

Chair's Report September 2026

PTFA Focus

As we kicked off the 2025/26 academic year, we once again met with the school team to chat through what was needed most and where the PTFA could make the biggest difference. The group agreed that support with a number of smaller projects would be beneficial this year.

Over the course of the year, we've been able to support a whole host of things, including enhancements to the trim trail, repairs to the chill out zone, balance bikes for preschool, sports kits, planters for the School Eco Council and replacing storage sheds for outdoor equipment.

As ever, our focus is on making sure the money raised by our school community goes straight back into making school life even better for the children. It's always a real highlight for us when we get to see the children enjoying something that has been funded through PTFA events. There's nothing quite like knowing that all those discos, bingo cards, raffle tickets and cake sales have turned into something that the children can actually enjoy!

PTFA 25/26 Events

Well, what can we say? Another year has absolutely flown by!

Our 2025/26 calendar has once again been filled with all the events our school community has come to know and love, and we've been blown away by the continued enthusiasm and support.

The PTFA really is a team effort. From the school staff who work alongside us, to the parents and carers who donate, volunteer, bake, shop, buy tickets and turn up to events — every single bit helps.

We've had plenty of fun along the way too, which is exactly how we like it!

Discos

The school discos have continued to be some of the biggest events in our fundraising calendar, and the children certainly know how to party!

After trying out a small selection of entertainers last year, it was clear to see that Taz proved the biggest hit. So, we booked him for all three discos for this year with full confidence he would keep everyone dancing, playing games and ensure a great time was had by all! It's safe to say that there is no shortage of energy at these events — although our volunteers may require slightly longer recovery periods than the children!

We've continued to think about our themes carefully too, making sure there are options that feel welcoming and enjoyable for all our children.

A massive thank you to everyone who helps make the discos happen. There's lots to do before those doors open, from shopping and preparation to setting up, and then there's the small matter of clearing everything away afterwards!

Autumn Bingo

Due to the love of Easter Bingo, we had lots of parents asking if we could squeeze another bingo night into the calendar. Well, we're never ones to ignore a good idea — so this year we decided to give Autumn Bingo a go!

Tickets were a little slower to sell than we'd hoped, and if we're honest, we weren't quite sure how the evening was going to pan out. Would people come along? Would we have enough players? Had we taken on a bingo challenge too far?!

We needn't have worried!

Autumn Bingo was a roaring success, with exactly the same fantastic energy and atmosphere as our Easter Bingo. It was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who came along, and we were delighted to see the hall full of enthusiastic players, dabbers at the ready and plenty of friendly competition!

A huge thank you to everyone who donated chocolate and sweets, helping us put together the fantastic prizes that made the event possible. Thank you too to everyone who came along with their dabbers in hand and helped create such a brilliant atmosphere. We'd also like to say a massive thank you to our shoppers, hamper wrappers and all of our wonderful volunteers who helped get everything ready and kept the evening running smoothly. And, of course, a very special thank you to our bingo caller, School Governor Adam Hayhurst, who took on the all-important job of keeping everyone on their toes and calling those numbers!

It turns out we really can't have too much bingo - so we're very pleased that our school community talked us into giving Autumn Bingo a go!

Christmas Colour Stalls

The Christmas Colour Stalls have once again brought plenty of festive excitement to school.

There is something so lovely about watching the children take their gift-buying responsibilities very seriously as they search for the perfect present for their loved ones. Some decisions are made in seconds; others require a little more thought!

And then, of course, there's our wonderful wrapping team, who somehow manage to transform a mountain of gifts into beautifully wrapped presents ready to go home.

This is one of those events that really couldn't happen without an enormous amount of support. Thank you to everyone who donated gifts and to every volunteer who helped with selling, wrapping and organising. It really is a huge team effort.

Christmas Performance Refreshments

Christmas performances are always a tearjerking reminder of just how quickly our children grow up.

There's something rather special about sitting among proud parents and carers and watching the children take to the stage. We were delighted to once again provide refreshments during the performances and be part of these memorable occasions.

A huge thank you to the volunteers who gave up their time to help on the day.

Gift Amnesty

Our annual Gift Amnesty returned once again, giving families the chance to pass on those unwanted presents that have been hiding at the back of cupboards!

The donations are put to excellent use as raffle and tombola prizes at events throughout the year, so thank you to everyone who donated. Your unwanted gifts can go on to make someone else very happy!

Break the Rules Day

Break the Rules Day continues to be a guaranteed hit with the children!

There's something about being given permission to bend the usual school rules that creates an enormous amount of excitement. It's always lovely to see how much fun they have with such a simple idea, and we're delighted that it continues to be such a successful fundraiser.

Mother's Day Pop-Up Stall

Our Mother's Day Pop-Up Stall once again gave the children the all-important task of choosing something special for their loved ones.

There was a lovely selection of gifts to choose from, and we were delighted to see so many children carefully selecting their presents.

Huge thanks to our shoppers for making sure the tables were full of lovely things and to all the volunteers who helped the children navigate the very important business of present buying!

Easter Bingo

Easter Bingo remains one of those events that just gets better every year.

There's always a fantastic atmosphere, plenty of friendly competition and, of course, an impressive amount of chocolate!

We'd like to thank everyone who donated prizes, helped wrap everything, set up the hall and volunteered on the night. And a special thank you to everyone who donated chocolate — we genuinely don't know how you manage to find quite so much of it every year!

It's your generosity that makes the prize table such a success, and we're incredibly grateful.

Father's Day Pop-Up Stall

The Father's Day Pop-Up Stall was another great success, giving the children the chance to choose a little something for someone special. As always, there was plenty of excitement as the children made their choices.

