

Chair's Report – St Mark's PTA 2026

This year has been a truly wonderful one for our PTA, filled with community spirit, creativity, and an incredible amount of dedication. I want to thank every volunteer, parent, carer, staff member, and child who has supported our events — your enthusiasm is what makes all of this possible.

We began the year with our much-loved annual North Camp Scarecrow Trail, which once again brought families together and filled the local area with colour and imagination. Our Christmas cards project and the Christmas Fayre were both fantastic successes, helping raise valuable funds whilst giving children a chance to share festive joy. We were also proud to provide refreshments at Carols Around the Campfire, adding a warm community touch to a cherished tradition.

In the spring, our Easter Trail encouraged families to explore and support local businesses — a lovely way to connect the school with the wider community. Later in the year, we were delighted to offer refreshments at the KS2 show, helping make the event even more enjoyable for families.

Throughout the year, our team has run numerous school uniform sales, making pre-loved uniform accessible and affordable for everyone. Our Golden Tickets and World Book Day chocolate bars brought plenty of smiles, and Frozen Fridays continued to be a firm favourite with the children. We also held school discos, which were hugely popular, and our Bags2School collections helped raise funds while supporting recycling and reuse. And of course, we upheld the much-loved tradition of the St Mark's T-Set, which remains a highlight for families and a wonderful way to end the school week.

None of this would be possible without the hundreds of hours of volunteer support given so generously. The time, energy, and commitment offered — entirely for free — is the backbone of our fundraising. Without it, we simply could not raise the money needed to support the school in the way we do.

This year we also said goodbye to Mary our chairperson, who stepped down after many years of running events with a small team behind her. We would like to say a huge thank you to her for everything she has done and for making our events as successful as they have been.

We also say farewell to our Year 6 parents, who left the school this year. Their hard work, encouragement, and support over the years — whether through weekly T-Set donations, helping at events, or contributing a bottle for a fayre — have been invaluable. Every donation, however big or small, is gratefully received and deeply appreciated. At the same time we also welcome our reception children and their families to the St Marks community.

As we reflect on the year, it's important to remember why the PTA exists. Our purpose is to raise vital funds for the school to enhance our children's learning, wellbeing, and experience of being part of a wider community. We work closely with the school to ensure that every pound raised is spent in ways that directly benefit all the children.

As with everything PTAs evolve and change with new members coming and old members leaving. New ideas generated and old ideas that are winners will always be reused or adapted. If in the past an idea/event might not have been agreed please come and talk to us. With New Trusts and new ways of working with the school doesn't mean that we have to do it as previous years might of .

The 2026–2027 school year is already underway, and just one month in we can see it's going to be a jam-packed year ahead. We are excited for what's to come and committed to continuing our support for the school.

We always welcome new volunteers, and we want everyone to feel part of our PTA community. Helping doesn't have to mean being at an event — emailing, fundraising bids, match-funding through employers, planning, organising, or simply sharing ideas all play a vital role in helping us raise as much as we can.

These events not only raise essential funds for the school but also strengthen the sense of community that makes St Mark's so special. I am incredibly proud of what we've achieved together, and I look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

Thank you again for your continued support.