

PTA Chair AGM Report for 2023/2024

Wow!! What a fabulous year of PTA work and events we have had! The team has continued to produce amazing events for our children, parents/carers and our local community. We have raised much needed money for the School and our PTA team has taken on more members. A positive outcome for a group of volunteers, I say!

We have spent a significant amount of time signing up and promoting to UK wide PTA initiatives to help raise additional funds without having to volunteer for an event. These include: Easyfundraising, Go Henry, Astra Recycling, Stikins Fundraising. Furthermore, we have allocated a PTA member to lead on our Partnerships and Grants including sourcing sponsorship. This level of work has become so much more important with the existing UK wide Cost of Living crisis. If people can raise funds for the school going about their everyday life, it helps tremendously. People no longer have the disposable income nor the time they once had, so the team has continued to work hard to overcome this issue.

Given the above, we have spent a significant time promoting opportunities to advertise on our school gates, book bag drops, social media posts and general advertising in order to gain funds for the PTA. This is working well and we have received positive feedback to date.

September 2023

We held our coffee morning in September and despite it not having as many people turn up as we hoped, the few that did, have gone on to volunteer for us, so thank you.

Throughout the month of September, we continued to sell our PTA calendar. This was a lovely project which enabled our children to participate in competitions and it gave every child the opportunity to add a picture to the calendar. Although we didn't proceed with a new calendar for 2024/2025 given the amount of work involved, we have decided to have a look at this project again in time for 2025/2026.

At the start of term, we also introduced the Astra Recycling Clothes bin at the entrance to the School. This has continued to raise money throughout the year, so please continue to use it!

We were very lucky to receive a donation of £10,000 from a Northgate parent to support the purchasing and development of our Sensory Room. Thank you Vincent S.A.

October 2023

Throughout the year, the 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 extended its offerings to accommodate sales of School costumes, Halloween dress up, Christmas jumpers and World Book Day costumes. This has continued to raise funds for the

school and, as a note going forward, we are looking to open our own Preloved shop on the KS1 playground. Watch this space!

We held our first Halloween Lollipop and sweet treat sales in October and what a brilliant addition to our calendar. We sold out easily and this has now become a regular fixture on our PTA calendar. Thank you to Lit Fibre for supporting our event.

November 2023

Our Fireworks Night took place in November and what a night it was! We enjoyed a wonderful variety of food and drink vendors. We had glow items, a sweet stall, PTA games, face painting and glitter tattoos. The fireworks lasted a good 20 minutes and were amazing as always. This is a wonderful community engagement project that is loved by families and the local community. Thank you to Lit Fibre for supporting our event.

December 2023

The PTA supported Christmas events in the School in the following

- Russell Property Christmas Card Design Competition.
- Children's Christmas Quiz supported by AbFabFit.
- Christmas Cards and Gifts through Prontaprint.
- Christmas Tuck Shop
- Christmas Pantomimes with snacks and drinks.
- Christmas Dinner supported with crackers and juice.
- Christmas Break the Rules Day

January 2023

January is naturally our quieter month where we mainly focus on our 250 Club. The 250 club continues to be our main earner, but the process of setting up the 250 club by the parent/carers remains to be difficult. As a side note, PTA members have been researching and reviewing alternative lottery fundraising and I am happy to report that we will be ceasing the current 250 club at the end of January 2025 to take on the new Lottery which will enable parents/carers to set up their own direct debit and the whole process of being a member will be so much easier. Furthermore, the issues with Barclays bank and the 250 club will cease as we will transfer all the new lottery bank details to NatWest and close Barclays.

February 2023

During the month of February we held a very popular Valentine's Day tuckshop with lots of sweet treat bags and lollipops. Again, this was incredibly successful. It's a nice short and sweet event and something parents love when they forget to bring the snacks to the school gate! Thank you to Tesco for supporting our event.

March 2023

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.

This month we also held our first Book Fair in many years. This took place after school and was very popular, so we decided to continue with it at our Disco on the Friday which was a good move given the amount of books and accessories that we sold. This project is a nice and simple project to run as the books are provided by an external supplier and educational in their nature. In return, the school made about £500 worth of vouchers in order to buy books for the school library.

