

PTA Newsletter – September 2024

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

Reception Parents Welcome Evening Thursday 19th September 2024

We will be grateful for volunteers at the Reception Welcome Evening from 6.30pm. The school will be holding a curriculum evening for the new Reception parents at 7pm followed by a PTA presentation and welcome drinks from 7.30-8.30pm. Any help will be very much appreciated.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Tuesday 24th September 2024

The AGM will be held in the studio at 6.30pm and the agenda will be sent out in due course.

Everyone is welcome to the AGM to share their thoughts and ideas.

Calendar Photos Thursday 25th September 2024

The children will have their class photos taken on Thursday 25th September. 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.

MacMillan Coffee Morning Friday 4th October 2024

The MacMillan 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 MacMillan's vital work. We will appreciate volunteers to help on the day.

Pre-loved Uniform sale Friday 4th October 2024

There will be a pre-loved winter uniform sale during the MacMillan Coffee Morning, so please come along and have a look at our uniform collection.

The PTA pre-loved uniform email address is as follows: -

pta.uniformstmarys@gmail.com

At the moment, we are currently only accepting summer uniform requests due to current demand.

Christmas cards and wrapping paper

The children will complete their creative artwork for Christmas card/wrapping paper designs later this month or early October. Each year group will have their own design.

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

St Mary's Christmas Fair Saturday 30th 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 Wreath Workshop Monday 2nd December 2024

Nadia (Year 3 parent and owner of Blossom and Threads) has organised another evening Christmas Wreath Workshop.

The event will be held in the small hall at 7.30pm.

The cost will be confirmed as soon as possible. The cost includes a fresh pine wreath and decorations of dried flowers/fruit, berries, feathers and more!

Christmas Pantomime Wednesday 11th December 2024

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs will be the pantomime show at The Churchill Theatre this Christmas! Tickets will be priced at the reduced rate of £25 per person.

Similar seats are being sold at £42 per ticket if book directly with the theatre.

Tickets will be available to purchase via ParentPay from Tuesday 10th September – Friday 20th September.

To purchase by cash payment, please place the money in an envelope with your child's name, class and number of tickets needed. Pop the envelope in the PTA box situated in the office or alternatively, hand it to a member of the PTA. Please be aware the closing date for cash sales is Monday 16th September.

ASDA Cashpot For Schools

Every time you shop at ASDA from 2nd September to 30th November using the Rewards App, you can support our school! Just select St Mary's and ASDA will donate £1 to our schools Cashpot for every customer that chooses us plus a bonus £50 when our first customer shops (which we have already secured)! We realise that there may not be an ASDA near us but please share this with family and friends. Let's make a difference for our lovely school...happy shopping!

OTHER NEWS

PTA Lottery

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

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 (lollipop), Mrs Durling!

Little Recyclers

The Little Recyclers clothing bank is situated at the back of the school carpark. Please consider donating by filling any bags 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

For every kilo donated, Little Recyclers will donate 55p to our school!

PTA Survey

A PTA survey will be sent out in due course to gather your views and opinions about our PTA. Your feedback will help shape our events and ideas moving forward. Please keep a lookout for the link as your views will be greatly appreciated!

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: -

- Stickins clothing labels

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.

- 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!