

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of another academic year (and what a short and strange one it has been), the PTA would like to let you know about the role we play at St Mary's and what we have achieved this year, despite our fundraising efforts being cut short due to the unprecedented situation we find ourselves in.

After our successful application to the Tesco Bags of Help (blue token) appeal, unfortunately due to Covid19, the scheme was ended early in order to reduce staff and customer touch points within store. As a result, the awards have since been divided equally between the three charities and St Mary's PTA have been awarded £1,166. This, whilst not quite the amount we were hoping to secure, is still a positive result and will enable us to begin work on our amazing outdoor horticultural learning area in the autumn term.

We are incredibly proud to have been able to support our lovely school this year by co-ordinating events such as the PTA Carwash, Big Breakfast, Film Night, Christmas Fair and Valentine's Disco, not to mention the Christmas cards, Nativity DVDs and fabulous 2020 calendars! Through these, we have raised an incredible £2,500! This amazing amount has enabled us to buy a huge selection of books for the children, contribute to enrichment days as well as the funding of our dance and drama teacher every week. We have also been able to fund the building works of an outdoor shelter, fence and gate to the front of the school and pay for a fantastic selection of outdoor equipment.

The PTA are also very proud to be able to fund the leavers hoodies once again for our wonderful Year 6 children; these are perhaps even more significant given the recent times and are a lasting memento of their time at St Mary's.

This is often the time of year when not only do we reflect back on our achievements as a PTA but also the friendships we have established and the fun we have had together whilst working as the brilliant team we are. We have a wonderful group of people who are passionate about supporting our lovely school and our team spirit and enthusiasm is second to none. We are mainly mums who help but we also have dads and grandparents who get involved, too. 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 have ideas or contributions, however big or small. We

completely understand if you are too busy to get involved personally, but we remain grateful for any support or suggestions you can offer.

This time of year is always full of mixed emotions for the PTA at St Mary's, not only do we say goodbye to our Year 6 children but also to some of our PTA members who will be leaving us, too. I think it is safe to say they will be very much missed and we thank them for all the fun and support they have provided us with over the years. Needless to say, they will always be part of our St Mary's family and are welcome back behind a BBQ or tea urn any day!

The PTA would also like to extend a huge welcome to those new parents and children joining St Mary's in September. We are so excited to see lots of new faces and are looking forward to getting to know you all. Your introduction to the PTA will differ from usual due to the measures that will still be in place, however, we would still like to ensure that you feel very welcome and that you are able to join and support us as much as you wish. We have a PTA WhatsApp group for day to day communications, which is especially useful in the run up to our events and we email out the minutes of every PTA meeting to anyone who wishes to receive them.

We are planning to have a welcome (or welcome back!) coffee morning (adhering to the government guidelines in place at the time) where we can have a chat and a cuppa and introduce ourselves to any new faces. Always keen to dispel the myth that PTA stands for 'Parents to Avoid' (!) we really are a very friendly bunch who can't wait to meet you. The PTA is co-ordinated by Claire Clarke, Sheryl Hayes, Sarah Genner and Sarah Jones, however, we really do work as one fantastic team and everyone's efforts are equally as important and valued. We get a lot done this way. If you would like to get in touch before September, please contact Claire on 07846 678680.

We are really looking forward to the autumn term and working together again as a team (even if we have to be apart!) and to the exciting albeit different times ahead of us.

Have a lovely summer break!

St Mary's PTA xxx