

Chair Report 2024/25

Back in school...

It feels like the start of term rolls around quicker every year and we are sat here once again, saying goodbye to those that have moved to pastures new and warmly welcoming new beginnings. The AGM is a chance to review the success that is Millfield PTA, and with so much to pack in I will try to keep this report as brief as possible.

PTA AIMS

I would like to begin with a quote from Parentkind:

"PTA's can be an indispensable asset to any school, no matter what the size, phase of education, or local community, especially when stretched budgets and class sizes can make the challenges of delivering great education daunting. PTAs make positive impacts on their schools and create or strengthen close-knit, supportive communities – it's not all about bake sales and library books!"

The PTA aims to contribute to our children's education, learning and values, and the overall community. Volunteers plan and run those extra events throughout the year that contribute to those extra educational experiences, and also raise much needed school funds. It is really difficult to thank everyone individually, however to everyone that has played a part in the success over the year, your efforts are appreciated.

Review 2024/25

COMMUNICATION

The PTA reaches far and wide, promoted through;

- School newsletters – thanks to Kat, the plan remains to continue these fortnightly
- Facebook page – thanks to Kim for ongoing updates
- Posters – thanks to Amy for the fab graphics
- Year group representatives – thanks to all those that support each year group and feeds back PTA news
- PTA WhatsApp group chat – this has been a quick easy method for relaying a summary and those much-needed shout outs for volunteers, this chat is open to those active PTA members/volunteers
- New email – many thanks to Kim of setting up and monitoring a designated PTA email address, it would be great to use this more widely for communication
- New PTA banner – again thanks to Amy we now have an easy way to pop events advertising outside the school
- PTA noticeboard – a designated space in the school reception to promote all thing PTA
- Charity Hive – another successful platform that has allowed us to sell PTA tickets online, thank you to Kat for managing

EVENTS

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

Discos x3

The traditions of a school disco are well established and after the relocation of last year it was lovely to host these back in the school hall. There always seems to be a list of willing volunteers to support disco events and we thank the staff who assist on toilet duties, first aid and rocking the dancefloor. Children love the options of sweets, glow sticks and free squash, along with those extras at the Summer Special disco with pick and mix and festival glitter.

Movie Night

With the school hall back in use the PTA could again offer after school movie nights, open to all age groups a chance to enjoy a film with friends, not forgetting the popcorn. These are simple and effective to run however challenges can include finding a movie to engage the age ranges. It was felt this event works better in the colder/darker months and it has been suggested a one-off Christmas movie night.

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt has become a much-loved village event and as a committee it was decided to maintain this feel and continue to host from the Jubilee Hall. Many thanks to Kim for taking the lead and offering a fresh approach to the hunt sheets. It is always a challenge finding and buying the hundreds of eggs required, thank you to Stacey and Kat for taking on this task. On the day the PTA provided a village treasure hunt, seasonal games, Easter Egg raffle, refreshments including donated cakes and a free craft table.

Xmas market

After the disappointment of the previous snowed off Heighington Christmas market, the 2024 event proved to be bigger and busier than ever. With a full array of PTA offerings including refreshments, it turned into a non-stop day and huge fundraising hit. Thanks goes to all those who helped out on the day and a special shout out to Kerry Foster who smashed the water and wine game! The PTA appreciate the Heighington Market Committee and school for allowing us to contribute to this annual event.

Colour Dash

It seems Kat is always up for a challenge, presenting and organising a whole school Colour Dash. My personal memory from the day was the community courage and passion pupils at Millfield showed, cheering on each year group as they took their turn to get doused in rainbow colours, the year 5/6 were amazing high fiving all the younger years as they ran past. With sponsorship collected before, during and after the event, this became a real talking point, and raised a shared total for the PTA and Comic Relief.

Continued venture

The PTA continues its ongoing ventures Pre-loved and the Birthday Book Scheme both giving back to the school and offering a message of generosity. Amy and helpers champion Pre-loved, which has taken pride of place in the school reception offering sustainable reused uniform available for all. When donations are made, they are cleaned and checked, with stock high the PTA are on the lookout for logo items including jumpers and cardigans. This year also saw a costume rail for World Book Day, with an array of colourful options for pupils to enjoy.

Raffles

Raffles are a great way to raise funds with donated prizes and plenty of occasions to sell tickets. Again, the PTA ran a Festive Prize Draw and Summer Raffle at seasonal events, complimented by Charity Hive. A special thanks to Becky, along with others who gathered together an outstanding offering of prizes up for grabs. Also, Louise who doubled the raffle takings at MILLFEST, selling and folding tickets all day long.

MILLFEST

After the success of 2024 and to quote Kim 'there is no going back', plans again took place for MILLFEST 2025 with the ongoing backing from sponsor Marks Transport. And this event proved to be bigger and better, word had spread and the sun shone for another successful summer fair. Thanks goes to PTA volunteers and school staff who helped with non-uniform day, prior preparations and promotions, running stalls, set up and clear down and everything in between. A special mention to Mr Wise and Mrs Copey who raised over £80 in a mad 20 minutes of water throwing fun, a huge hit with all the children.

FUNDRAISING (Donations/Sponsors/Fund matches)

ASDA Cashpot

Parentkind supported by ASDA launched a cash pot for schools' scheme which really took off and we jumped on board. Linking your weekly food shop at ASDA, in store or online, for every penny spend our PTA received a donation enhancing our fundraising figure.

Donations

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.

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, Year 1 – Lincoln Zoo, Year 2 – Lincoln Castle, Year 3 – Magna Science, 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

Celebrating pupils at every milestone the PTA welcomes new starters, this year it was suggested a logo drawstring PE bag given to all the new reception children. As year 5 enter their last year at primary they are presented with a school tie, a symbol of responsibility towards the core Millfield values. Finally, to celebrate the end of a chapter year 6 were presented with a leaver's hoodie and a funded donation towards a final fun day. Thanks to Kim and Julie in the office for organising, it feels a great option for pupils to enjoy the hoodies on the residential, and for a longer duration of their final term at Millfield.

No cold coat

The PTA funded coats with the no cold coat scheme to 16 pupils across the year groups.

Interactive boards (ActiveAll)

With the help of our funds the newly refurbished playground host 2 interactive boards for all to use. These are a modern addition to the playground and a definite hit with all year groups.

Gazebos and Flag

The PTA invested in some sturdy gazebos and flags to enhance events, as a shared resource with the school. Thanks to Amy our PTA logo flew proudly at MILLFEST and is a quick portable option for further promotions.

VOLUNTEERS

As part of the Millfield community everyone is part of the PTA, however we thank those that give a little more time to volunteer at PTA events. It is important our network of support continues to grow adding strength and ideas to keep the PTA cogs turning. To all that have supported over the year thank you, it is difficult to name everyone but your efforts are noted and appreciated. It is important to pass on a special thank you to Vic Heyworth whose children have moved on from primary school, Vic has supported the PTA over the years and will be remembered for the impromptu school closure pop in and play event. Also, Sarah Copsey who has always championed the PTA and a much-loved presence on the dance floor, do you think we can convince her to come back for 'soak the teacher'?

It is always amazing to welcome new members, including those from reception, it is really important to future proof the PTA and keep ideas fresh.

2024/25

Looking ahead, PTA aims are to continue the established format, with provisional event dates outlining the year ahead. We already have a date in the diary for a winter lights extravaganza.

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.

Another excellent PTA year, hope you all enjoyed the fun!