20th September 2024 9HY Registered Charity No: 1173387 www.stelphegesrcschools.org.uk St Elphege's Catholic School Mollison Drive, Wallington,SM6

Email: <a href="mailto:ptfa@stelph.org">ptfa@stelph.org</a>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to all the new families who have joined the school this year. We hope your children have settled in well. For those returning after the summer holidays, we hope it was a good break.

The PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association), is a charity run entirely by volunteer parents/carers and, for those of you unfamiliar with our work, we raise funds for facilities or equipment that support the school and enhance the children's school experience.

We organise two fairs a year for the children, at Christmas and in the summer, both of which only happen with the generosity of our parent/carer community's time and energy. We also contribute to the Year 6 Leavers party and support events such as Sports Days, Holy Communion, Year 6 Production, and the Year 2 Tea Dance.

In the past, the funds we raised have purchased climbing frames (in the junior and infant playgrounds), books for school, award prizes, a shed and we also contributed to the refurbishment of the reception playground last year. We share updates about our plans and activities via a PTFA newsletter which is sent out monthly.

Next week we will be holding our Annual General Meeting online, voting in new trustees and discussing plans for the year ahead. Everyone is welcome to attend and the link will be shared in our community Whatsapp group where we also post requests for help and make announcements. If you would like to be added to the group, please email your phone number to the above email address and we will send you a link. Also, if you want to become more actively involved in the PTFA and meet other parents across the school community, do contact us and let us know how you would like to help.

Finally, for those of you new to the school, each year we request parents/carers make a £10 optional contribution to the PTFA via ParentPay. This is a means of raising funds which are spent on the annual activities we support at school (mentioned above) and benefit all of our children. We greatly appreciate any contributions you are able to make.

If you have any questions about the work we do or want to get involved, please email us.

Thank you for your support and we wish everyone a great start to the school year.

Yours sincerely, Ada Quirke and Albertina Lloyd (Co-Chairs 2023/24)