# St Giles PTFA Newsletter October 2023



## News & Updates

Hello, and welcome to our first PTFA newsletter of the 2023/4 school year! We have lots of changes, updates and celebrations to tell you about.

Last year (2022/23) the PTFA held several events including the summer family disco, winter warmer and summer fayre, which included an enormous raffle! We had some new events too including the Easter egg hunt and the 2023 challenge. We raised a total of £2550, which is a fabulous amount, especially given we are such a small school. So, a huge THANK YOU for all your ongoing support.

More importantly, we are now able to spend the money on the children! Mr O'Connell and Miss Simpson have been given £3000 from the PTFA to spend on behalf of the school. The enormous decision of what to spend it on has been taken to the school council who are helping decide where best to spend this money. Ideas so far include more playground equipment, an outdoor gazebo, picnic benches or scooters. We look forward to hearing what the final decision is once it is made.

As well as this lump sum, we have continued to support the school with ice cream treats in the summer and at the pantomime trip, Christmas chocolate boxes, t-shirts for those that go to Whitehall, the year 6 leavers photo frames, a contribution to the coach costs for the pantomime, and a donation of £80 to the librarians to stock up their bookshelves. There have also been occasional specific requests from individual classes.

This year, our ambitions continue to grow! We are keen to raise as much money as we can, but we are going for a slightly different format. So, this year's future events for your diary:

### Autumn Term

**Secret Santa shop:** A fabulous event the children love to take part in! Every year we ask for donations of small gifts, beauty products, edibles, ornaments, stationary, jewellery etc which are then laid out like a shop. The children come along and pick a present for up to 2 caregivers for £1 per present. Once they have chosen they help gift-wrap their presents to bring home and put under the tree. Secret santa will be held on December 18th. **Please help by providing DONATIONS by Monday 11th December.**

**Christmas hamper raffle:** The raffle will be held at the Infants nativity play in December. Tickets will be available for all parents to buy that morning too.

### Winter term

**School Valentine disco:** This is for the children only and will be held directly after school on February 29th from 3.30 – 5.30 pm. School staff have wonderfully agreed to support us with this. As it is winter, we will be able to benefit from the dark evening and plan to have an external provider for the music and lights. Details and (small) costs to follow.

### Spring term

**2024 challenge:** The first challenge in 2023 raised a phenomenal amount of money (£971) and we would love to make this event even bigger! The aim is simple; each child is asked to raise £20.24 in any way they like. Last year saw sponsored bike rides, swims, runs, car washes and readathons and even children selling items at a festival (i.e. setting up their own shop). Each child that took part felt an enormous sense of achievement and many are already planning their challenge for this year. In addition, we are considering a family sponsored event for those that would prefer to attend something organised. Watch this space! We plan to hold this sponsorship challenge between 18th March and 29th April 2024.

### Summer term

**Team Quiz Night:** An adults only team quiz night, for parents and their friends, to be held at Starkholmes Village Hall. This will be a ticketed event, on **Saturday June 22nd**. Save the date!

## What we need from you!

We are always on the look out for new members. You can commit as little or as much time as you have. The bare minimum commitment is attending our 3 formal meetings, held at the start of each term (forthcoming dates **January 17th and April 24th 2024**). You can get as involved as you wish in organising events. We are a very friendly, low-key group! It is a wonderful way to feel a part of the school community and to meet new friends. Please let the school office know if you are interested, and they will pass on my contact details. Alternatively, please come and find me after school on a Monday or Friday (Toby, Oliver and Owen's mum!). We also absolutely welcome Dad's! We have a fabulous Dad doing one half of the treasurer role and I'm sure he would welcome some male company!

**We are desperately on the look out for anyone with some typing or basic social media skills. We need:**

**A Secretary** Tasks involve writing up meeting minutes, writing a termly newsletter and basic admin housekeeping / occasional letter writing. You will be a part of the core committee of the PTFA which is essential to running it as a charity.

**A Social Media Secretary** We have increased our engagement with the school facebook page which has proven to be of great value. You will help post notices and events on the facebook page.

**Do you have any useful skills or contacts that we could use? We are open to anything!**

**Finally, put the above dates in your diary!**

## Thanks from me

I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the committee for all their hard work. Emma Birkett, in particular, who last year did an enormous amount for us all as Secretary. We will miss her enormously as leaves the role this year. Secondly, I'd like to thank Miss Simpson and Mr O'Connell for embracing the PTFA and all our ideas and enthusiasm. It makes a huge difference! My final thank you is to Sally Bednall, who comes to every single meeting and tirelessly works behind the scenes. We would be lost without you!

I am really looking forward to all the events over the upcoming year. We are very lucky to have such a happy, thriving school community, and we really hope the PTFA can help continue to support this. We very much look forward to seeing the fruits of all our fundraising efforts when they start spending their money!

*Laura Hickinbotham* (and the PTFA committee)

**Contact us:** stgilesptfa@gmail.com, on our facebook page "Friends of St Giles PTFA", or catch us at the school gate!



## Party Box

Hosting a party this summer? The PTFA Party Box is available for hire and contains what you might need for your party tea (beakers, jugs, cutlery, plates, bowls, trays, napkins, table covers). Enjoy your party, save waste! It is £10 per hire; contact us for details.

## Easy Fundraising

Easy Fundraising is a way of contributing to the PTFA each time you shop online. If you sign up we can raise even more for our school. Sign up at easyfundraising.org.uk and search for our cause "Friends of St Giles PTFA Matlock". Use the mobile app or browser extension each time you shop to raise money.