

## **SS Mary and Michaels School Association**

### **AGM Report for the year 2020 - 2021**

It's been another strange year for our School Association team. Due to the unprecedented impact of the Covid19 pandemic, March 2020 onwards has meant a reduction in School Association activity and social events.

Having said that, thanks to the generous support of our school family, and our amazing team of parent volunteers, we have still managed to organise some new and unique activities and contributed funds to school to benefit our children.

Altogether over £6000 has been raised during this past year, which is a massive achievement under the circumstances. As you can see from our Treasurers report, this money has benefitted our children and paid for numerous treats, activities and equipment for school.

Our previous focus was raising money for the improvements needed to the playground since the school's building work and extension was completed in Summer 2018. Following investigations and discussions with external advisers, this undertaking was more complex than first understood so School Associations' involvements and funds are to be directed elsewhere for now.

Our Virtual Marathon took place in October and November 2020 and the children raised over £3000, which is an absolutely incredible amount, to be put towards a trim trail/outside equipment.

Despite the best efforts of the School Association team, due to various external factors beyond our control, we couldn't get the trim trail up and running before July 2021 like we hoped.

Work is now underway again to see this project to completion, with involvement from School and input from the children. We are all very proud of the children's achievement and contribution, and hope they will enjoy the improvements to their outside areas.

Moving to December 2020, the Christmas card fundraising resulted in an additional £304 for School funds, one of the highest totals we've had in the past few years. Thank you to Rachael Atkinson for coordinating this activity and for all others involved.

One of our biggest fundraisers is our annual Christmas Production raffle. Unfortunately this wasn't able to go ahead in 2020 so, in its place, a Virtual Christmas Raffle and Santa Treasure hunt was organised which raised a wonderful £636 – Thank you to Suzanne Southward, Katie Latham and all others who were involved in sourcing raffle prizes, donating raffle prizes, selling tickets and arranging the treasure hunt.

Throughout the year, the children enjoyed some "Non Uniform" days which raised £350 in total. Thanks also to GA Fitness for donating the profit from the after school exercise sessions which were thoroughly enjoyed by all the children who took part.

Back in March 2021, we had an amazing response to our "SSMM Spring Watch" photo competition; it was lovely to see photos captured by the children from their view point. And our SSMM Walking Guide has helped us to get out and about throughout lockdown – a big thank you to Emma Walls and everyone else involved in thinking of these amazing "Virtual" ideas.

At Easter, the children took part in an Art Competition, with prizes kindly donated by Iced Bakes, Caroline Bakes Cakes and Ella Faye Art; Ella is a previous SSMM pupil and has had a book published containing her amazing artwork. All the children enjoyed taking part and produced some amazing drawings showcasing their talents.

In June 2021, we held our first ever "Virtual Balloon Race" – this was another virtual event but something everyone was able to enjoy and we raised £168.

Unfortunately, Whit Monday, Garstang Ice Cream Festival and SSMM "Fun Night" were all cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions. However we were approached by the committee of Garstang Show to operate some ticket booths in return for a donation to school funds. It was great to be invited and to represent SSMM in our wider community. A massive thank you to all those who volunteered their time on the day, our donation was £400 which wouldn't have been achieved without your help.

On 6th October 2018, our first School Lottery draw was made- this was a new initiative run by an outside company, administered by them for a percentage of ticket sales. With our current supporters, we have received around £800 this past year. Thank you to everyone who supports this, it really is a fantastic way you can help school long term, whilst also possibly winning the weekly prize draw! We do need more people to join the School Lottery, tickets are just £1 per week. Please see our SSMM School Association Facebook page or School Newsletters for details on how to join.

Easy Fundraising donations have amounted to £131 – this is another great way to support school each time you shop online, at no cost to yourself.

Most recently, we were able to hold a Macmillan Cake Sale which raised a fantastic £218 that has gone directly to the Garstang and District Macmillan support group, such a worthwhile cause. Thank you to all our bakers and everyone who purchased a cake or made a donation.

We look forward to another year, although with possible challenges and limitations. Please feel free to join our meetings (which will take place "Virtually" for now) - everyone is welcome. We do have a lot of fun as well as working very hard to support our school for the benefit of all our children.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who offers to help at the various events we have throughout the past year. Thank you to everyone who attends our school association meetings and offers their valuable time and input. Thank you to all the parents, carers, grandparents and wider school family who support us in each event and fundraiser we do.

This year I would particularly like to say a heartfelt thanks to committee members Michelle Finnigan (Secretary, stepped down July 2021) and Suzanne Southward (Treasurer) for their hard work, dedication, enthusiasm and continued support.

**Sarah Nelson**  
**SS Mary and Michael's School Association Chairperson**