

PTA Annual Report 2019

(September 2018 – August 2019)



Welcome and introduction to the PTA

Welcome to the 2019 St Thomas' PTA annual report. The annual report looks back at what we have achieved in the past school year with a hint of what we hope will happen this year.

The main objective of the PTA is to enhance the education and experience that the children have whilst at St Thomas. This is done through developing relationships between the staff, pupils and parents. We organise events which help to build community spirit and also through providing facilities within school which would not usually be provided by the local education authority.

During the year, the key officers of the PTA were Gemma Gordon (Chair), Sarah Morley (Secretary), Angie Pollard (Secretary) and Rebecca Judson (Treasurer) and 6 elected committee members. All staff and parents of pupils at the school are automatically general members of the PTA.

2018/19 was a pretty fantastic year for the PTA. We started the school year off with a brand-new PTA team, all excluding Chair were new parents to the team. With lots of new ideas, experiences and energy we have all made lots of wonderful memories for our children and parents, whilst raising much needed pennies for our School.

Few highlights of the year include our annual summer fair, our new initiative, 'Smartie Challenge' which raised an amazing £2,550 and the much loved Fathers' and Mothers' Day gifts. These gifts created so much excitement with the children, it really brought joy selling them.

As with previous years, donations, toys, bottles, money are as always overwhelming and generous, with this year being no exception. Money and donations are more freely accessible, whereas time has become more precious to give. We find that in terms of supporting PTA events, it is often the same parents and core groups who are involved.

Over the years we have introduced our Facebook and Instagram pages as to engage parents/carers with what we are up to. We have established our PTA Class Ambassadors, which are a vital link from the PTA committee WhatsApp groups to individual class WhatsApp groups. We have found this method the quickest and most responsive way of communicating. With ways of communicating ever changing, we have continually looked at our ways of updating everyone with our plans and any news. We regularly send update emails through the school and update our page on the school's website with all PTA meeting minutes. We encourage anyone who would like to be more involved or support the PTA initiatives to find out who their Class Ambassador is, follow us on Facebook and Instagram and pop along to one of our monthly PTA meetings. We really don't bite!

We are extremely thankful for everything we receive from our parents, carers, teachers and children as we truly could not host our events without everyone's support.

The Year in Brief (September 2018 – August 2019)



Autumn/Winter Term 2018

December we organised the creation of Christmas cards, mugs, tea towels and refreshments at Nativity/carol service. This raised over £3,500. With our pupil numbers increasing, we have found this amount to also be increasing every year, which is fantastic. It is something that creates forever memories and the children love creating their own Christmas cards.

We also held a clothes recycling scheme, whereby we invited everyone to bring in clothes donations that they no longer required so we could hold a donate and weigh day for funds to the school. Thanks to Rhiannon Collins who co-ordinated both the clothes collection and festive refreshments and to Polly Hammerton for organising the Christmas cards.

During the last week of term we asked Father Christmas to take some time out of his very busy schedule to stop by the school and give all the children a little gift from the PTA.

For the first time we organised a school Christmas jumper day, whereby children could voluntarily donate £1 if they wore a Christmas jumper to school. We saw lots of amazing jumpers.

Due to increased numbers of pupils at our Infant and Junior school, the PTA along with the school made the decision that our annual Christmas fair was no longer safe to host in our Infant school. This was a sad annual tradition to say goodbye to, however it made way for us to focus our energies on other activities.

Spring Term 2019

During this term the children took part in a Design-an-Easter-Egg competition, with a winner and runner up from every class receiving a chocolate Easter egg. The PTA organised for every child in the school to receive a chocolate Easter treat.

Rebecca Judson sourced what must be the best Mother's Day gifts ever for the children to buy, with volunteers selling them during school hours.

Smartie Challenge was launched this term and created such a buzz amongst the children. The Junior class that raised the most amount of pennies was treated to an ice cream from our local ice cream van. This idea was decided by Mrs Piggot's class. In the Infant's, Miss Brierley's class chose a sandpit for their Year One classroom. Big thank you to Team Smartie, led by Bec Till and Alison Last, for organising.

During the spring we started to work closer with our Forest School and have set up a separate PTA Forest School team. We have found that there is so much support and desire from our parents to help our forest school that it has been overwhelming.



Adele Burns has worked with the school and Forest School to introduce the Teracycle scheme, which is absolutely amazing. Adele has also secured recycling bins for to be placed throughout the Heaton, with donations going towards the PTA / Forest school. Watch this space for 2019/20 on how we become greener as a school and a community and how we can all support our environment more.

We also bought new (waterproof!) boxes for lost property at both sites and set up our Lost Property Squad to regularly sort through the lost items, helping school to get more named items back to their rightful owners. Whilst this isn't a fundraiser, it does benefit the families at our school and we are all grateful to those who give up their time to help out.

Summer Term 2019

In the summer term, we sourced Father's day gifts for the children to buy. Big thank you again for volunteers helping to sell the gifts.

During the infant/junior sports day we provided a range of hot and cold drinks, these were well received by the spectators. Thank you those who gave up your time to help.

Our annual PTA Summer Fair was held for the consecutive year at the junior site: bouncy castles, beer, curry from the Kush, BBQ (which for the first year ran out), tombolas and a welcoming mix of stalls. We were blessed once again with the fantastic weather which created a beautiful fun atmosphere for all to enjoy on a sunny Friday evening. As always, this was such a wonderful community event, with 2019 being our biggest one yet. We raised a tremendous amount of £6084. This year we ran a military operation with our volunteers and class stall owners, which worked amazingly, like clockwork. A massive thank you to everyone in involved. Its cheesy, though its true, we couldn't do it without you.

Rhian Greaves and Laura Nadel once again organised a fabulous Luxury Raffle that raised a huge £5,051 (including £1,000 match funded by Anita Lincoln's employer). Thank you to everyone who donated prizes, purchased tickets and supported this raffle.

The postponed Fashion Show finally took place and was a great night. Thanks to all our models, suppliers and to Jo Elliot & Lisa Leedham for organising this event.

We ended the year with our PTA school discos for infants and juniors which were enjoyed by all, children and volunteers. Our discos are always such fun nights and a great end to the school year.

For our Year 6 leavers, the PTA fully paid for every child to have a school leaver hoodies. During their final class assembly they were presented with them. This was something they were waiting for all year



Finances

With all various fundraising initiatives and donations made to the school we closed the year with over an amazing £14,971 in the PTA funds. This simply could not be achieved without the help of all of those parents and staff who gave their time and donations throughout the year.

Below is a list of the donations we provided to the school. Our biggest expenditure was the iPads, which were donated to the Junior site. This donation from the PTA has now enabled every student in a class to have access to an iPad during IT lessons.

Class/Children Christmas Presents
Books
Climbing Frame
Infant Pantomime
Junior Cinema Trip
Chess Club
Year 6 Hoodies
Scooter Shed / Scooters
Lost Property Boxes
TerraCycle Bins
IPads

Looking forward 2019/20

Winter term we will be organising Christmas cards, Christmas jumper day and asking for Father Christmas to deliver a gift to the children again. For the children's Christmas school trip we have contributed funds for the junior's cinema trip and the infants pantomime show. We have lots of ideas in the coming months such as a children's movie night, fashion show and a pie and quiz night for the adults.

Without help, however, none of this is possible, so whether you're a new parent or an existing parent who wants to continue to help this year, please keep an eye out for event details, offer to support where you can – we always need volunteers.

Gemma Gordon PTA Chair 2017-19

24 September 2019

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