

## SMSA Chairs Report

September 28<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Annual AGM

Welcome everyone, thanks for coming to the AGM.

Our School Association aims to encourage good relations between staff, parents and others associated with the school, and to enrich our children's school experience.

#### Objectives:

The objectives of the SA are to organise fundraising events and activities and make them as fun as possible, to involve as many people as we can, and to access funding and grants on behalf of the school where applicable.

This year, we are pleased that there has been a significant increase in new active members which has in turn allowed us to run lots of events this year.

We are however, always looking for input and ideas from members new and old who are also willing to help implement them, and in so doing support our school. If you do have any suggestions, these can be made at SA meetings, by email, or by finding us in the playground.

The AGM is the SA's only formal meeting of the year and in particular covers committee elections and the treasurer's annual financial report.

Before we commence these formalities, I would like to take a few moments to extend some thank you's.

- Firstly thank you to all the committee members who somehow manage to pull together despite full time jobs, children along with many other commitments.
- We would of course like to thank Mrs Osborne, for her continued support with all that we do, always with such positivity and gusto.
- To all of the wonderful St Mary's school staff, for helping out at events, to turning up at the weekend events, supporting all the in school events that make changes to your timetables. We couldn't do it without you.
- Mrs Flemming and Mrs Blackmore for all the help and support they give us by checking all my dodgy spellings and sending out all the comms we ask of them.
- Mr Burkett I don't know where we would be without him at times! Even those late Friday night pre event phone calls when we are in a mad panic that the school alarm system was not doing what it was meant to!
- The lovely Class Rep's who are always ready and willing to help spread those vital comm's about events and rally up the volunteers needed to run the events.
- To our extend local community, our lovely friends at Akeman Residential who are always willing to help support our events, help during the events and offer commission on sales made when the school is mentioned. We also have support from Tesco Community Champion who generously offer us items towards our events. We have also received wonderful raffle prizes from lots of generous local companies.

It goes without saying that without all the people who support SMSA, those who generously bake, run stalls, lend equipment, sponsor, donate or contribute there would be no SA.

Without stealing Savanna's thunder as she will share all the wonderful totals we have raised over the past year, we have had a very successful one! Our net fundraising this year was a whopping £18,465.63 which we are more than happy to report was a huge increase from last years total.

The committee have worked hard to raise these funds and shows that we have managed to engage the school community in continuing to support the SA and all that we do and by doing so we have donated £13,548 back into the school.

#### September:

- Fun on the Field - this was a larger event as there was no Summer Fair the term before, this was a popular event which included, Warehouse Pizza, Ice Cream van, Bouncy Castles, Tuck Shops, stalls & much more.. it raised a whopping £1,393.
- Treat Friday passes - these were made payable for the whole year, which in theory sounded like a good idea, however did provide some issues along the way when new children arrived, clubs etc. The sales for the online tickets went well as well as offering sales on the day of the events. Sales were up from the previous year.

#### October:

- Pumpkin Party - These are always such a hit with the children, two parties held and attended well throughout all the classes. Tuck Shop available as well as pumpkin themed items - light up rings, slap bands etc. £780 raised.
- We also held a fun competition for Pumpkin Carving which took place over the half term with entries being emailed in and three winners picked to win a medal.
- Sweet Amnesty - paper cups went home with each class in the hope that we could all offload some of the excess Halloween treats. We received a great response, and the cups went on to become sweet tombola at the Christmas Fair.

#### November:

- Treat Friday sales continued, full swing for the Christmas Fair: securing stall holders, raffle prizes, rainbow hamper donations, raffle tickets went on sale, non-uniform day in exchange for bottle for the bottle tombola. Rotary Elf volunteers started to come in!
- Christmas Crackers purchased for the school's Christmas Lunch.
- Work with the local Christmas Tree Farm who also kindly donate a tree for the school.

