

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.

Last term was an incredibly busy one for us, as many of you are aware, with our fundraising total reaching an amazing £2,368! 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 carwash, Big Breakfast, film night and Christmas fair, not to mention the Christmas cards, nativity DVDs and the production of our fantastic 2020 calendars, we have been able to buy 100 new reading books, contribute to the hire of a wonderdome for Class 4's Science Day and pay for the installation of the gate and fence for the area outside of the front of school. By securing this area, it will now be able to be used by the children as an outdoor space and extension to the classroom during the school day.

We have also purchased a variety of fabulous outdoor items to be used in this area (watch this space!) and are also continuing to fund the weekly dance and drama sessions run by Georgia Holloway.

Not only have our phenomenal fundraising efforts over last term helped to provide some brilliant things for our school, but the fun we have had and friendships that have developed are equally as important. All parents are members of the PTA and we always love to meet new people who may wish to become more involved in our events or have ideas or contributions, however big or small.

Meetings are friendly and welcoming (usually with biscuits and a cuppa!) and are advertised on the school website and posters around the school. Claire Clarke, Sheryl Hayes and Sarah Genner co-ordinate the PTA and Sarah Jones is already doing a brilliant job as our new treasurer. 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. Our next meeting is Friday 31st January at 8.30am. Come if you can, we'd love to see you.

If you would like to receive the minutes from our meetings please pass on your email address to a member of the PTA or to a member of staff to forward on to us. We also have a very successful WhatsApp group that is a very positive way for us all to stay in touch. If this is something you would like to join please speak to us 😊

Last year we worked hard on submitting an application to the Tesco Bags of Help scheme and as many of you will have seen, our application has proven successful and is now in Rugeley Tesco and remains there until March 31st 2020. Please, please spread the word and get as many blue tokens in for St Mary's as possible. We have amazing plans to create an outdoor learning and horticultural area and are so excited about developing this space for the school. Please note that Tesco have strict guidelines relating to this scheme and will disqualify participants who are found to be acting unfairly, for example by hoarding and depositing multiple tokens at a time.

On a final note, you may have heard about the PTA 59 Club? This is an incredibly easy way for us to raise money and with minimal effort! For £1 per week (taken as a standing order), simply choose an available number between 1 and 59 and if this is the bonus ball on the Saturday night National Lottery draw you win £20! It really is that simple! If you would like to support the PTA and help us raise vital funds for our school by becoming part of the 59 club please speak to a member of the PTA or contact our treasurer, Sarah Jones, on 07891 336809/ sarah.lord28@gmail.com.

Hope to see some new faces on the 31st and here's to another great term for St Mary's PTA! Together we shine ☺

The PTA Team xx