



## St Matthew's Primary School PTA – Registered Charity Number 288436

### Chair's Report for September 2022 – August 2023

#### 1. Committee

The current PTA Committee comprises those elected at the AGM in October 2022 and the role of Chair being co-opted post-AGM. I assumed the role of Chair from Laura Franks who has moved into the role of Events Coordinator. Marysol Bell and Seb Wills remained in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Emily Dock is the Coordinator of Special Projects including Christmas cards, Clothing collections (Bags2School) and Swim Night alongside Tone Klausen as Classlist Lead. Kim Nguyen and Allison Moss served as Cake Sale Coordinators. We are grateful to Barry Evans for his continued support as teacher representative.

#### 2. Events

We had a very exciting and busy year of events.

- The **Mr. Marvel Magic Show** was held to welcome the new starters in Nursery and Reception in early October 2022. This continues to be a great way to integrate new children and parents to the school and to each other.
- The **Spooky Disco** is increasingly popular with three sold-out sessions. The refreshment stand was well supplied by donations of shop bought and home baked goods. Well done to Laura Franks for creating a fantastic event.
- The **Festive Fair** made a welcome return in December. We had Santa in his Grotto, hot chocolate, wonderful singing from the KS2 Choir, plenty of games and a host of stalls run by Year 6. It was very well attended and raised over £1700 for the school.

- Emily Dock organised the **Christmas / Greetings card fundraiser** again last year. This is always very popular with the children and parents.
- **Bags2School** collections took place twice over the last year and generated additional funds for the school whilst offering families an opportunity to clean up and be generous in their recycling of good quality clothes, shoes and linens.
- We held a very successful sold-out **Swim Night** event in May 2023 at Parkside Pools with exclusive use of all three pools and flumes for St Matthew's families. The event was an overwhelming success, and a follow-up event is planned for November 2023.
- Happily, we were able to go ahead with the **Summer Fair** in July 2023. The combination of great weather, enthusiastic parent volunteers, stall holders and excited children made for the perfect way to get into the Summer break.
- The **Colour Run** was a successful sports event that took place in April where the children ran 22,087 laps that raised an incredible £8000 for the school. Thanks to the incredible PTA Events team for the organisation and Mrs Woolf for her energy and enthusiasm in driving the Colour Run at school.

### 3. PTA Grants

Money raised at PTA events is used to meet funding requests made by staff, separately from the Fund St Matthew's stream (to be discussed next). We are delighted to be able to fund equipment and activities across so many different areas to make daily life better for pupils.

The PTA provided grants for:

- T-shirts for the KS2 choir
- Piano repairs
- Library refurbishment contribution - the PTA funded a new, hard-wearing carpet, splitting the £5,000 cost between core PTA funds and Fund St Matthew's.
- Year 6 Leavers hoodies - We organised Leaver's hoodies again, still using the Hoodie Hut so parents could order directly online. Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium had their hoodie funded, the cost of which was covered entirely by the PTA.

We have been able to fund a range of requests this year, there will be more on this in the Treasurer's Report to follow.

#### **4. Fund St Matthew (Special Projects)**

The PTA continued to operate the *Fund St. Matthew's* campaign, through which parents and businesses can donate money towards school projects. Money raised through events, as well as donations and through giving schemes are spent fulfilling funding requests from the school and for school-wide projects and special campaigns.

As a result of funding shortfalls, *Fund St Matthew's* raised money for essential activities and initiatives to continue at school through a series of fund-raising events including Swim Night and the Colour Run. We have recently launched a £10k Match Challenge "to munch our way to 10k" to continue this great work.

In addition to the traditional fund-raising mechanisms, we have raised money through our affiliate schemes that raise money for the school while you shop including online shops via Giving Machine and from being a Coop charity partner in the 2022/23 cycle where we received a donation each time they buy Co-op products. We have received £398 from shopping donations and we are expecting an extra amount for participating from Coop.

A special thanks to Seb Wills for his meticulous organisation and management of these various funding streams.

#### **5. Volunteers**

We would like to thank the team of incredible volunteers who support the PTA including but not limited to:

- Laura Franks for her fantastic organisational abilities on all PTA events (as a Y6 parent, this is her final year at St Matthews and we will miss her creativity and energy).

- We would like to thank Emily Dock for her fantastic work on the Christmas Cards, Bags2School and Swim Night initiatives.
- Kim Nguyen and our network of Year Group Cake Sale Leads and Class Reps for disseminating information and keeping up momentum with their parent networks. We welcome our new Cake Sale Coordinators Ha Le and Sophie Roberts.
- Marysol Bell and Lost Property coordinators for this incredible initiative aimed at reuniting lost items of clothing/belongings to their owners. This is a demanding task and the results have been exceptional.
- Green Thumbs Initiative aimed at keeping the school green and beautiful – This was championed by Charlotte Cornish who did a phenomenal job and we welcome Caren Stubbington to the role.
- We would also like to thank the Parents volunteers and bakers who support the set up, running and cleanup of the events and all the fund raising initiatives.

## **6. Staff appreciation**

Marysol Bell has championed two teacher appreciation events including a hot chocolate bar with decorations, candy canes and whipped cream for all school staff in December 2022 and a St Patrick's Day treat in March 2023. The Teacher Appreciation initiatives were well received by the deserving staff at school.

Finally, we would like to thank the school for their continued support of the PTA. In particular, Tony Davies and the Senior Leadership Team, the wonderful office staff who always go above and beyond, Wojtek for all his help, and Barry Evans for being a great teacher representative.

Last but not least, thank you to the volunteers on the PTA committee, all the parents and carers who have helped out in so many different ways and who continue to support the PTA and the school and ensuring that we collectively deliver an all-round excellent fun and learning experience for our children.

**Jeshika Moonsamy** - Chairperson