Chair's Report 2025/26

Another year of fun, fundraising and community

It hardly seems possible that we are sat here at another AGM, looking back over another busy and successful year for the Millfield PTA.

As always, the PTA has continued to bring our school community together, creating opportunities for children and families to enjoy themselves while raising funds that directly benefit the pupils of Millfield.

There has been plenty to celebrate this year, from our regular favourites to some new events, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has given their time, energy and support.

It is impossible to thank every volunteer individually, but every contribution, whether that has been an hour helping at an event, donating prizes, selling raffle tickets, baking, setting up, clearing away or simply encouraging others to get involved, makes a difference.

Events 2025/26

This year the PTA has once again provided a varied programme of events.

School Discos

We held **three school discos** throughout the year. These continue to be firm favourites with the children and are always great fun, with plenty of dancing, sweets, glow sticks and, of course, some questionable dance moves! The year 6 always love the tricky decisions over the pick and mix as a final disco send off. Overall discos are relatively easy to run giving equal measure of fun and profits.

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered at the discos and helped make them such a success, additional those members of staff who turn out to party after working hours, your time doesn't go unnoticed.

Christmas Market

The village **Christmas Market** was another fantastic community event. It is wonderful to see the school and wider village community coming together to enjoy the festive atmosphere, stalls and refreshments, while also supporting the PTA. This year we tried to offer a simplified list of stalls, even with a last-minute glitch and improvised warming of the mulled wine. The big hits are always a winter squares raffle, water or wine game and hot chocolate. (Note, buy more toppings of cream and marshmallows and source wine donations early!)

Thank you to everyone who helped organise, run and support the market.

Movie Night

The PTA hosted **one movie night**, giving the children the opportunity to enjoy a film with their friends, along with the essential cinema snack, popcorn!

These events are relatively simple to organise, however it was noted these are not well received by the children as reduce lack of support and constant toilet trips make supervision difficult. It was suggested to pause the running of movie nights and look into an alternative event, as always new ideas and event leads are always welcome.

Winter Lucky Squares Raffle

Supporting the winter events, (Christmas Market, Winter Lights Show and School Performances) the **Winter Lucky Squares raffle** provided another opportunity to raise funds while giving families the chance to win some great prizes.

Thank you to everyone who bought squares, helped promote the raffle and, importantly, those businesses that supported us with donating prizes.

Winter Lights Show

One of the exciting new additions this year was our **Winter Lights Show**, including a spectacular laser show on the school field.

It was fantastic to see the school field transformed and families coming together for what was a really memorable evening. Although this one-off event did not make a profit and the difficulties of ticket pricing, events like this demonstrate that the PTA is not simply about fundraising. This event was about creating experiences and memories for the school community.

Village Easter Egg Hunt

The **Village Easter Egg Hunt** returned as another much-loved community event. It was fantastic to see families out and about enjoying the village while supporting the PTA and the Jubilee Hall hub offers a busy welcoming atmosphere.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the hunt, Laura who took on writing the hunt sheets and to those who volunteered on the day.

MILLFEST & Summer Raffle

MILLFEST remains one of the highlights of the PTA calendar and once again proved what can be achieved when the school and PTA community come together. This year provided an extra challenge with the lack of school field and a scaled version was still able to go ahead on the playground.

Alongside the event, we also held our **summer raffle**, which provided another important fundraising opportunity.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in MILLFEST, from the planning and preparation to running stalls, sourcing donations, selling raffle tickets, setting up and clearing away. These large events take a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes, and they simply would not happen without our volunteers. A special mention goes to Kat who dedicates her time to pulling this event off and still found time to do some essential plumbing on the day!

Pre-loved

The PTA continues to champion pre-loved and the love to reuse is forever established thanks to Amy and the team behind the scenes.

Where the money has gone

Fundraising is only half of what the PTA does. The most important part is ensuring that the money raised is put back into school and directly benefits our children.

This year the PTA has funded or contributed towards:

- **£10 per child towards school trips**, ensuring every child benefits from additional experiences and learning outside the classroom.
- **Leavers' hoodies** for Year 6, providing a lasting memento of their time at Millfield.
- **Class visualisers**, supporting teachers and enhancing classroom learning.
- **Year 5 ties**, marking the transition into the final year of primary school and the responsibilities that come with it.
- **Reception bags**, welcoming our youngest pupils to Millfield.
- **Year 6 Fun Day**, helping our leavers celebrate the end of their primary school journey.
- **Drum Masterclass Workshop**, a whole school memorable musical experience.

It is always particularly rewarding to see the money raised through PTA events translated into real experiences and resources for the children. There is still money to be spent and it would be great to see this go towards a 'big' project that pupils can enjoy for years to come.

Grants

Grants and business donations are a great way to raise funds and gain support. If anyone would like to reach out and research these opportunities there is a world of money out there up for grabs. Thanks goes to Katy who took on the task of approaching the local parish council and completed an application on our behalf.

Our volunteers

The PTA simply could not operate without its volunteers.

I would like to thank every parent, carer, member of staff and supporter who has helped over the last year. Whether you are a regular volunteer or someone who has helped just once, you are an important part of what makes the PTA work.

I would also like to encourage new parents and members of the school community to get involved. The PTA belongs to the whole school community, and new ideas, new energy and new volunteers are what will keep it going for many years to come.

A personal thank you

This AGM is a particularly significant one for me as, after **three years as Chair and seven years overall on the PTA**, I will be stepping down from my role as Chair.

Seven years is a long time, there have been countless events, plenty of laughs, the occasional challenge, a lot of WhatsApp messages and, most importantly, many opportunities to see the children and wider community enjoying the things we have helped create.

It has been a genuine privilege to serve as Chair for the last three years. I am incredibly proud of what the PTA has achieved and of the community of volunteers who have made it possible.

Although I am stepping down as Chair, I am very keen to offer a full handover and support the incoming committee to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible. And I am certainly not disappearing! I will continue to be involved with the PTA as my youngest enjoys his final few years of primary school and will be very happy to lend a hand whenever I can.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to those PTA members who are also moving on as their children leave Millfield. In particular, **Alex Boucher and Helen Hempstock**, who, I am pretty sure are both to blame for encouraging me to my first PTA meeting!

Looking ahead

As I hand over the Chair's role, I leave the PTA knowing that it is in a strong position and has a fantastic community behind it.

There will always be challenges when it comes to fundraising and volunteering, but there are also endless opportunities to try new things, build on the events that work well and, most importantly, continue to provide additional experiences and opportunities for the children of Millfield.

I hope the PTA continues to be ambitious, creative and, above all, fun.