This month we also 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.

At the end of March we also held our Break the Rules day. This year we decided to have three Break the Rules day during the period of the academic year as this is again an easy event to run and everyone loves it.

April 2023

Given the way Easter fell during this year, we didn't hold any PTA events during April but going forward we may consider holding a bingo or quiz with The Belgian Brewer during this period. The Belgian Brewer has offered to run this event for us and I am keen to take them up on their offer.

We were incredibly lucky to receive £1,000 from the Round Table this month to support our Pupil Premium

May 2023

Rather disappointedly during May 2023 we were hoping to hold our outdoor cinema event. This was supposed to replace the indoor film nights but it proved too expensive for us to run. We had to pay £150 to use the film media plus hire the equipment required to run the event outside. We all believe that this would be an amazing event for Northgate but we required a sponsor to support us and, unfortunately, given times are tough, no-one came forward, so we made the difficult decision not to go ahead with this event. This is something I'd like us to consider for the future, but only if we have a sponsor.

Some really good news this month, we succeeded in winning the Tesco Blue Coin competition and came first receiving £1,500 to support play and sensory resources within the school. We were delighted!

June 2023

June was our big Summer Fayre month and what a day we had. It started with the darkest clouds possible but the rain held off and the sun came out for us. We were incredibly lucky to receive £2,000 from Taylor Wimpey to support this event which was simply amazing. There was lots to do at the event; 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; we had a number of food and drink vendors and we also had games galore. We introduced a number of new games this year which were a hit such as the football dartboard, coconut shy, tin can valley plus mini golf. Plus we had our AMAZING raffle with lots of prizes donated by local businesses. Our top two prizes were £500 donated by Artemis Investment Management and £200 Taylor Wimpey- just wow! We also had a number of local businesses selling their goods, a performance arena showcasing our Teachers' Tug-of-War, wonderful choir, cheerleaders and karate performers. A huge thank you to everyone who supported us. We raised over £5,000- our best fundraiser ever!

As we headed into June, we held our popular Father's Day shop. We decided to revert back to our standard shop to take place in the dining room rather than delivering gifts to the children in the classrooms. Our Headteacher is supportive of the idea that children come to a shop with their money and it is a good opportunity for them to learn the concept of purchasing and counting money. The gifts were a hit!

July 2023

Given the poor weather at the end of June we had to postpone our Sports Day After Party and set a new date during the last two weeks of term so we renamed it the End of Term party. We had a number of food vendors together with a very popular PTA bar selling out of Prosecco, Pimms and beer! We held colour runs that evening which were enjoyed by all kids and parents!

As always in July, we held our popular ice cream sales. This is a lovely simple event that makes everyone smile at pick up. We completely sold out! Thank you to Tesco for supporting our event.

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

What an academic year!! Lots going on!

This is what our hard work has purchased this year:

- 3 Enrichment Weeks (£3,000)
- Books (£2,500)
- 2023 KS2 Pantomime
- 2023 EYFS and KS1 Pantomime
- Christmas dinner accessories
- KS2 pantomime refreshments
- Year 6 Leavers No Parking Signs
- Ducklings
- iPad Replacements (£5,000)
- Sound and Communication Books
- Play equipment and nursery upgrade
- Token machine for house points
- Book Tokens for Writing competition
- Caterpillar hatching kits
- New card machines (for PTA!)
- Classroom Resources

As always, over the summer, we take the opportunity to review our event calendar, the events themselves and how the money has been allocated looking to improve things for the following year. We are still 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. 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.

Please do take a look at our regular communication. We have regular updates in the weekly newsletter and via our Facebook pages.

A massive THANK YOU to each and everyone of the PTA team who has worked tirelessly for the PTA with events, sourcing sponsorship and grants, volunteering and working very late into the evening to bring these events to our children. I can't thank you enough. And to all our parent/carer volunteers, THANK YOU!

Here's to a successful 2024/2025!

Geri Wren
PTA Chair
Northgate PTA