



## Treasurer's Report 2022-23

This report covers the PTA's academic and financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, with a few notes on activity since then.

I will first cover *Fund St Matthew's*, which is the PTA's campaign to raise donations directly for the school, then the core PTA activity.

### 1. Fund St Matthew's

Donations totalled £38,746 in the year covered by this report, bringing the total donated since the campaign was started in 2019, to £156,797. Money in the PTA's bank account assigned to *Fund St Matthew's* at the end of the period was £6,176. These figures include a £5,000 donation received in July which is earmarked as the source of a 'donation matching' campaign mentioned below.

Donations to *Fund St Matthew's* were used in different ways according to the financial situation of the school at the time.

At the end of the previous period (2020-21), the PTA held £1,176 of Fund St Matthew's funds, and a balance of £47,058 had been granted to the school but not yet spent. The hope at the time was that the latter would be spent by the school on 'nice to have' projects such as the covered outdoor eating area. Unfortunately the school's budget situation did not allow this, and it was used by the school to help keep essential services running, with Mr Davies hoping the school will be in a position to fund the 'nice to have' projects in coming years.

In the autumn term of 2022, Mr Davies asked the PTA not to automatically grant future donations to the school, but instead to pay directly for specific projects as agreed between the school and the PTA, to help keep the Fund St Matthew's donations more clearly separated from the main budget. In this mode of operation we used Fund St Matthew's donations to fund the library carpet (a total of £5,033, split 50:50 between Fund St Matthew's and core PTA funds) and a laptop for SEN assessments (£918).

In Spring, Mr Davies approached the PTA and the parent body with news of a renewed funding crisis and budget deficit, due to rising staff costs (not fully funded by government) and energy prices. He requested help funding a list of important provisions that were under threat, totalling an estimated £47,600. The list comprised:

- A new Phonics programme (the previous one having closed down)
- A new suite of Chromebooks
- Delivery of music lessons to all children by a specialist music teacher
- Sustaining the school's counselling service
- Raising funds to support families facing difficult circumstances to pay for school trips

The PTA decided to support the school, earmarking accumulated and future *Fund St Matthew's* donations, including £8,081 donated during the Colour Run, towards these 'deficit projects'. As of

31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, £30,197 of Fund St Matthew's donations had been granted to the school towards the 'deficit projects'. The PTA also decided to donate £11,000 from core PTA funds that historically have remained unspent for multiple years. As a result, at 31<sup>st</sup> August there was approximately £6,400 remaining to raise to fully fund them all.

## **Start of academic year 2023-24**

In summer 2023, an anonymous donor promised a £10,000 donation to be used as a 'matching fund', or to support other ways of unlocking new donations. £5,000 of this fund was received in July 2023, and £5,000 in September 2023. We are using these donations to back a £10,000 matching campaign started in October 2023, with all new/increased donations being matched.

Donations in September 2023 were much larger than usual – likely due to a one-off donation of around £5,000, unrelated to the matching fund. As a result we have now effectively completed fundraising the £47,600 for the 'deficit projects'. Further funding crises permitting, the plan was that fundraising should return to being for projects above and beyond day-to-day operation of the school, so we should begin to plan these.

## **2. PTA Activities**

### **Income**

Fundraising activities raised net receipts (i.e. after deducting costs) of £11,874.

The main activities were:

- the Festive and Summer Fairs raising £4,573
- Cake Sales raising £4,288
- Christmas cards raising £1,546
- Discos raising £919
- Bag2School clothing collections raising £452.

Colour Run sponsorship donations raised £8,081, but this was raised for the Phonics scheme 'deficit project', so is counted under *Fund St Matthew's*.

This year we also ran a 'Pay it forward' scheme for school trips. In the information parents/carers received about school trips, they were invited to donate towards the cost of the trip for families who would struggle to afford it. These donations, totalling £1,258 including Gift Aid, were processed by the PTA but granted fully to the school to go towards those costs.

Other PTA income came from £283 referral fees from parents using our Giving Machine and Amazon Smile links for their online shopping (the latter scheme has now closed).

### **Expenditure**

The largest item of expenditure from core PTA funds was £11,000 towards the £47,000 'deficit projects' mentioned in the previous section. This was granted on the basis that the PTA has long had surplus funds in the bank which would be better put to use maintaining the provision for all pupils in this period of budget crisis.

£9,222 was spent on grants for equipment requested by teachers (£8,346), excursions/activities (£875).

Some of the larger grants for equipment were:

- £2517 towards the new library carpet (the rest funded via Fund St Matthew's)
- £688 on creative play equipment for Year 1
- £617 on T-shirts for the KS1 and KS2 choirs
- £535 on 'small world' toys for Reception & Nursery
- £425 on a woodwork bench for Nursery
- plus many smaller requests

## **Current position**

Overall, the PTA's assets (excluding *Fund St Matthew's* money) at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 were £6,041, a significant reduction from the £14,660 at the start of the year. This reflects a committee decision, with wider confirmation at our 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 open meeting, that the PTA was holding an unnecessarily large surplus, which was better put to use contributing towards the projects that Mr Davies identified as at risk of being cut due to school budget pressures. We agreed to maintain a buffer of around £4,000 to ensure the PTA can continue to make its usual grants for teacher requests without interruption.

I am happy to conclude that the PTA's finances are in a healthy state, and that the PTA is in a position to operate and continue to fulfil funding requests..

Seb Wills

PTA Treasurer

10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (minor corrections 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023)