#### December:

- Christmas Fair - this is one of our biggest events of the school year, which brings in a whopping 21% of our fundraising total. Its made up of lots of different aspects, artisan stalls, raffles, tombolas, games, food & drink and of course our wonderful Father Christmas (who shall not be named but knows how eternally grateful we are for all his hard work and dedication). The fair raised a grand total of £3,191
- Elfrifges - the first Secret Room of the year with a festive twist, these events are always a hit amongst the children, they just adore coming along and picking a gift for a loved one. £437 raised.
- Cold Carols mulled wine, hot drinks, mince pies are served during the school event.
- Rotary Santa Sleigh - Firstly we need to thank Sarah Heal for all her hard work with the rotary sleigh over the years, she sadly left the SA & school this year when her son finished in Yr6. We are very fortunate to be given a Saturday slot which has a longer slot and therefore a larger donation. £932
- Christmas Cards - My Child's Art we have used this company over the last few years, its one of the easiest for ordering logistics for the parents. Hopefully sales may pick up this year as was a slight dip in last year's sales.

#### January:

- 2023 Challenge began - we encouraged each child within the school to try and raise £20.23 in whatever way they could. We saw bake sales, trying to scoot 23 times round the church, book sales, goals being scored and much much more. We raised £1,411 and were also able to claim £224 in gift aid.

#### February:

- Movie Night again another popular one for the children and a simple fundraiser to organise (thank you to all the lovely staff who make this possible).

#### March:

- Easter Eggtrivities We made a change to the Easter activity this year and gifted each child a chocolate egg, we then asked for donations towards the costs and running of this event and were blown away at the support shown. Each class came out and took part in an age related treasure hunt in return for an egg. Lots of fun was had and we managed to raise £226
- Show Some Love Secret Room was the secret room for all the lovely ladies in our life... again always such a lovely event to take part in.
- Mother's Day Service Daffodils once again the SA was able to make the donation for the daffodils that the children hand out during the service. One tradition we hope we last forever.

#### April:

- Crown Competition with the Kings Coronation and the school holding a street party we ran a crown competition. It was so lovely to see all the children in their crowns enjoying the day. We gifted each child a Coronation Souvenir bookmark at the end of the party.
- Quiz Night - Adult Event our first adult only event for a very long time and a fast sell out event! A huge thank you goes out to the George & Dragon for hosting the event, lending their wonderful quiz Master Peter, donating some raffle prizes and generally putting up with all the questions and support to set up the event. The evening was a huge success, lots of fun, giggles plus maybe a few wines & beers. We had tables raging from most year groups, St Mary's staff & Governors. We ran raffles and had some interval games which may have got a little competitive at times! £487 was raised from the evening.

#### May:

- Scholastic Book Fair the annual book fair returned and was a huge success and we are able to give the school a large donation to order some new supplies for the classrooms and library. The class teachers also were able to gain lots of books from their wish lists.

#### June:

- Superhero Secret Room the last one of the academic year, this time for those hero's in our lives. £383 was raised.
- Sports Day refreshments - we supplied hot drinks & pastries for the EYFS morning and Cold drinks, Strawberries & Cream at the rather warm main Sports Day.

July:

- Summer Fair we finished off our fundraising year by throwing the first Summer Fair the school has had in a good few years. There was inflatables, BBQ, Bar, Coconut Shy, Hook a Duck, Beat the Goalie, Barrow 'o' Booze raffle, live stage and much much more. The Summer Fair raised 17% of the grand total coming in at £2,565.

Other fundraising:

- Pre Loved Uniform is always very popular we ensure that the uniform is out at the start and end of the terms, parents evening and at our larger events.
- Amazon Smile sadly came to an end, however we have now ensured that we push Easy Fundraising harder which is a very similar venture which many high street shops make a donation when you shop with them.
- Astra recycling has been very popular this year and we have raised more this year than in previous years £574 this year up from £350 last year.

Future plans -

- Over the past 12 months, the SA have been working hard to provide a range of fundraising activities and events to cater for everyone. Some fundraisers have been more successful than others and we now have a much better understanding of what our school community would like to see.
- Classlist has proved successful, there have been a few issues along the way that we have worked out and they continue as a company to make improvements.
- We have purchased 4 more Sum Up machines which makes taking card payments at our events much smoother.

Summary:

I hope this year that the SA will continue to gain more support and build upon what we have already achieved. I hope everyone enjoyed the events so far and the ones still to come!

Clare Brazil

Chair St Mary's School Association