



## St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School

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Bishop  
Otter  
Academy  
Trust

14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

### Thank you PTA

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the PTA AGM or have helped at a PTA event over the past year. We are really grateful for all that you do – to raise funds for our children and to help run some wonderful community events.

Congratulations too to Claire Mulcare and Gigi Backshall-Wilkinson who were re-elected as co-chairs and everyone else who agreed to take on a core committee role (the PTA will circulate a full list shortly.)

### Funding Requests

At the PTA meeting, we discussed some requests for funding by the school. We are in unprecedented times and the current economic climate means **ALL schools and academies** are facing an impossible financial situation. Energy costs have increased to £35,000 with electricity increasing by 300%. Inflationary costs for staff, services and resources have all increased massively. At a recent local Headteacher's meeting, **many schools and academies** said they are having to restructure and cut costs even more than they have already done so in the last few years.

In the past, the PTA helped fund major building projects. Then it helped fund 'extras' such as playground equipment and IT equipment. However, we need to change the focus of the funding and, right now, without PTA funds we will find it incredibly challenging to provide the essential education resources necessary.

We would like to use existing PTA funds to support the following areas:

<p><b>IT £7,900</b></p> <p>We need to upgrade some of our iPads as they can no longer have the required upgrades for some software e.g Accelerated Reader and this is really frustrating children! We have also had to replace the projector in the hall which was unexpected.</p>	<p><b>Sport and PE £2,000</b></p> <p>We are delighted with how our children perform both in and out of competitions and also the number of children that have represented the school. We hope to buy more kit for different aged children as they represent our school with distinction.</p>	<p><b>Maths £4,800</b></p> <p>'White Rose' is the leading research-based maths curriculum and we seek to strengthen our resources including workbooks and access to online number gym.</p>
<p><b>English £3,000</b></p> <p>You can never have enough books – and they don't last for ever. We are purchasing more books for our library / classes and subscribing to child friendly newspapers</p>	<p><b>Teaching, Learning £1,500</b></p> <p>Behind every great teacher is a suite of software! We would really appreciate support with software for the library, early years, reading and data assessment.</p>	<p><b>Early Years £2,000</b></p> <p>Our nursery and reception provide the foundation to learning in our school. We want to provide extra learning resources and consumables for the children.</p>
<p><b>Music £1,000</b></p> <p>Not many schools have a dedicated music room but it all costs money to equip and maintain – and this is never cheap!</p>	<p><b>Premises £1,700</b></p> <p>Every little helps and this includes helping to maintain the outdoor play equipment our children so enjoy and improving the grounds ie astro-turf around the play equipment</p>	<p><b>Curriculum Resources £6,000</b></p> <p>The cost of living has affected us all. Subject leaders appreciate contributions for resources in Art, Computing, DT, French, Geography, RE, Science and PSHE</p>

### Ark Refurbishment (not funded by the school or PTA) includes

*Tropical Climber £25k*

*New Trim Trail £25k*

*Improved Y6 paths £10k*

*New office/group rooms £15k*

*Plus upgraded solar panels and insulation, improved fire safety, new windows and doors, new ceiling and flooring and full redecoration.*

The total of all these projects is around £30,000 which is a huge sum! However, we think your children deserve the best we can give them and would like to use the funds now for their benefit.

All PTA events for the remainder of this year will be fundraising for all the above areas. If you have any questions about this please do speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team or email the school office.

**Past fundraising:** Before Covid, the PTA raised money for a Daily Mile Track. Since then, the situation (a local school was turned down for their application) and environment has changed (Refurbishment works and re-located play equipment). Therefore we would still like to use this money for sporting purposes but with a slight change in focus – it will go towards improving the temporary multi-use sports area which is currently in place. This will enable us to host events and take part in more sporting fixtures and tournaments, as well as continued use every day for our children.

The feeling of both staff and the children is that having the temporary multi-use sports area (currently known as the Oak Tree Playground) is vitally important now to the life of school. Just this week, staff have come to me saying that it is a fantastic surface to teach the children on and we will then be able to have multiple classes having outdoor PE at the same time as well as multiple after school clubs. A group of Upper Key Stage 2 children said that “being able to have a ‘proper netball’ court and for next year, 2 courts, will mean they get the chance to play other schools and proudly be part of a school sports team. “

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to provide your children with the best education we can.

Kind regards



Andy Lincoln  
Headteacher