

## **AGM PTA Chair Report for 2022/2023**

What an amazing 12 months we have had as a PTA Team. We have produced a number of outstanding events, raised much needed funds for the School and expanded the PTA Team a little. We call that a win!

Lots of progress has been made over the last 12 months in terms of improving documents, policies and online services. However, it has been tricky because of the UK wide cost of living crisis that we are incurring. It definitely has had an impact on the amount of events people attend but also the cost to run these events. Everything has cost more, but as we do not want to raise ticket prices too much, it has affected our fund raising. The team has worked hard to try and overcome this obstacle.

Throughout the year, the renamed Pre-Loved Uniform shop has been an amazing resource for parents and carers. The School community has supported us by providing donations very regularly. The shop has been extended to accommodate sales of School costumes, Christmas jumpers and World Book Day costumes.

We held our first PTA coffee morning in September 2022, and apparently in the history of these events, more people attended than ever before! It was a lovely little event with coffee and biscuits (obviously) and it allowed prospective parents to ask us questions about the work of the PTA and we even signed up new members there and then. Thank you.

Two of our amazing team lead a new project called the PTA Parent/Carer Brochure. The idea behind this was to provide Northgate's own 'Yellow Pages' whereby we advertised the businesses of our very own parents and carers. It was a good success with a full brochure of advertisements. Initial research suggests that businesses liked the resource and would like us to produce it again, but we need it to reach greater numbers. The team is reviewing the possibility of a Version 2.

Fireworks Night took place in November and what a night it was! This is the first time that the School had held this event following the pandemic and how brilliant it was. The weather was dry which was a win. We had food and drink vans, games, face painting and glitter tattoos. There was a lovely community spirit and the fireworks were awesome.

In this academic year, we made the decision to create a PTA Calendar which would hold all the crucial PTA and School dates, led by one of our new committee members. The project soon increased in size as we made the decision to include a monthly photography competition with the opportunity for the children to submit their photographs based on a theme set by the PTA. In addition, we asked each class to produce pictures for the calendar giving every child the opportunity to have a photo in the printed calendar. The feedback on the calendar has been brilliant.

Throughout the year, we held our Happy Bag Collection days and parents/carers supported that campaign. Since September 2023, this has been taken over by Astra Recycling and all clothing can now be placed in our green bin at the entrance to the School.

The PTA supported Christmas events in the School in the following way:

- Russell Property Christmas Card Design Competition
- Christmas Pantomimes with snacks and drinks
- Christmas Dinner supported with crackers and juice
- Christmas Cards and Gifts through Prontaprint
- Christmas Film Night

Our Christmas Film Night was run by a team of new committee members and it was a thoroughly enjoyable event with parents and carers having the opportunity to have a glass of Pimms and a chat whilst their children enjoyed snacks, hotdogs and the film.

January and February are naturally our quieter months where we mainly focus on our 250 Club. Our 250 club is our main earner for the PTA, so please do sign up and support us if you are unable to volunteer at events, or you fancy the chance of winning a little extra money each month!

During the early part of 2023, we also signed up as a charity to Easyfundraising which gives the PTA a donation every time you spend money on food, clothes etc. Such an easy win for us all, so please do sign up.

In early 2023, we also entered a Partnership between the PTA and Standon for Schools initiative whereby Northgate parents and carers purchase tickets for Standon Calling and the PTA are given a percentage for each ticket purchased. Nice easy one to run!

Just before half term in February, we held our Break the Rules day which was cancelled from December 2022 following the School closure (due to no water).

As we headed into Mother's Day, we set up our usual Mother's Day shop for the children. The gifts were a hit with children and parents/carers and looked beautiful.

In the same month, we held our Discos. As per previous years, we held two events, one for EYFS/KS1 and the other for KS2. Both were incredibly successful. Children had the option of buying snacks and each child was given a hot meal. This event is always a hit for the children as they love the independence of bringing their money for the snack stall, dressing up and dancing and chatting to their friends.

In April 2023, we entered a Partnership between the PTA and Grange Paddocks whereby Northgate parents and carers sign up for swimming or gym membership and the PTA are given a percentage back for the memberships.

In May 2023, we held our PTA Film Nights. These are always tricky events to organise and manage but again, the event went very well. The KS2 children really enjoyed the film despite it not being the advertised one due to building works in Bishop's Stortford affecting the WiFi. And it worked really well with the younger children being in the library with a number of short films. This time we trailed the snack bags again but with sausage rolls which added a bit of substance.

As we headed into June, we held our popular Father's Day shop. We trialled a new set up for this event where the presents were wheeled around the classrooms for the children to choose their gifts rather than coming to the shop in the Dining Room at break time. Some preferred this set up and others missed the shop, so we need to reconsider this going forward.

