



January 2022

Dear Parents

The PTA would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break.

Despite recent times and the uncertainty that we have faced, the PTA were still incredibly busy last term and, as many of you may be aware, our fundraising total reached £2,020! As a team, we are incredibly proud of this achievement and for how we have been able to support and enrich our lovely school and we remain passionate about continuing to do so as we enter a new term!

Through last term's events, such as the Horti Hub Grand Opening, PTA Carwash, 'Back Together Again Big Breakfast', Colton Christmas fair, Christmas Wreath Making Workshop and Christmas Disco, we have been able to buy £400 worth of books for school, repair the school field, top up the grant we won to pay for the new bike shelter and its installation, fund Georgia Holloway's weekly Dance and Drama sessions and purchase 4 new balance bikes and helmets for Early Years. We have also bought a wooden planter in memory of Joan Kinsman (our PTA Christmas elf for several years) who we lost to Covid during the first lockdown. This is situated on the grassy area in front of the church by the lamp, take a walk over there and have a look sometime 😊

Not only have our fundraising efforts over last term helped us to provide some brilliant things for our school, we have also had a lot of fun whilst doing so! We are a wonderful team made up of mums, dads and grandparents, too, and everyone is welcome. All parents are members of the PTA and we always love to meet new people who may wish to become involved in our events or simply offer their support in any way they can. We understand that you may be too busy to get involved personally but we remain grateful for any support, ideas or suggestions you can offer, however big or small.

St Mary's PTA is co-ordinated by Claire Clarke, Sarah Genner, Sheryl Hayes and Sarah Jones, however, we really do work as one fantastic team. We get a lot done this way!

We have a PTA meeting coming up this Friday, 28th January 2022, in school at 8.45am straight after drop off (you can join virtually if you prefer – the link is available on the school website and Schudio app). We are a very welcoming and inclusive bunch (none of this **Parents To Avoid** rubbish!) and can promise you a cuppa and possibly a biscuit or two! Come along if you can and say hello 😊

As a result of these strange times we find ourselves in, school have requested a lateral flow test be carried out prior to coming into school and please also remember a mask...thank you.

We are holding a Valentine's Disco for the children on Friday 11th February 2022 after school, letters will be sent out this week and more information can be found on the school website. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Other events scheduled for this year include our infamous Easter Bingo, 'End of SATs Big Breakfast', not to mention our brilliant PTA Carwash and Sports Day BBQ.

There are other ways of supporting our PTA which may interest you, particularly if you are unable to help us in other ways.

Our 59 club is a great way for us to raise funds as well as giving you the chance to win £20 every single week! Simply set up a Standing Order for £1 every Monday and select an available number between 1 and 59. If your chosen number matches the bonus ball on Saturday night's National Lottery draw, you win £20! If you would like to set up your Standing Order today, please use the details below then email us at stmaryscoltonpta@gmail.com to choose your bonus ball number.

Acc name: St Mary's CE Primary School

Acc no: 00298706

Sort code: 30-99-06

Ref: Your name & 59 Club

Another great way to support us is through Easyfundraising, the UK's biggest charity fundraising site. It's simple to use and it's free! Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for our PTA, at no cost to you.

Just visit your favourite retailers (included are big names such as John Lewis, M&S, Boden, Expedia, Amazon, eBay, all the major supermarkets, holiday operators, insurance providers, plus a wide range of smaller and more niche online shops and stores) through the Easyfundraising website ([easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk)) and shop as normal. Once you've made a purchase the retailer will then make a small donation to your cause (**St Marys PTA Colton**) to say "thank you".

There's no catch. Whatever you buy costs exactly the same as it would if you had visited the retailer site directly. Easyfundraising doesn't take any financial information from you as all your transactions are with the retailer. They won't sell your information on or spam you. And the best bit? It doesn't cost you or the PTA anything at all! Please check it out and email us with any questions you may have...

We also have a PTA WhatsApp group and Facebook Page (St Mary's Colton PTA) for day to day communications, which are especially useful in the run up to events, or for reminders and ideas we may wish to share. If you would like any more information or would like to join the WhatsApp group, please contact Claire on 07846 678680 or email stmaryscoltonpta@gmail.com

Here's to a great spring term, together we shine 😊

St Mary's PTA xxx