



YOUR NEWLY ELECTED PTFA - LTO R:
Reezwan Popat (Co-Chair), Jun Li (Treasurer),
Jen Jones (Chair), Irina Cretu (Co-Secretary),
Amanda Roumian (Secretary), Sargam
Shingadia (Co-Treasurer) & Eric Samothrakis
(Volunteer Coordinator)

PTFA INSIGHT

SAINT JÉRÔME 10TH

OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Happy New Year from your PTFA! We wish you a wonderful year ahead to you and your loved ones. We apologise for the late start, but the beginning of the year has been a busy one for all of us alongside our PTFA lives!

We are back and excited to be doing even more this year to support and strengthen our school community! We hope to see more people getting involved and would be delighted to welcome more active members this year. Every little bit of help truly makes a difference!

We have been busy planning new dates for some of our favourite events, with more bake sales, movie evenings and after-school disco events, and are delighted to say that our Comedy Night is on once again – with our very own favourite comedian, Keith!

Please see the upcoming events for more details - we hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy!

The PTFA is 'your voice!' We want to know your thoughts and listen to your ideas. Find us... anyone of us, and share your opinions or email us on ptfa@stjeromebilingual.org or feel free to use our suggestion box located in the playground.

THIS ISSUE...

- Le Marché de Noël
- Après-midi Ciné
- The PTFA Committee
- Pre-Loved uniform
- Tech v/s Playground funding
- Our Finances

PTFA COMMITTEE 2026

- GET TO KNOW YOUR REPS!



Jen Jones – Chair

“ I am Jen, a Horticulturist who is particularly interested in biodiversity and sustainability. We moved to Harrow in 2020 and now have a child in Year 1.

I am very keen to get going on the school garden so if anyone is interested in getting involved please come and tell us or email the PTFA. No gardening skills necessary! ”

Reezwan Popat – Co-Chair

“ Jambo! Papa to Eiyra and Raanya in Year 5. From Kenya, with a background in graphic design, I specialise in personalised books for children.

An active volunteer, I recently completed 3 years as Head of Ops for a community school of 150 children, as well as being the manager of a Men's football team that represented the UK at the community Olympics in Dubai over the summer - with 30,000 attendees! I am currently the Head of Marketing for the Quality of Life programme.

I hope to bring some of that experience to the PTFA and help make a difference to our school community – and as we say 'Hakuna Matata!' ”

Amanda Roumian – Secretary

“ Bonjour! I'm Amanda, mum to Danny (Year 5) and Leonard (Year 1). Born in sunny Nice, I moved to London over 20 years ago after a Master's in Law and Economics.

After many years in East London, we settled in Harrow

so Danny could join Saint Jérôme, giving our children the chance to grow bilingually in a multicultural environment.

After over ten years in the events industry, I'm now a (not every day!) happy stay-at-home mum. I love the outdoors, natural health, medicinal plants, and the idea of living in harmony with nature.

As PTFA secretary, I truly value our strong school community and am excited to give back. ”

Irina Cretu – Co-Secretary

“ I'm Irina, mum to Albert in Year 4! I'm originally from Romania, but have called Harrow home for the past 10 years. I'm currently doing a PhD in Cyber Security and AI (which sounds fancier than it is!). Before that, I worked in market research. I love being part of the school community and look forward to meeting more parents – so if you see me at pick-up, feel free to say hi! ”

Jun Li – Treasurer

“ Hi, I'm Jun, mum to George in Year 3 and Lewis in Reception. I'm an accountant and also a GCSE Chinese teacher. I'm proud to be part of the Saint Jérôme School community and love supporting our children as they grow and learn.

As PTFA Treasurer, I'd love to hear your ideas and work together to raise funds for projects that will make our children's school life even more fun, enriching and memorable. ”

Sargam Shingadia

– Co-Treasurer

“ Hi, I'm Sargam, mum to Shanaya in Reception. I moved to Harrow five years ago and love being part of such a welcoming and vibrant community. Professionally, I work as a Procurement Consultant, balancing a corporate career with my creative passions for art and dance.

Recently, I've been exploring different sports to inspire Shanaya, and currently a rookie tennis and badminton player. Alongside this, I run an ethnic designer wear brand and an event company. I'm passionate about contributing to the school and supporting initiatives that bring families together. ”

Eric Samothrakis

– Volunteer Coordinator

“ Hi, I'm Eric, parent to Léo in Reception. I'm French-Greek and moved to Harrow with my wife, Loukia, 8 years ago.

