chess Club

We organise events which help to build community spirit as well as raising money. Over the year we have raised an amazing total of **£12,288** – and had lots of fun in the process! We currently have almost £15,000 in the bank and are inviting suggestions from staff and parents on how this should be spent to best benefit our children. Our most successful fundraising activities were:

- Luxury Raffle £4,597
- Summer Fair £3,927
- Smartie Challenge £2,399
- Christmas Cards £ 803

The PTA isn't just about fundraising though and we have also organised activities to bring joy and other practical benefits to all the families of our school, such as:

- Selling Mother's and Father's Day gifts (the kids were so excited!)
- A Christmas present delivered by Santa and an Easter treat for every child
- New (waterproof!) lost property boxes regularly sorted by volunteers to help school get more items get back to their rightful owners
- Refreshments for parents/carers at the Christmas performances, Sports Day and New Parents' Evenings
- A PTA sub team to look at different ways we can help our Forest School
- A Terracycle scheme to recycle crisp packets from school and local businesses
- Infant and Junior School Discos which are a great way to end the year.

We are extremely thankful for everything we receive from the families and staff of our school. It's cheesy, though it's true, we couldn't do it without you. We encourage anyone who would like to be more involved or support the PTA initiatives to follow us on Facebook and Instagram and pop along to one of our monthly PTA meetings. We really don't bite!

Gemma Gordon
PTA Chair 2017-19