



July 2022

Dear Parents

Can you believe we are almost at the end of another academic year? It seems to have flown by in a flash, although St Mary's PTA have been working tirelessly throughout, raising lots of money to support our lovely school.

Over the last year, through events such as our Horti Hub Grand Opening, Carwash, Big Breakfast, (our 'Back Together Again Big Breakfast' made us a National PTA Awards Community Initiative of the Year finalist!), Christmas Wreath Making Workshop, Colton Christmas Fair, Christmas Disco, Easter Bingo, Valentine's Disco, Sports Day BBQ and Pre-Loved Uniform Sale, not to mention sales of our fabulous Jubilee Tea Towels, we have raised almost £3,500! Wow!

These phenomenal fundraising efforts have been ploughed straight back into school and have provided some amazing things such as the installation of a bike shelter in the school car park (we won this by applying for a grant), repairs to the school field, the purchase of four balance bikes and safety helmets for our Early Years provision, £400 towards new reading books and a new PC monitor for use in the school library as an extra teaching space. The money has also been used to buy reading boxes and blankets for each class so the children are able to read outside, two new football goals for the school field, subscribe to various reading and magazine resources, fund our weekly dance and drama provision by Georgia Holloway, buy a new run for the school guinea-pig, buy some decorative items for the children's jubilee garden, as well as purchase our Year 6 Leaver's Hoodies and pay for their Leaver's celebration event. Phew!

We continue to update our memorial planter for Joan Kinsman with seasonal plants in front of St Mary's church, too; do take a wander, if you get the chance, and have a look at the beautiful blooming geraniums planted in her memory.

I hope you will agree that our PTA have achieved an incredible amount this year and we look forward to continuing to do so again throughout the following year.

We are thrilled to have some of our fabulous fundraising events already in the diary for the autumn term – we have an informal welcome coffee morning on 23rd September 8.30 - 10am for all parents and would love to see as many of you there as possible! Not only will it be great to catch up with everyone after the summer break, but it will also be a wonderful opportunity to say hello to new families and also for them to get to know others who have joined the school.

Other events include our carwash on Saturday 15th October 8.30am – 1pm, Film Night on Thursday 17th November 3.30 – 6pm and a Christmas Big Breakfast on Saturday 10th December 8.30 – 11am.

We are only able to run our events with your support! If you would like to volunteer your help for any of these events, please email stmaryscoltonpta@gmail.com or if you are just able to simply come along and have your car washed or enjoy a lovely breakfast cooked for you and your family, then we would be very grateful for all help you are able to offer 😊

We also have a PTA meeting on Friday 16th September at 8.45am and our AGM on Friday 25th November at 8.45am and we need as much support at these as possible, if you have the time to spare.

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.

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. 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 (Carwash volunteers anyone?! :-D)

The PTA would also like to wish all the very best of luck to Mrs Coleman-Harris and Mrs Lott who are both about to go on maternity leave, we hope you manage some rest before your little ones arrive and can't wait to meet them!

Don't forget, 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

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

St Mary's PTA xxx