I work as a Music Composer and Producer across various media, with an academic background in music composition. I also perform as a percussionist with two ensembles.

I'm pleased to be involved with the PTFA and hope to contribute to its work in supporting the culturally diverse and rich community at Saint Jérôme. ”

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED STUDENT COUNCIL

Although this took place last term, we want to congratulate all the children on their fantastic speeches they prepared for student representative elections. It's not always easy to stand up in front of people and share your ideas – but the teachers have been singing your praises.

Congratulations to Stefan, Isa & Aayushi from Year 1, Amara Lusha & Amay from Year 2, Tiara & Aahan from Year 3, Sami & Marina from Year 4, Quinn & Stefano from Year 5 and Aerys & Anotiona from Year 6 for being appointed to the Student Council and for becoming the voices for your year groups respectively. We look forward to meeting you all and hearing about your thoughts and ideas on how to improve the school for you and your fellow students.



OUR ANNUAL AGM - welcome to new committee members

What a superb turn-out we had for our AGM back in November – a big thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend and share your ideas and wisdom with us. The PTFA committee remained the same except for Madan, our Treasurer who sadly could not continue. Jun, our Co-Treasurer, stepped up to become the new Treasurer, and Sargam was elected to join us as our new Co-Treasurer. Eric joined the team as our new Volunteer Co-ordinator. A very warm welcome to the PTFA to both of them.

HARROW COUNCIL CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

The winners of the 'Design a Christmas Card for Harrow' competition were treated to an exclusive guided tour of Parliament at the Palace of Westminster by Mr. Gareth Thomas MP.



FRENCH CINEMA NIGHT

On the last Friday of November we had another fantastic film night – the children watched *Rise of the Guardians* to get into the festive spirit.

The previous cinema night overran slightly, so this time to be safe, we decided to have a later pick-up time of 6:15pm. This definitely made for a more relaxed start and distributing freshly-popped popcorn easily – but proved interesting when everything went smoother than normal and the film finished much earlier than expected; our Co-Chair did a superb job of entertaining all the children for a good 40 minutes!

LE MARCHÉ DE NOËL

A SAINT JÉRÔME

Despite the rain, Le Marché de Noël de Saint Jérôme turned out to be a truly lovely evening. The positive feedback, kind words, and appreciation we received meant a great deal to us.

We would like to warmly thank everyone who participated, volunteered, helped behind the scenes, ran a stall, or came along to support the event. Le Marché de Noël had only been held once previously, in the very first year of the school, and after six years, Saint Jérôme was finally able to celebrate Christmas again with its community.

We are so glad we brought it back - and the event exceeded expectations and proved to be joyful and successful for everyone involved. Although festive and fun, the event wasn't without a few setbacks (yes there were!) and we've taken note, along with areas for improvement; all of which will help us make it even better next year.

If you know anyone who might be interested in having a stall at a future market, please let us know. We hope to grow the event, improve communication, and support our traders with an even better turnout. We are currently reaching out to this year's stallholders to gather their feedback ([LINK TO FEEDBACK FORM](#)).

Thank you for all your support, and for making the event a huge success - and although we didn't make a profit as intended - we achieved a more important goal by bringing our community together - and had immense fun doing it!





PROPOSED NEW CALM AREA IN THE PLAYGROUND

As most of you know, the school has been looking to freshen-up and improve the playground for some time but crucial safety works need to be completed before the bigger ideas can be implemented.

However, the raised concrete section between the two areas of decking is not impacted, so a proposal to create a calm area for the children there has been put forward. This will likely include table top games, mats to sit on, benches, books, chalk boards and planters to be placed here to give the children a chance to relax during playtime.

The cost for these works is estimated at around £2,500-3,000 and the PTFA are hoping to fund this to improve the space for our children and give the older children some time to enjoy it before they move on.



PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

We would like to share an update about our much-loved and extremely useful Pre-Loved Uniform system.



Saint Jérôme School
Pre-Loved Uniform

As many of you may already know, Hazel, with the help of dedicated volunteers over the years, has been running the Pre-Loved Uniform since its very beginning. Sadly Hazel will be stepping down at the end of this year, and we cannot thank her enough for everything she has done — and continues to do — for our school community.

The Pre-Loved Uniform plays a vital role in supporting families by offering a more economical and environmentally friendly way to manage school uniforms. We strongly encourage families not only to use this service, but also to return good-quality uniform items so they can benefit future generations.

