

## Chair Report 2023/24

One year on...

At this very meeting last year, I sat here nervously raising my hand to volunteer as chairperson on the Parent Teachers Association (better known as the PTA), then wondering if I would have anything to write in the Annual Chairs report as the next AGM rolls around. Turns out that is not the case, I am now hopeful I haven't missed something or someone out, whilst trying to keep this report brief; wonderfully there is so much to pack in.

What a year it has been for our Millfield family, with the obvious and devastating floods impacting every student, testing their resilience and adaptability and making our fundraising efforts ever more important.

### PTA AIMS

I would like to begin with a quote from the PTA website:

*"A PTA is a group of volunteer parents and teachers who work together to make their school a better environment for children to learn. They raise extra funds through a wide range of fun and creative initiatives, events, and much, much more. They also fall under other names, or better still, Superheroes!"*

For me this statement sums it up, we are all volunteers giving up what time we have to positively impact our children's education, learning and values. PTA members give up time and efforts to contribute to our children's community. This is done by giving Millfield pupils fun events scattered throughout the curriculum and school year that contribute to those extra educational experiences, and also raise much needed school funds and to give back to Millfield and the wider community with those extras not covered by the everyday school budget. And a massive thank you goes to everyone who has contributed to events, fundraising and volunteering, the PTA is a massive team effort so well done to all who have played a part in our success over the year and years, as I now offer a review of 2023/24.

### COMMUNICATION

A focus on communication over the previous year has helped to share with all, the PTA, and what we do. Offering online Teams access to our meetings along with ongoing use of our WhatsApp chats, we have increased our number of active volunteers and encourage sharing of information to keep everyone in the loop. This has again allowed the introduction of year group representatives who can spread the PTA word to individual year groups and feedback any parent contributions.

Another success this year is our PTA promotions, I am going to name them our marketing team. Amy's quality posters and banners allowing a quick way to advertise our events on noticeboards, Sheepwash times etc, along with Kat providing PTA updates in the school's newsletter. Kim has done a fantastic job regularly posting and sharing on our PTA Facebook page increasing our likes and followers. This positive combination has amplified our network with a noticeable increased turnout and backing for PTA events.

Supplementing our communication efforts, thanks goes to Kat for setting up a Charity Hive account allowing us to run our raffles online and offer cashless payment options. This platform has possibilities to develop further and also allows us to claim gift aid on transactions.

## **EVENTS:**

Offering an overview of the year we look back at what events the PTA has accomplished:

### Discos x3

The PTA disco format has been well established over the years and always a hit with the children. We have planned and hosted 3 discos, our first in the school hall with little realisation of what would happen just 36 hours later. With no school facilities and the need to adapt our events we decided to put on something extra special for the children, with a quickly planned Christmas celebration disco. Many thanks to the Jubilee Hall for loan of a temporary venue, Disco guy Craig donating his services, and Belvin construction kindly offering to fund match this event. Concluding disco season, and final send off for year 6, our summer spectacular was held, again at the Jubilee Hall, with a fantastic turnout and a long list of willing volunteers. Many thanks to all those that helped out at our disco events.

### Pop and play

As the pupils gained an extended October half term, the quick thinking of Vicki Heyworth suggested and organised a pop in and play craft morning. With a PTA contribution of £50 and Hobbycraft offer to double the spend value, volunteers put together a much-needed craft and get together session. A free event during the school closure, with a suggested donation bucket, overall, this covered costs and was actually fund matched by an anonymous donor, therefore turning into a fundraising event.

### Easter Egg Hunt

A lovely village occasion for the enjoyment of all, our annual Easter Egg Hunt ran in April. Again, thanks to the Jubilee Hall and volunteers this event was huge success, with an egg sell out and record funds raised. The PTA provided seasonal games, Easter Egg raffle, refreshments including hot cross buns and a free craft table. As a base for the event the Jubilee Hall works well and offers a village feel, therefore going forward it would be great to continue liaising with the Parish council for future Easter hunts.

### Xmas market

Heighington hosts a thriving local Christmas market and it has always proved successful for the PTA to contribute with a stall. Disappointingly, the elements were against us yet again as heavy snowfall on the day cancelled the main event. After a manic morning and some quick-thinking villagers, a scaled down version took place instead. With the pre-erected marquee already in the school playground, we still managed to gather volunteers selling hot drinks, playing games and festive glitter, enabling us to add to our fundraising hard work. Unfortunately, further disaster occurred as our marquee remarkably blew over the fence during a blustery night. A massive thankyou to those who braved the midnight callout making it safe overnight and then taking down the next morning. With irreparable damage, Kat worked her absolute magic, sourcing and reclaiming old parts providing a complete marquee ready for our summer events.

### Smarties Challenge

A fundraising suggestion from Kim (Sellars) proved a missive hit, especially with the overall winners Barley class, as we handed out smarties treats (or allergy equivalent) to all pupils, in the return for filled tubes of money. A fundraising success and enjoyable suggestion.

### Pre loved

With Amy joining the PTA to champion reuse and recycle, she along with others have re-established pre loved school uniform. The PTA purchased boxes and supplies, and with a shout out for school uniform donations the preloved scheme has started well. This ongoing process covers costs with a suggested donation amount for clothing items. End of academic year uniform donations have been busy and current supplies are looking healthy. Well done to Amy and helpers who will continue to manage this over the coming year, hopefully offering pop up events in the playground.

