



St Mary's PTA

More volunteers needed – please support the PTA! :)

Welcome back! Hopefully everyone is settling in well, and raring to go for another school year! We just thought we'd write this update about the school PTA, and invite anyone who is interested in helping out in any way to get in touch!

As the PTA we have two aims - to raise funds for the school, and to enhance the learning environment of St Mary's.

You can see the projects we've been involved in - the Mindfulness Garden, Outdoor Classroom, and the Timber Trail in the top playground were all majority funded by the PTA, and help to make St Mary's a much nicer environment for the kids. Sadly, in recent years, the lack of government funding means we that we have also had to contribute funds to the basics such as new school books, computer equipment, etc.

We run events across the year, and try to make them as fun and engaging for the kids as possible, whilst also raising funds. We run Discos, Colour Runs, Quiz's, Easter Competitions, 50p Fridays (Tuck Shop), the Christmas Fair, etc – and we're always open to new ideas!

Every parent is automatically a member of the School PTA, but we have a Committee which take the lead on organising. Our Committee are nearly all working parents, who give an hour or so when they can. Some of our Committee will be stepping down in February after years of dedicated service, and we really need the support of more parents this year.

You can give as much or as little time as you are able (there is no right and wrong) and you would be fully supported on whatever you do. Some of the tasks we need volunteers for are listed below – it could be something as simple as counting how many bounces the kids do, or selling sweets, so really isn't all that daunting but can have a big impact. Many hands make light work!

- **Sponsored Bounce** Wednesday 18th October – We need help counting the number of bounces for each child. Even if you can only make an hour, it would be much appreciated.
- **Sparkle Disco** Friday 3rd November - running the sweet stall, and selling food and drink.
- **Christmas Fair** Friday 8th December 2023- running the tombola, wrapping in Elfridges, managing the Santa queue, doing craft with the kids, etc. We need lots of help with this, and if you can't give any time, you can also help by donating bottles, unwanted gifts, wrapping paper, teddies.
- **New to You Book Fair** (Spring 2024)- sorting the books and helping the kids pick new ones
- **Colour Run** (Summer 2024)- Throwing powder paint and water at the kids (and helping tidy up after)

Please reach out to us if you'd like to get involved – on 0785794004 or at pta@stmaryspta.org.uk
Other ways to help –

200 Club - sign up at stmaryspta.org.uk/200 – it's £4 a month, and you might win!

Raffle Prizes - if you have a business or would like to donate any prizes please let us know.