



St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary PTA

Promoting high quality education, love, care and forgiveness of others as taught to us by Jesus and our Patron Saints.

St Paul's Wood Hill
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Headteacher: Miss M Ryan

PTA CHAIR REPORT 2025 - 2026

Before I dive into this annual script proper, I want to record on behalf of the PTA our warmest wishes for the future to our departing Headteacher Ms Kirsty Everson. We owe her a huge debt of thanks for all the work she has put in to support the PTA, not least putting up with a Chair person repeatedly knocking on her office door with silly question, after request, after problem, that she would patiently welcome and discuss. After 23 years at the academy she will without doubt be missed by everyone.

This said it would be remiss of me not to offer a very warm welcome to Miss Ryan as our new Headteacher who, at the time of writing, has already experienced the joys of a Friday afternoon tuck shop! We very much look forward to working with her with all the fun events we can organise over the next year for the benefit of the children

With a complete changing of the PTA guard at the beginning of this academic year it is a huge compliment to our newly elected PTA personnel that so much has been achieved over the last nine months. As we bade farewell to our exceptionally hard-working parents of the last year six children, under the lead of Jennifer Aikins-Appiah a new committee was formed and the transition from one team to the next was almost seamless.

Their first challenge was the Christmas fair, and that proved to be its usual huge success with very little variance from past formats. We then moved on to the daytime fun that saw almost every child in the academy take part in a sponsored bounce – the second year we have run it – and which again raised several hundred pounds in sponsorship money. Throughout all three terms we continued the delivery of the always popular after-school 'Mini-Olympics' club under the always capable leadership of teacher John Robinson.

One significant change was the adoption of an online sales platform for our supply of pre-loved uniform. Working with the Cress company this relieved the arduous weekly labour of dragging out all the uniform for a half-hour morning sale every Tuesday. Instead parents and carers could order online items they needed, and these would be available for collection usually within 24-48 hours. An added bonus was that Cress also sponsored the supply of a reading book to go with every order. This process was not without its teething problems, however, and there were multiple issues with the website that Cress had to rectify. Orders have greatly reduced as confidence waned in the system, and we have agreed with Cress that there will be a significant marketing of the system again in September with a view to regaining sales traffic. If this fails it may be necessary to consider either another online platform or a return to face-to-face sales.

So busy was the academy towards the end of the winter term that we moved our Easter Fun Day into the beginning of the summer term, renaming it 'Springfest'. Set in the playground with attractions including our ever-popular bouncy castle, a barbecue and other fun activities, parents and carers were also treated to a mini concert by our key stage 2 choir, and every class took part in a spring bonnet parade with the best in each receiving a prize.

That moved us on to the summer fair – by far the biggest challenge for our new PTA, but it was one they met head-on and produced a hugely successful afternoon of fun and entertainment for children, parents and carers alike. Face painting, a barbecue, a comprehensive refreshments table, various games, not to mention the always popular 'soak the teacher' attraction, all combined for a thoroughly enjoyable



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afternoon in the sun for all. Included in the fair was a significant departure from handling cash at all the attractions barring the tuck shop and late raffle ticket sales. Instead, tokens valued at 50p or £1 were available for purchase by cash or card at the entrance, hence saving the increasingly arduous process in recent years of not only ordering cash floats for stalls from a bank, but also ensuring the correct quantity of each denomination was obtained.

Post-event, calculations on money raised had then to account for float money supplied in advance to calculate overall profits. Combined with the academy policy of being pretty much a cashless operation now, this was a huge success but for one oversight. Unfortunately we greatly underestimated demand and ran out of tokens, necessitating some panicky chasing around stalls to recycle already spent tokens. Clearly this was a lesson learned, and with adequate quantities in the future it is a system that is likely now to stay with big events such as this.

The St Peter and St Paul's Got Talent event again rounded off the year with a gymnasium crammed full of parents, carers and children who were treated to a number of varied acts ranging from gymnastics to singing and playing instruments. A great finale to the academic year.

As we have done in the past, we have supported the Year 6 end-of-term bowling trip to the tune of £300, and have presented each child in that class with a £20 Amazon voucher to support their preparations for Year 7 and pastures new.

I must again put on record this year the immensely successful use of Key Stage 2 children staffing the weekly Friday tuck shops. All have been incredibly keen – especially when it comes to claiming their £1 value of free products for their efforts! Thank you to my two regulars Cass and Malachi amongst others - Year 5 (now 6) have a tough act to follow – I hope their arithmetic skills are coming up to scratch!

Finally, I must mention the increasingly tedious saga of the outdoor reading room. The months following delivery steadily revealed a sub-standard product and much interaction with the suppliers to try to rectify many issues. Thanks to some very determined work by parents in bringing it up to standard, not to mention the skilful artwork and painting that made the interior so attractive, a reading room of sorts did eventually surface. However, the rain of the past year triggered another problem of damp that made occupancy impossible with damp and mould calling time on its brief lifetime. All, however, was not lost. A new partnership with Clarion Housing has seen them dismantle the structure for us, move it and rebuild it as a shelter for Forest School children in the corner of the field. In its place Clarion have donated a replacement, far more practical structure possibly with solar panels to generate power, in its place in the playground. All's well – we hope – that will eventually end well!

Activities and events 2025-26

The following is a summary of the activities and events organised by the PTA throughout the past academic year, to raise funds, provide fun experiences for the children, and ultimately enhance their journey through the school:

- Three cohorts of the popular Mini-Olympics after-school club;
- A Christmas raffle;
- Christmas jumpers sale;



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- Christmas fair;
- Santa's grotto at the fair;
- Conversion to the online platform for the pre-loved uniform shop;
- Springfest (replacing the previous Easter Fun Day);
- Sponsored bounce;
- Presentation to 2025/26 Early Years parents/carers;
- A summer raffle;
- The summer fair.
- Weekly Friday tuck shops after school throughout the year;
- Academy talent show

Benefits to the Academy to date

Tangible benefits over the past year as follows:

- Delivery of the weekly after-school 'Mini-Olympics' club;
- The new online platform to supply pre-loved uniform throughout the year;
- Brand new fencing around the garden and chicken coupe;
- Wrap-around benches near the trim trail as part of our playground upgrading;
- Multi-coloured relaxation bench in the playground;
- Purchase of a new barbecue for PTA events;
- Purchase of 2 additional card machines to improve efficiency at PTA events;
- Amazon vouchers for each graduating Year 6 pupil;
- Support for Year 6 end of year trip;

Fund-raising targets

New future targets will be discussed after the AGM and in partnership with the new Headteacher.

Succession planning

Finally I regret to report that our Secretary Jennifer Aikins-Appiah has felt the need to step down after her first year at the helm. To say that she hit the ground running this past year would be nowhere near an understatement, and she has continued to do a terrific job coordinating our Christmas Fair, Springfest and Summer fair. Hopefully she will remain part of our back-room team, but we will certainly need to find another willing pair of hands to take over in 2026/7 if our principle activities are to continue.

John V Powell MBE

PTA Chair



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