

PTA Newsletter – December

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As we come to the end of another busy and festive term, we would like to thank you all for your continued support of the PTA. The children will be coming home with a small gift from the PTA, and we hope it brings a smile to their faces and keeps them entertained for a short time.

Fundraising Summary – Autumn Term

Wonky Bar Golden Ticket Challenge

We kicked off the term in September with our very first Wonky Bar Golden Ticket Challenge, which proved to be a huge success and raised £500. Over 400 bars were sold, with lots of lucky winners and plenty of children enjoying a chocolatey treat. We even had our very own *Charlie* find a golden ticket – pure Wonka magic!

This challenge wasn't just about selling chocolate – it was about giving back. Thanks to your support, we were delighted to donate a selection of Roald Dahl books to the school, helping to inspire imagination and storytelling in the library.

From there, it was full steam ahead into all things Christmas! Cards, Lego keyrings, the 2026 Calendar, Christmas Fair preparations, wreath decorating, Christmas trees and Elfridges were all packed into the final weeks of term – a wonderfully busy and festive finish.

Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to all of our class reps and volunteers for your incredible hard work in making the Christmas Fair such a wonderful success. It truly was a magical event and could not have happened without you.

Thank you to **Mrs Vassallo, Mrs Durand and Mrs Beirne** for welcoming everyone on the day, to all of our teachers who joined in the festive fun. A special thank you also goes to **Mr Breen**, who was on hand all day to help wherever needed.

We have received lots of lovely feedback about how beautiful the stalls looked, how magical the Grotto was, and how much everyone enjoyed the food and drinks on offer. Many families commented on how special our school community is and how everyone works together to make events like this such a success.

Thank you also to everyone who took the time to share feedback with us. We are already looking at how we can refresh and change some of the stalls and would love to consider ideas for next year's line-up. This will be discussed further at our **PTA meeting in January**, which everyone is very welcome to attend.

Thank You to Our Prize Donors

We had close to 40 businesses, many of them local, donating vouchers and prizes to our fair this year which we are extremely grateful to. We have dropped many of them a thank you note, written by some of the children.

2026 School Calendar

A huge thank you to the following companies and families for sponsoring our school calendar, we sold 220 calendars this year.

Many of these sponsors are part of our school community, and we are incredibly grateful for your support:

- Levick Stanley – Adam Evans (Year 3 & Year 5)
- Tom Hixson – Sally Lettington (Year 1 & Year 4)
- The Swan – The Dowling family (Year 2 & Year 6)
- NexGen - The McCarthy family (Year 3 & Year 4)
- Edmundson Electricals – Paul Conneely (Year 6)
- Ewings – (Grandparent in Year 1 & Year 3)
- HA Marks – The Crow family (ex St Mary's family)
- ES Systems – The McDonagh family (ex St Mary's family)
- Ponto Studio – The Gatti family (Year 1 & Year 4)
- Superkids
- Lodestar Cleaning
- Nourish

Thank you all for your generosity and for supporting our school.

Elfridges

The children had a wonderful time choosing gifts for the special grown-ups in their lives at Elfridges on Friday. Many of you will have a carefully chosen gift under the tree this Christmas!

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to set up the shop, support the children with their purchases, and wrapped over 700 gifts. You helped to make it such a memorable experience for the children.

PTA Lottery

The first draw for this year was held and the lucky winners are:

1st Prize – Lijoy Varughese

2nd Prize – Nicola Evans

3rd Prize – Emma Enticknap

Well done to you all!!

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

The more people that join...the higher the prizes!

Joining fee is £25 per number and next draw will be at the end of the spring term.

QUICK AND EASY WAYS TO HELP US FUNDRAISE

There are lots of ways to support the school PTA, including options that won't cost you anything extra.

Sponsorship

Would you or your business like to support the school? You can donate a prize for one of our raffles, sponsor an event, or advertise your business by sponsoring our school calendar. If you're interested, please contact us at:

stmarysbeckenhampta@gmail.com

Matched Funding

Many employers offer matched funding for fundraising activities - a simple way to double your impact. Just check with your employer to see if they take part.

Easyfundraising

Most of us shop online, so why not raise money for the school at the same time? Shop as normal with over 7,000 retailers by starting your journey via easyfundraising.org.uk, the app, or browser extension. When you make a purchase, a small donation is made to the PTA at no extra cost to you.

Lost Property & Name Labels

As we all know, children aren't always great at keeping track of their belongings, so please remember to label items clearly.

If you order name labels from Stickins and quote our fundraising number 35724 in the *School Fundraising Number* field, the PTA receives 30% commission on every order.

Winkworth Incentive payments

Thinking of selling, letting or buying a property? Mention our school's name at the very start of your enquiry with Winkworth Beckenham and the school will receive £100 per property on completion. It's an easy way to boost funds – just don't forget to say the schools name right at the beginning.

Final Summary

The Autumn term has been a wonderfully busy and successful one for the PTA, filled with creativity, generosity and a real sense of community.

Thanks to the incredible support of our families, volunteers and local businesses, we are delighted to share that **£16,000 was raised across the Autumn term**. Of this, an incredible **£8,000 was raised through the Christmas Fair alone** - a truly staggering amount and a testament to the hard work and support of our whole school community.

This fantastic achievement will enable the PTA to continue supporting the school with resources, experiences and initiatives that benefit all of our children, including finally paying off the **amphitheatre project**. Thank you to everyone who played a part - whether by volunteering, donating, attending events or sharing ideas and feedback.

Fear not - we'll be back in **January 2026** with more fun and fundraising planned, including plenty of activities for the children and an **adult social evening** in the works. For now, we wish you all a restful and happy Christmas and New Year.