The PTFA recently asked whether parents or carers would be willing to help continue this initiative, and we would like to warmly thank Sandra, Eric and Betty for stepping in. If any other parents would like to join the team, please do get in touch — email us or speak to one of the PTFA members.

Managing the Pre-Loved Uniform involves a variety of small but important tasks such as:

- assessing clothing condition
- sorting items by size
- occasional washing or mending
- replying to requests
- organising the storeroom and sales

As you can imagine, the more helpers we have, the lighter the workload becomes for everyone.

Looking ahead, the PTFA is also exploring ways to digitalise parts of the Pre-Loved Uniform system, to make it easier for those managing it.

A gentle reminder that when donating uniform items, please ensure they are clean, wearable, and in good condition, just as you would expect for your own child. Items can be dropped off at Reception. Please also notify the Pre-Loved Uniform team by email at preloved@stjeromebilingual.org

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone involved — and a very special thank you to Hazel for her incredible commitment over the years.

TECH AND PLAYGROUND FUNDING

– HAVE YOUR SAY

The PTFA are keen to utilise some of the money raised over the last 10 months to help improve facilities for the children and have been in discussion on how best to make the maximum impact for all the children.

The school has not upgraded their technology since the school opened and would really benefit from some new tablets. The playground also needs a good facelift, but the primary works cannot be carried out until the re-surfacing has been completed.

We propose spending a proportion of the money on new tech for the school, implementing a calm space for children in the playground and giving each year group £300 towards an additional trip this year. The school will be sending out more information regarding this, including an opportunity to cast a vote to see what the general consensus is – so please look out for this and ensure to cast your vote.



OUR FINANCES



The PTFA endeavours to raise funds to better the facilities that our children can access and to support the school in acquiring equipment and other necessities that we feel would benefit our children.

Between October and December 2025, our PTFA events generated a total gross income of £2,585.78 with total expenses of £907.36 (these expenses include several purchases for equipment that will have multi-functional use for the PTFA).

Summary

Both the Après-midi Ciné were the strongest contributors, generating over £1,100 combined profit. The Bake Sale in October also performed well with a strong margin. The Christmas Market had high costs and made a small loss, but overall the period remained highly profitable. Overall we achieved a healthy surplus of £1,417.96 to support school activities in the second half of 2025.

CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

Event	Income	Expenses	Profit
Opening Balance 1/9/2025			17,320
Bake Sale – October	335.46	30	305.46
Après-midi Ciné – October	605.56	56.26	569.17
Après-midi Ciné – November	625.43	54.99	550.57
Christmas Market	744.33	751.57	-72.4
La Fête des Crêpes	275	14.54	260.46
Total Balance as at 31/1/2026			18,881

With your unwavering support, the PTFA are confident that we will achieve higher targets than ever before.

Thank you to all the parents, teachers and friends of Saint Jérôme for your continuous support!

Alina, Anna, Eliz, Sandra, Harmony for donating the delicious crêpes and to **Gabriela, Nabeelah, Aahad, Alina, Sid, Ula, Chandni, West** for your help on the day to ensure all the children got hot, delicious pancakes.

Sam, Ivan, Sandra, Marianna, Meet, Chandni, Jennie, Sham, Eliz, Alina, Nitu, Monique, Rolph, Mme Bakhali, Aahad, Sid, Davide, Wendy, Dave for your help during the Christmas Market.

To anyone who helped and supported us – we know we may have forgotten a few names!

Mrs Cox, Mr Cox and the office staff for your continual support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Apres Midi Cine**
Friday 27 February – 3:30-5:30pm
- **Comedy & Quiz Night**
Wednesday 11 March
- **Easter Home Bake Sale**
Friday 27 March – 3:30pm
- **St George's Day Bake Off**
Wednesday 23 April – 3:30pm

Stay tuned for upcoming events, and ways to get involved.

PHOTO DISCLAIMER

Photographs may be taken at all PTFA events and shared in the school newsletter or other PTFA communications. If you do not wish to be photographed or do not want photos of your child to be included, please email us at ptfa@stjeromebilingual.org. We are currently working with the school to develop a shared photo and media policy for all PTFA events, ensuring consistency and respect for everyone's privacy.

In the meantime, we kindly ask our school community not to share or repost photos from the newsletter outside of the Saint Jérôme community, to help us keep our families' privacy protected.

