



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL PTA Newsletter



Hello and welcome to our spring/summer newsletter.

Since our last newsletter in January, we've had a very busy few months. We mentioned that Mell would be taking some time out after Lucy was born. However this definitely hasn't been the case! Despite our best efforts to get Mell to take some well-deserved rest, she came back within weeks to assist Catalina and I in setting up and organising all forthcoming events. What's great is that not only do we have Mell back on the team, but we've also gained Catalina which is fantastic news.

So how did we do during the spring term?

January to April 2017, with all your help, we managed to raise the following amounts:

School Disco	£904
Cake Sale (Infants)	£379
Ladies Night	£777
Film Nights	£925
Mother's Day Present	£519
Easter Hamper Raffle	£500
Happy Bags	£339
Mini Mary's	£433
Total	£4,776

Total raised so far this year is £8,588

This is a fantastic result. Thanks so much to all you who have helped us achieve this. However, we still have some way to go to reach our £15,000 target and we have only a few months left. So what do we have planned to help us achieve our target?

Here are details of all the things we currently have planned, leading up to the end of the summer term.

Cake Sales

Due to SATS being held around the 11th May, we have been asked to reschedule the Junior Cake Sale to the 18th May.

Last term for the Infants Cake Sale, we received an amazing amount of homemade and bought cakes, so much so we didn't have to buy any extra cakes out of the PTA fund. !Thanks so much to all of you who made it such a great success.

The next Infants Cake Sale is scheduled for the 13th June. More details to follow.

Penny Jar Competition

The Penny Jar competition is in full swing and we're loving the competitive atmosphere between classes! It's great to hear that the children are enjoying this fundraising initiative. It's also been good for them to understand why these events, happen, because in the long run it's for them. It enables them to enjoy fantastic extras which really add to their playground and learning experience.

We will continue to let you know on a weekly basis how the classes are doing



School Disco

With the success of the previous Disco in January, we're looking at holding another one before the end of the summer term. We're currently looking at dates and will let you know as soon as one has been confirmed.

Family Night – Friday 19th May

Our Family Event this term is taking place on the 19th May 2017. Our main aim was to organise an event where the children can come with their families and enjoy something organised especially for them. Mr Marvel comes highly recommended. We chose him because his act appeals to a wide range of ages, so we think there'll be something for everyone to enjoy. He is booked for 2 hours so while the children are being entertained, you'll be able to sit, chat and enjoy the evening with friends whilst answering a few quiz questions. They'll be on your table for you to complete at your own leisure.

Please do come along and support this evening. We really do think it'll be one the children and you will remember for quite some time.



Father's Day Present – Sunday 18th June 2017

With the success of the Mother's Day Bag for Life present, we really couldn't go without thinking up something for Father's Day too. This year we will be asking the children to decorate their very own mug with whatever design or messages they want. With all the wonderful comments we received re the Bag for Life, we have a feeling Dads/carers will not be disappointed.

Very soon, a mug will be given to each child (during school time) to decorate to their hearts' content. These will be ready for them to take home in time for Father's Day.

We would like to say a big thank you to Sam Pipola and the teachers for facilitating these events. They really have got behind all our initiatives and continue to help us enormously, therefore making these such a success. Their help is invaluable and always appreciated.

Car Boot Sales

Now that the building work is almost finished, we feel there is a good opportunity to utilise the grounds during the weekend. We will therefore be holding a car boot sale over the next month or so (date tbc) in the school playground. This will be open to both you and the public to come along and set up your own sale, either via your car boot or table top. We are currently looking into the logistics of this and will give out more information soon.

Lego Club

We would like to say a big thank you to Emma White, Emma Proctor and Sandra Scarrat who continue to run the Lego Club every Monday, in their own time. Emma had the original idea to set up this club and spent endless hours collecting and washing the donated lego in order to give the children a fun after school club and to raise money for the school. Thank you Emma, Elaine & Sandra - you really are doing an amazing job and the children love it so much!

Mini Mary's Music Mayhem

We would like to say a massive thank you to Mirna Haddad who, in her own time, volunteered and ran this school year's Mini Mary's music session. With her help and enthusiasm, she managed to raise £433 for the PTA school fund. Well done Mirna.

Film Nights

Last term we trialled an Infants and a Juniors film night. This resulted in the Juniors night not being filled to full capacity for the first time ever. Therefore this time, we thought we would try something different. The aim is to ensure all children in the school are given a fair chance of getting a ticket and that we fill both nights. This time both films will be open to Infants and Juniors, but we will ask you to book only the one film. Once the films have been available to book for a week, if there are spaces available on either night we will open it to you all to book a second film if you wish.

As mentioned previously, we will continue to have the Code of Conduct in place so please do remind your children of this and what it means. Our aim is to ensure these nights are as enjoyable as possible and we will no longer continue to allow a small number of children to spoil it for the majority. Thank you to all of you who wholeheartedly supported this policy, it really is appreciated.

Sponsor Event – Jump for Joy Bounce-a-thon

Our fellow PTA comrades in Blue School told us about this amazing event. It's an opportunity to raise a significant amount for the school, as well as providing the children and teachers with some fitness fun and we are pleased to say Mr Marsh is fully behind this sponsored event.

This will be an all day event and will run during school hours, where children and teachers will be bouncing for money through sponsorship. At present we are looking into the setting up of Jump for Joy and we will have full details of this exciting and fun event soon – watch this space.

NOW FOR THE BIGGEST EVENT IN OUR CALENDAR..

Summer Fair – Friday 23rd June 2017

Yes it's on a Friday and we so hope you like the idea. We wanted to give the children, as well as all the teachers and volunteers, the opportunity to be involved in the event. During the lead up and on the day of the Summer Fair, we'll be asking the children to help set up and also run some of the stalls on the day. During the Christmas Fair, we saw many lovely moments where some of the older children really relished the opportunity to help out on the stalls and we have to say they really did themselves proud. This in turn gave us the idea to carry this through to the Summer Fair and give them another opportunity to take on some responsibility and become a real part of the whole event.

We will of course be asking for as many of you as possible to help, both leading up to and on the actual day of the fair. Last year we had over 70 of you volunteer and this year we hope we can get as many of you again to help. More details to follow.

Leading up to the Summer Fair we have arranged the following meetings:

Friday 19th May	09:00 – 11:00
Thursday 25th May	19:00 – 21:00
Friday 9th June	09:00 – 11:00
Thursday 15th June	19:00 – 21:00
19th – 23rd June is Prep week	

09:00-11:00 Meetings held at school / 19:00 – 21:00 Meetings held at The Swan.

We would love to see as many of you as possible at these meetings. Your help, suggestions and ideas on how to make our summer fair such a great success is invaluable. Please do try to come.

So.... as you can see, we have plenty to keep us busy. We know we continue to ask a lot from you, both in time and financially, but as we've said along this whole journey, we do this purely for all our children at St Mary's and them alone. With the continued help from all of you, Mr Marsh, the teachers, Sam, Kirk and office team, we are well on our way to providing those extras at school (which normal government funding wouldn't support). In turn, those extras help make our children's time at St Mary's a little more special, particularly with the addition of their very own Shepherdess hut.

Here's to a very eventful Summer term ahead!

Best wishes,

Mell, Clare & Catalina

MELL, CLARE & CATALINA

Joint-Chair

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