

Welcome to the first PTA Newsletter of 2022!

As a new committee we would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to Sacha Ladkin (Chair), Jane Powell (Treasurer) & Sarah Ringshaw (Secretary), whom have all decided to stand down from their current positions.

Sacha, Jane & Sarah have worked tirelessly to create a truly dedicated team who together have raised in excess of £85,000 over the years. They have organized some wonderful events such as the Circus and numerous fayres which have all raised money for some fantastic facilities for our children such as the Climbing Wall, the Castle and Trim Trail to name but a few!

They will all be greatly missed, and on behalf of the parents, carers and teachers of St Nicolas & St Mary School, we would like to say thank you again for all of your hard work - as a new committee we have some big boots to fill!

WHO ARE THE PTA?

We're **ALL** a part of the PTA! The PTA is made up of parents, carers and teachers led by the following new core committee members who have recently stepped into the following roles:

Claire Mulcare - Co- Chair
Gigi Backshall - Wilkinson - Co- Chair
Nicky Cattell - Treasurer
Nicola Ball - Secretary

Together, we would like to build upon all of the hard work undertaken by the previous committee, creating a fun and cohesive working group tasked with raising lots of funds to benefit all of our children!!! We are all ready for the challenge and can't wait to get started!

With this in mind, we would like to invite everyone to a 'Coffee and Chat' morning on **FRIDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 9:00 AM** (after drop-off) in the school's main hall, to introduce ourselves and to listen to your ideas on how we can come together as a community to benefit and support the education of our children. It will also be an opportunity for all of us to meet new parents/ carers and to get to know one another especially after we've been so restricted throughout the COVID period!



★ **Claire Mulcare, Co- Chair**
Children in: Year 5, Year 3 & Reception

★ **Gigi Backshall - Wilkinson, Co- Chair**
Children in: Year 4 & Year 2

★ **Nicky Cattell, Treasurer**
Child in: Year 3

★ **Nicola Ball, Secretary**
Child in: Year 2



We're very excited to be bringing back this extremely popular event!! Please put Friday 18th February into your diaries!

We're calling out to all of those wonderful cake makers who are able to donate their own creations or for shop bought donations, which will all be very gratefully received! We shall also be holding a 'Book Amnesty' - so please do pop any schoolbooks that you may have at home into our 'donate crate' when you come to buy some delicious cakes! More information to follow . . . !

RECYCLING REMINDER

As mentioned previously, we are now linked with Lancing Recycling and TerraCycle which means we can collect some waste that would normally go into landfill (the bins back on to the Cherry Tree Playground). These items include crisp packets, biscuit wrappers, toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and milk bottle lids.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CAN NO LONGER RECEIVE PET FOOD PACKAGING

Please kindly contact Sarah Ringshaw or Gigi Backshall-Wilkinson, who are coordinating the recycling collection. If you have any questions, or if you can offer an hour or two on a Friday morning to help with the collection it would be very much appreciated. Please look on our Facebook page for details of what can be recycled.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3483507418388867>

In summary, the PTA receive cold hard cash for the recycling that we collect as well as it being good for the planet! So far, the money that we have received has contributed towards picnic benches for the KS2 Playground, made from recycled plastic!

CLOTHES RECYCLING

We also have a bin for good quality, useable clothes and fabric, that the PTA will also receive funds for. There is a list of recycling that we accept as well as what can go into the clothing bank on the 'St Nic's Recycling' Facebook page. Please place all of your clothes in clean carrier bags and place them into bin number 7 on the Cherry Tree Playground. - Please note that for safety reasons, the School have requested for parents to not use the big green clothing bin in the carpark.

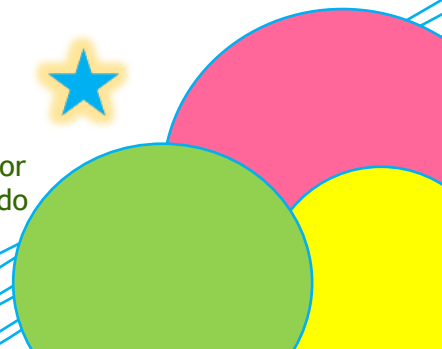
Astra Recycling will not take soiled rags or carpets however Cancer Research Charity shops do take soiled rags/damaged clothes which need to be labelled and bagged separately - it helps us to support another worthwhile charity too!

CLASS REPS

Class Reps provide a great communication channel and are an integral part of the 'PTA Team', helping to share and publicise events and to help filter messages between the PTA Team, the School, and parents on the playground. As a new team we would love to encourage one class rep, if not both class reps, per class, per year group, to our 'Coffee & Chat' mornings to help us plan for forthcoming events and to listen to your ideas.

CALLING ALL GREEN FINGERED EXPERTS & VOLUNTEERS!!!

At the beginning of spring, we are looking to rejuvenate the pond area and are asking for people to volunteer their time to help us. If you are interested in volunteering, please do contact us!



KEY PTA DATES:

Friday 4th February:

'Coffee & Chat' Morning

Friday 18th February:

Cake & Uniform Sale & Book Amnesty!

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR THE POSTERS IN AND AROUND SCHOOL!



Simple ways that YOU can help the PTA...

1. **Volunteer!** If every parent/carer helped at just one event every two years, we could run all our usual events and many more.
2. Use **Easyfundraising** to help raise money when you shop online! Visit the website <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stnics/>
3. Set up a **Direct Debit** to the PTA - just £1 per month, per family or per child, or whatever you feel able to give. Please also complete a Gift Aid form if you are eligible, so that we can claim on your contributions - the form is attached to this newsletter, and they are also available from the office.
4. Buy your children's name tags & stickers from **MyNameTags.com**, quoting the school ID 59580, or www.stikins.co.uk quoting School number 35375 - raise money with every order!

Where does the money actually go?

Here are some of the things that we have spent your funds on in the last few years: -

- General playground resources for both playgrounds - skipping ropes, hoops, ping pong balls etc.
- Paid towards some of the new computers in school
- New Rubber matting around the new outdoor gym
- Climbing Wall
- The Kiln

Most of these are items that the School simply could not have had without our help, and which benefit all of our children.

*AND FINALLY . . . We are really looking forward to meeting you all over the forthcoming months and are excited to see you at the 'Coffee & Chat' Morning on Friday 4th February! We are looking forward to hearing your ideas and can't wait to get stuck in with this amazing school community!
See you all soon! Claire, Gigi, Nicky & Nicola*

Keep in touch...

The easiest way to keep in touch with the PTA is through the Facebook page, School ping, our monthly newsletter and by joining us at our 'Coffee & Cake' Mornings'. Join the closed group at "St Nicolas & St Mary Primary School PTA" (Most year groups have their own pages too) or you can email us too at PTAChair@stnm.org.uk , PTASecretary@stnm.org.uk or PTATreasurer@stnm.org.uk



Facebook Page:
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