



Chair's Report - November 2023

PTFA Focus

At the start of the 22/23 academic year the PTFA agreed that their core focus would be building on the fundraising efforts of the previous year, with an overarching goal of funding required maintenance work and adding to the trim trail.

PTFA 22/24 Events

With the continued guidance of the former committee members, this year has been an extremely successful first year of fundraising for the new team. The generosity of parents and children, combined with the support of the school staff and the volunteers who've contributed along the way have continued to astound the committee and will never be undervalued. While trialling one or two new ideas, we have continued with the popular events that our children look forward to each year including:

• Discos

The children have thoroughly enjoyed each of the 3 annual discos. We would like to extend thanks to resident DJ Guy Barker who continues to go above and beyond at each event, ensuring that no child is without their favourite floor filler. Likewise, we express our gratitude to all teachers and volunteers for their combined efforts in planning, setting up and running the discos. We have been blown away by the team spirit at each event, especially during the cleanup afterwards!

- The February 23 Valentine's Disco raised £1,193.94
- The May 23 Beach Disco raised £1062.64
- The October 23 Spooky Disco raised a record breaking £1454.50

• Christmas Colour Stalls

Another favourite, the event was greatly supported across the school, and the donations were plentiful, with some families generously contributing multiple gifts, ensuring every child was able to purchase a gift for a loved one. We received special thanks from one Mum who explained that without colour stalls, her child would have been unable to get a gift for his Mum.

• Gift Amnesty

Following Christmas, a box for any unwanted gifts was placed in the entrance hall of school. The generous donations have gone a long way to helping us out at the year's events.

• Easter Bingo

This was the first Easter Bingo on site since before the pandemic and it was every bit as fabulous as we had been warned! The atmosphere in the school hall was incredible. A huge thanks to Guy Barker for hosting the evening and to the array of helpers who gave us their time not only on the night itself, but a week prior to help turn the mountains of Easter Egg donations into mouth-watering Line, House and Raffle prizes.



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- **Mother's Day Pop-Up stall**

Another popular returning event, the Mother's Day stalls gave the children the opportunity to buy a gift for a special person in their lives. Thanks to the volunteers who helped us man the stalls on the day as well as our super shoppers.

- **Summer Fair**

The PTFA team ran both the raffle and the refreshments at this year's Summer Fair and the event was a great success! The year 6 children did themselves proud organising the stalls, but we were enamoured by their efforts in writing to local businesses to collect the superb assortment of raffle prizes!

- **Sports Day Refreshments**

In spite of a disappointing weather forecast -the polar opposite the previous year- sports day was a great success. We served more bacon than anybody could ever have imagined, as well as drinks and sweet treats! Setting up and closing down was interesting thanks to the Great British rain, but once again fantastic teamwork made short work of it!

- **Uniform Stalls**

We have held some pre-loved uniform sales throughout the year which have been a huge success and resulted in a sell out! Learning from previous years, we held the sales on consecutive days which helped parents who perhaps didn't have money to hand on day 1. We were also able to brave the elements - including snow- due to the shelter of the chill out zone!

- **Christmas Hampers**

The Christmas hampers returned this year and made a lot of children very happy! We would like to thank everybody for their thoughtful donations that made this possible.

- **Christmas Jumper Donations**

We took in donations for Christmas jumpers after the festive season and these will be sold at a pre loved sale ahead of Christmas 2023

- **Father's Day Pop Up Stall**

This year's Father's Day pop up stall was a huge hit with the children. We flipped the order of previous events, bringing in the younger children first which led to the event being a total sell out! A big thanks to our shoppers and to those who came along and helped out on the day.



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The new additions for this year included:

- **Clayton Le Woods Summer Fair**

After much deliberation we decided to participate in the annual event held by Clayton Le Woods Parish council on Manor Road's school grounds. We made the decision to sell sweets and have games and a lucky dip. Despite a long day, the event was a great learning experience and gave us plenty of food for thought; we will most certainly take those learnings and join in the fun again next time.

- **Break the Rules Day**

Certainly, a very popular addition to the calendar; Break the Rules day was a huge hit with the children at Manor Road, and staff have commented that the excitement and anticipation that surrounded the event was second to none. A sequel has already been planned for January 24!

- **Preschool Graduation**

The PTFA was asked to attend the preschool graduation to provide refreshments to ca. 80 attendees. It was a wonderful event that the staff of Manor Road should be proud of, and we would consider it a privilege to be invited back to future graduations.

PTFA Events planning

We continue to evaluate the success and enjoyment of each event throughout the year. It is clear to us which events must continue to run, though we have made the decision to end some previous events moving forward, as such the Christmas hampers and associated non uniform day will not be repeated in 2023.

The new additions this year will all feature in next year's calendar, and we look forward to seeing how they grow and thrive in coming years.

Our Treasure continues to look into alternative payment methods and is meeting with school to progress on this in the coming weeks.

We welcome all feedback, positive and negative, as we find our feet as a new committee. We use this insight to help us learn and shape the future of our PTFA and of our contribution to Manor Road and our children's journeys at the school.

PTFA Volunteers

Our first year as a committee showed us how fundamental a strong volunteer base is to the success of the PTFA. We have been thrilled with the number of volunteers at each event, and hope each of them know just how valued they are.

We are aware that a large portion of those volunteers have now parted ways with Manor Road as their children have moved on to their next chapter. As such it has been a great comfort to see some new faces join us in recent meetings and we hope that this will continue.



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We have condensed the various WhatsApp groups to help us streamline and simplify communication channels and have made an active effort to boost our audience on both the Facebook page and within the year-group WhatsApp groups. We now have one designated representative in each year group who has agreed to forward important notices to their year groups.

In addition, we have adopted an app to help those interested sign up to volunteer for events, and to help us in planning for those events. This was trialled for the spooky disco 2023 and was a great success.

PTFA Spend

This year we have contributed £8200 towards the Trim Trail, which covered the cost of refurbishment and the addition of the new cube climber, which it's safe to say has been a huge hit amongst children and pigeons alike.

In addition, we contributed to year 6 leavers hoodies, and elements of their leaver's festival.

We are in discussions with the school to confirm what they would like our next core focus of fundraising to be. In the meantime, we have agreed to allot a set amount to each year group, so that they can spend some money on something that means something to them.

Conclusion

It has been a rollercoaster of a first year, jam packed with learnings and many memories! We are absolutely overwhelmed by the support we have witnessed and cannot thank the parents, children, and wonderful staff of Manor Road enough. We look forward to seeing what the future holds as we continue to work together!

Lastly, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our predecessors for taking the time to show us the ropes this year, we have big boots to fill!

Rebecca Walmsley (Chair), Iwona Kossek (Secretary), Michelle Taylor (Treasurer) and Cara Hayhurst (Vice-Chair)