### Playground Book Drops

After the flood the loss of books was extensive, but Hetti along with others organised 2 book drop events providing temporary classrooms some much needed ready for pleasure books.

### Raffles

This year the PTA has put together two raffles. Firstly, the Festive Prize Draw, complimenting the Christmas Market. With the previously mentioned Charity Hive option we promoted this leading up to the event online, and even with the cancelled market managed to reach an amazing total. Secondly, the PTA summer raffle which is always a great fundraiser, and this year our prize list exceeded expectations, there really was something for everyone. Raffles are a great way to fundraise, as prizes are donated, therefore all money raised is profit. Asking companies to give can be challenging, so a massive thank you to Joanne, Clarissa, Becky, Noah and others for pulling together phenomenal prizes for both raffle draws.

### Millfest

I could not round up our PTA year without mentioning MILLFEST 2024, what a day and what an event! With the children experiencing a challenging year what better way to celebrate than scaling up our Summer Fair with bands and entertainment. The fun had by all, endless positive comments and record amount raised, this occasion has gone down as an massive triumph. Thank to everyone who helped with non-uniform day (the day before), prior preparations and promotions, on the day from set up to clear down and everything in between. The PTA offered glitter, cakes, drinks, raffle, tombola, inflatables, games, BBQ, gifts and much more. A special mention goes to Kim (Sellars) and her dad (Magician) who entertained with his magic skills, and Stacey who generously donated tents and supplies. Not forgetting, Kat who held everything together, I still don't know how she managed to find bouncy castles at the eleventh hour!

### **FUNDRAISING (Donations/Sponsors/Fund matches)**

The PTA have been fortunate enough to obtain generous donations from companies and individuals sponsoring our charity. This really enhances efforts and should be something we try to champion going forward. It can be a difficult ask, approaching companies to give donations, thanks to those that have made successful connections. If you have any company links, we would love to develop additional networks. A letter of thanks has gone to the following, (along with summer raffle donors):

Marks Transport  
Lindum  
Blaze Solar  
Green Thumb  
Belvin Construction  
Affinity Flying Training  
Red Arrows Trust  
Moy Park  
Bardney Bingo  
Carl Glassons (parent donation)

## **SPENDING**

It is great to raise money and have fun in the process, however, we need to ensure our profits continue to enrich our children's learning and experiences, so where has our money been spent?

### Trips

This year every student has benefitted from a PTA contribution towards school visits: Reception - Rand Farm, Year1&2 – Christmas Pantomime, Year 3 – Magna Carta, Year 4 – The Collection, Year 5 – National Space Centre and year 6 – National Justice Museum.

### Year 6 hoodies, Year 5 ties and Reception book bags

An annual purchase of year 6 leavers hoodies, year 5 ties and reception book bags has continued. Thanks to Hetti, and Julie in the office, for organising, information on the process for next year will be passed on. This is an ongoing tradition and exciting for the children in those special years. We also funded a donation towards the year 6 fun day as a final primary school celebration.

### Rugs

With portable classroom not offering a carpet space, Donna approached the PTA to fund the purchase of rugs for EYFS and KS1.

### Climbing Wall

How fun for all the pupils to remember the day the climbing wall came to school to enhance PE lessons for the day, fully funded by the PTA.

### STEM

A successful fundraising application to the Red Arrows Trust enabled the purchase of STEM resources with class sets of Lego Spike for use across the curriculum, thank you to Kat for her work towards this grant.

### Library

With the target of £6000 smashed we have given back the heart of the school, with supplementing funds towards the refurbished library, we hope this inspires a love of books and reading.

### Moy Park

Many thanks to all who voted in the Moy Park Festive Scheme, we were nominated as one of the chosen schools and as such received £500 to spend on Christmas celebrations. Thanks to John (B) who organised an end of term Christmas fun day and sent every child home the gift of reading, with a book.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

In summary a Volunteer is: *'a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task without being paid.'*

However, much time you can give to the PTA our network of volunteers is so important, these combined efforts are what keeps the PTA cogs turning. Many school PTA's are struggling and I am a strong advocate for creating one team. When I look back over the year, so many people have given so much. If I had to individually thank everyone we really would be here until midnight, however please note however much of a part you have played, thank you.

Finally, as school years roll on we must say goodbye and thank you to those year 6 volunteer parents who have given time to the PTA, a special mention and best wishes to Hetti, and also Clare B (Lynn please pass the message on). It is always amazing to welcome new reception parents, with fresh ideas and enthusiasm, hopefully you are inspired to get involved.

**2024/25**

Looking ahead, PTA aims are to continue the established format, with provisional event dates outlining the year ahead. With the ready and refurbished school building the PTA will run in school discos and reintroduce movie nights. Organise seasonal events for Christmas, Easter and summer. Along with ongoing provisions including pre-loved uniform.

Already this year we have signed up to Asda's Cashpot for kids and introduced a Birthday Book Scheme. If you have any exciting ideas, initiatives or suggestions these are welcomed as we work towards a common purpose, enriching pupils' education and fundraising for additional above and beyond school supplies.

**What a PTA year it has been, not without its challenges, but you have all smashed it!**