



July 2021

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of yet another academic year (and one which I'm sure we are all more than ready for a break from!) the PTA would like to tell you about what we have achieved over the last year and the role we play at St Mary's.

Despite being unable to meet face to face for some time now, we have continued to stay connected through regular coffee mornings and wine evenings – our PTA is not only about fundraising for our school but also about establishing strong friendships and providing support to one another, something that has proven invaluable during the pandemic.

Despite the difficulties all PTAs have faced over the last year, we have continued with our fundraising, albeit slightly differently to usual! Since last September, we have raised an amazing total of over £11,600 through our 2020 commemorative mugs, Cash 4 Clothes collection, non-uniform day, pre-loved uniform sale and 59 Club, not to mention the incredible PTA 10k event last November. Not only have our phenomenal fundraising efforts helped to provide some brilliant things for our school including resources for all classes, resources for Forest School and ELSA provision, new rabbit hutch, basketball hoops, tumble drier, fridge for the Early Years classroom, new PE shed and the weekly dance and drama lessons delivered by Georgia Holloway but we have also been able to complete our outdoor project, The Horti Hub. Phew! The Horti Hub has now become an integral part of St Mary's and one which benefits the children enormously – they are learning about where their food comes from, sustainability, how to plant, nurture and harvest their food as well as benefitting from being outdoors in a calm and beautiful space.

On the afternoon of September 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating the formal opening of The Horti Hub and it would be lovely to have as many parents as possible join their children on this special occasion if they are able to ☺ There will be refreshments, cakes and ice creams for sale, alongside tours of The Horti Hub and demonstrations of our Forest school and ELSA provisions. Invitations for this event will be sent home this week with your children and any cake donations for the occasion would be greatly appreciated – more details to follow.

We are thrilled to have some of our fabulous fundraising events in the diary – our PTA Carwash is scheduled for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September and our 'Back Together Again Big Breakfast' on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November. If you would like to volunteer your help for either (or both!) of these events, please email [stmaryscoltonpta@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryscoltonpta@gmail.com). Equally, we understand

if you are too busy to get involved personally and we remain grateful for any support, ideas or suggestions you can offer, however big or small.

As always, the PTA are incredibly proud to be able to fund our wonderful Year 6 children with their Leaver's Hoodies along with their end of term leaver's celebrations. We wish all of the children the very best of luck in their new schools; they will be very much missed and, needless to say, we are incredibly proud of them all.

It is a strange year to reflect upon, but our PTA have achieved an incredible amount despite the challenges we've faced. We are a wonderful team made up of mums, dads and grandparents, too, and we have a lot of fun whilst supporting our lovely, little school. Everyone is welcome. 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! All parents are members of our 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 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 get in touch, please contact Claire on 07846 678680 or email [stmaryscoltonpta@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryscoltonpta@gmail.com)

This time of year is always full of mixed emotions – as a PTA we are always delighted to welcome new parents and children into the St Mary's family (and we are especially looking forward to getting to know those who joined us last year who we still haven't yet been able to meet properly ☺) We can assure you of a very warm welcome when we do meet you all! Along with the excitement of meeting lots of new faces, inevitably, we also have to say goodbye to others; not only our Year 6 children, but also to some of our PTA members who will be leaving us too. These goodbyes are never easy for us, as the friendships we have established and the good times we have shared are an integral part of what makes our PTA work so well. We will miss you all and you will always remain part of our St Mary's family and are welcome back anytime (Big Breakfast volunteers anyone?! :-D)

Finally, on the subject of goodbyes, The PTA would like to wish Mr Lovern a very happy retirement. We hope that it is everything you wish it to be and thank you for all your hard work and leadership, you will be greatly missed.

With very best wishes for a relaxing summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September!

St Mary's PTA xxx