

PTA Newsletter – September 2023

Wishing you and your families a warm welcome back to the beginning of a new academic year! A special welcome to our new Reception parents and their children who start their journey in the wonderful community of St Mary's. We wish you all the very best in the year ahead.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF THE YEAR

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Wednesday 27th September 2023

The AGM will be held in the studio at 6.30pm and the agenda has already been sent out to all WhatsApp groups. Everyone is welcome to the AGM to share their thoughts and ideas.

Little Recyclers Collection Friday 6th October 2023

St Mary's PTA will now be using Little Recyclers instead of Happy Bags going forward. Fill any bags, boxes or suitcases with clothes, shoes and accessories.

They accept: -

- Good quality clean clothing (adult's, children's and babies).
- Paired shoes
- Accessories
- Bags, belts, jewellery
- Swimwear
- Clean underwear and socks

They do not accept: -

- Uniforms
- Dirty, wet or ripped clothing
- Duvets and pillows
- Linen, towels or bedding
- Furniture or mattresses
- Stationary
- Work uniforms
- Carpets, rugs, mats curtains
- Food or medicine
- Books, CD's or DVD's
- Kitchen utensils
- Electric appliances

McMillan Coffee Morning

Friday 6th October 2023

The McMillan coffee morning will take place in the small hall following the Harvest Mass. Donations of homemade or shop bought cakes will be very much appreciated. All monies raised will support McMillan's vital work. We will appreciate volunteers to help on the day.

Pre-loved Uniform sale

There will be a pre-loved winter uniform sale in the week commencing 9th October 2023.

A further update will be sent via ParentMail and your WhatsApp groups **to confirm the date** of the pre-loved uniform sale.

Alternatively, please contact the email address below with any uniform requests: - pta.uniformstmarys@gmail.com

Christmas cards and wrapping paper

The children will complete their creative artwork for Christmas card/wrapping paper designs later this month or early October.

Details of how to purchase your children's Christmas card/wrapping paper creations will be sent home in due course.

Calendars

The children will have their Olympic themed class photos taken on Tuesday 19th September **(There is no need for parents to send in props)**.

The cost of the calendar will be £8.50 and you will be notified when it is available to pre-order via ParentPay in due course.

St Mary's Christmas Fair

Saturday 25th November 2023

The biggest event of the year....St Mary's Christmas Fair.

The PTA and Reps are already very busy behind the scenes preparing for this spectacular event.

The Reps will be sending out their updates and requests, so please look out for their messages and support your class Reps in any way you can!

Christmas Pantomime

Wednesday 13th December 2023

You shall go to the ball this Christmas!

Cinderella will be the pantomime show at the Churchill Theatre this Christmas!

Tickets will be priced at the reduced rate of £22 per person.

Please look out for notifications on Class List and your WhatsApp groups for when the tickets are available to purchase on ParentPay.

Christmas Wreath Workshop

We are hoping to team up with Blossom and Threads for this year's Christmas Wreath Workshop. Further details will be advertised in due course.

OTHER NEWS

PTA Lottery

We are currently offering an **Early Bird offer** to those who purchase a number/s, which ends on 30th September 2023.

This Early Bird Offer joining fee will be **£20 per number**. The price will then increase to £25 per number thereafter.

If you would like to join the PTA lottery, please purchase a number/s on ParentPay.

The first draw will be held before the Christmas Holiday! The more people that join...the higher the prizes!

The PTA Lottery is raising essential funds to support the KS1 phonics programme, classroom libraries and our very lovely school crossing patrol officer (lollipopper), Mrs Durling!

QUICK AND EASY WAYS TO HELP US FUNDRAISE

There are many ways to support our school PTA and even ***schemes that don't have any additional personal cost to you***, such as

-Sponsorship:

Would you like to help support our school by sponsorship?

You can donate a prize towards one of our raffles from you or your business! You can also sponsor our school calendar and advertise your business. If you are interested in sponsoring our school, please contact the PTA via email:

stmarysbeckenhampta@gmail.com

- Matched Funding:

Through your employer - An easy win, just ask your employer if they participate in this scheme and you can go from there.

- Easy Fundraising:

Who doesn't shop online these days!

How does it work, it's very simple, shop as normal with over 7,000 retailers, just start your shopping journey first at easyfundraising.org.uk, or get our App or browser extension Donation Reminder which reminds you when a donation is available.

Once you make a purchase, our retailer partners will make a small donation to your chosen cause to say 'thank you'. Get started now!

LOST PROPERTY

As we know our children aren't great with minding their stuff at school, so it is so important to label their clothes. Well, if you purchase your children's ***name labels from Stickins*** at www.stickins.co.uk and quote our reference number 35724, under the 'school Fundraising number' field, our PTA will receive a 30% commission.