Thank you to everyone who helped with shopping, donating and running the stall. Your support made it another lovely morning.

Clayton Le Woods Summer Fair

For us, the Clayton Le Woods Summer Fair has never really been about making money. It has always been about being there. The fair is held on school grounds and, as a PTFA, we've always felt that it was important for us to have a presence, to support the event and, most importantly, to be part of the Clayton Le Woods community coming together.

This year, however, the whole thing rather took us by storm!

The council mixed things up a little this year and made the decision not to have the funfair; by chance, we had decided to keep things simple with a selection of games on our stall. For just £1 a go, everyone was guaranteed a prize — and it turns out that combination really worked to our advantage!

The flocks just kept flocking!

We honestly couldn't believe it. The queues kept coming, the games kept going and, before we knew it, we hadn't even had chance to eat our picnic! It was incredible to see so many people stopping by, having a go and supporting our stall.

At the end of the day, most of the other stallholders had packed up and headed home, while the council were still pottering around the site. We finally sat down on our pitch, opened our picnic and raised a glass to what had been a truly tremendous event.

It was one of our last events together as a team, which made it feel even more special. We certainly didn't expect the Clayton Le Woods Summer Fair to go out with quite such a bang, but it's an event that will definitely be remembered!

Year 6 Performance Refreshments

The Year 6 production was another wonderful occasion and a chance for families to see just how much our children have grown in confidence.

We were delighted to provide refreshments for parents and carers and enjoyed watching the children shine on stage.

It's always a bit of a proud and emotional moment when you realise these are the children we remember arriving at school as little ones, and suddenly they're performing in front of a packed audience!

Y6 Summer Event

Our Year 6 children did us proud once again with a great selection of stalls! The teddy tombola and bottle tombola were, as always, firm favourites and once again proved just how generous our school community is.

We were treated to some wonderful sunshine on the day, which was lovely — although perhaps not quite so lovely for our chocolate tombola! With temperatures rising, there were visions of a chocolate stream flowing through the playground, so the chocolate tombola had to make a tactical move indoors!

The PTFA team kept everyone fuelled with refreshments and ice creams, and we also ran a raffle packed with some fantastic prizes.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered or helped behind the scenes. It certainly wasn't easy in the heat, and we truly appreciated everybody's efforts. It was a lovely way to celebrate our Year 6 children and another brilliant example of what can be achieved when everyone pulls together.

Preschool Graduation

We were delighted to provide refreshments for the Preschool Graduation this year.

It was such a lovely celebration, with plenty of proud parents and carers, excited children and lots of smiles. Even some of our volunteers managed to shed a tear!

A lovely morning, and one that reminded us just how quickly those little ones grow up

Sports Day Refreshments

Sports Day this year was blessed with absolutely perfect weather — sunshine, blue skies and, for once, no need for us to spend the morning wondering whether we should have packed waterproofs!

The bacon butties and hotdogs were, once again, flying out of the makeshift kitchen, alongside the other refreshments on offer. Our volunteers did a fantastic job of keeping things running while still finding time to get outside and cheer on their own children.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped. It was another brilliant morning full of races, cheering, laughter, food and just the right amount of competitive spirit!

Uniform Stalls

Our preloved uniform stalls have continued to be hugely popular.

They're a great way of helping families find good-quality uniform at a lower cost, while also giving perfectly good clothing another chance to be worn.

We're always happy to receive donations, so if your children have outgrown their school uniform, please do send it our way. One child's "too small" is another child's perfect fit!

PTFA Events Planning

We've now got a good rhythm to our events calendar, and we feel that the mix of events throughout the year works well for our school community.

That doesn't mean we're ever short of ideas, though!

We're always keen to hear what families think. If there's something you love, something you'd like us to change or perhaps an event you think we should try, please come along to one of our meetings and let us know.

Our meetings are open to everyone and are a great opportunity to find out what we're up to, have your say and get involved in shaping what we do next.

Meeting dates and times are shared through the school newsletter, our Facebook page and the school WhatsApp groups. School representatives also attend, so it's a great way to keep up to date with what's happening.

PTFA Volunteers

And now for the people without whom absolutely none of this would happen — our volunteers!

We really cannot thank you enough.

Every event needs people to shop, organise, set up, serve, sell, wrap, tidy, count, clean and generally do all the things that magically make an event happen.

We know that everyone is busy and that volunteering isn't always easy, so we are incredibly grateful for every single hour that people give us.

You don't have to volunteer at everything. Even helping out at one event makes a difference, and we'd love to have you join us whenever you can.

If you'd like to get involved, our WhatsApp group is the best place to be. Volunteer sign-up links are shared ahead of each event, so you can simply choose whatever works for you.

Conclusion

And so, another year comes to an end!

When we look back at everything we've managed to achieve, we're incredibly proud — but we're even more grateful for the people who have made it possible.

The PTFA is very much a team effort. We have an amazing school community who continue to support us year after year, and we honestly couldn't ask for more.

Thank you to the staff at Manor Road for everything you do and for continuing to work so closely with us.

Thank you to the children, who provide the enthusiasm and excitement that makes all of our events worthwhile.

And thank you to every parent and carer who has donated, volunteered, bought something, joined us at an event, shared our posts, donated prizes or simply cheered us on from the sidelines.

It all matters.

Together, we've raised money, created some lovely memories and, most importantly, helped provide things that will benefit the children of Manor Road.

As my own son began his high school journey this month, it's time for me to step down from my position as chair. I would like to thank the entire school community for a wonderful 4 years as a part of the PTFA.

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