June was our big Summer Fayre month and what a day we had again. The weather was perfect (if not a little too hot but we can't moan about that!). There was lots to do; we had a number of bouncy castles and fairground rides which are always popular with the children. We had face painting, glitter tattoos, our famous tombola (so much drink donated!), we had a number of food and drink vendors which gave us the opportunity to try fish and chips and Caribbean food which were a hit, we also had games galore including, Higher or Lower, Nerf Guns, Splat the Rat and Hook-a-Duck. Plus we had our AMAZING raffle with lots of prizes donated by local businesses. Our top prize was £500 donated by Russell Property- just wow! We also had a number of local businesses selling their goods, a performance arena showcasing our wonderful choir, cheerleaders, karate performers and, new for this year, the Teachers' Tug-of-War. A huge hit with everyone! A huge thank you to everyone who supported us. The article in the Bishop's Stortford Independent highlighted the fun had by all.

At the very end of June, we held our first Sports Day After Party. We had a number of food vendors together with a very popular PTA bar selling out of Prosecco, Pimms and beer! We held two colour runs that evening which were enjoyed by all kids and parents! A fab evening after a wonderful sports day.

As always in July, we held our popular ice cream sales. This is a lovely simple event that makes everyone smile at pick up especially if we have forgotten to bring snacks for that post-school hunger!

At the end of the Summer Term, we held another Break the Rules day which the children always enjoy.

Over the Summer 2023, we undertook lots of event planning for 2023/24 with a view to introducing some new events for the next academic year but also keeping some of the classics. We are looking to have events that are less stressful, require fewer volunteers as we still struggle on this front and are fun for everyone! If you have any ideas, please do contact us.

On a more serious note, we can only run these events with the help of volunteers and we have noticed a drop in people signing up. Whilst we want to organise more events, we cannot rely on

a handful of volunteers. The PTA is a group of predominantly busy working parents trying to raise much needed funds for our School, have some fun along the way and provide our children with enjoyable activities. Events will only continue with your help.

I would like to thank the PTA committee for their supportive and AMAZING support. What a team we are!

This is what our hard work has purchased this year:

- Music Room (£10,000 contribution- second year running!)
- 3 Enrichment Weeks (£3,000)
- Books (£2,500)
- 3D Printing Company for Art Day (£1,500)
- EYFS and KS1 Consultancy
- Musical Instruments
- Poet
- EYFS Book Resources
- PE Whiteboards
- PE Bibs
- 2022 KS2 Pantomime
- 2022 EYFS and KS1 Pantomime
- Christmas dinner accessories
- KS2 pantomime refreshments
- Year 6 Leavers photo booth
- Father Christmas Outfit
- Pizza School Trip Contribution
- Classroom Resources
- Ducklings
- Gymnastics Leotards
- PTA Noticeboard (shared with the School)
- Caterpillar hatching kits

The following accounts are still being finalised and are yet to be audited by our accountant, but please see below the latest profit and loss accounts per event for 2022/2023.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Profit</b>
250 club	£12,562.50	£5,792.00	£6,770.50
Amazon Smile	£173.99	£0.00	£173.99
Break the Rules Day	£566.36	£0.00	£566.36
Christmas Trees	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00
Disco	£1,848.30	£635.21	£1,213.09
Father's Day	£890.22	£692.65	£197.57
Film Night	£2,557.66	£914.86	£1,642.80

Fireworks 2022	£5,121.58	£3,282.50	£1,839.08
Fireworks 2023	£0.00	£563.64	-£563.64
Happy Bags	£82.80	£0.00	£82.80
Ice Creams	£465.65	£198.30	£267.35
Interest	£61.72	£0.00	£61.72
Mother's Day	£1,658.90	£798.86	£860.04
Other Donations	£816.15	£0.00	£816.15
Pre-Loved Uniform	£543.61	£0.00	£543.61
PTA Calendar	£0.00	£373.68	-£373.68
Scholastic Book Fayre	£118.46	£126.95	-£8.49
Sports Day	£3,207.16	£2,214.86	£992.30
Stikins Labels	£123.75	£0.00	£123.75
Summer Fayre	£4,604.97	£1,851.94	£2,753.03
Toy Sale	£11.00	£0.00	£11.00
Yellow Pages	£360.00	£224.00	£136.00
<b>Fundraising Totals</b>	<b>£35,819.78</b>	<b>£17,669.45</b>	<b>£18,150.33</b>

Please do look out for our regular communication. We have regular updates in the weekly newsletter and via our Facebook pages.

Thank you! And what a PTA Team it has been in 2022/23!

**Geri Wren**  
**PTA Chair**  
**Northgate PTA**