

15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### PTA Update

Dear parent/carer,

Thank you and welcome to those new members who attended the PTA meeting held on Tuesday evening.

The PTA have some fundraising opportunities coming up which they would like to share with you. Thank you for all your contributions so far from the previous fundraising activities.

#### **Christmas Hamper Raffle**

The Christmas Hamper Raffle is always a great fundraising opportunity which the pupils really get involved with. Therefore, we would welcome any donations of chocolate/selection boxes to be brought in so that the PTA can make up the hampers in advance of tickets sales. Any donation, big or small, will be gratefully received. (Donations in by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November if possible).

#### **Pre-loved Uniform**

The PTA have laundered lots of donated pre-loved uniform items, which still have lots of wear left in them, and are available to purchase at the cost below:

Blazer	£5.00
Jumper	£3.00
Tie	£1.00
Shirt	£1.00
Trousers	£2.00
Skirt	£2.00
PE Short	£2.00
PE Top	£2.00
PE Socks	£1.00
PE Fleece	£2.00
Apron	£1.00

If you are interested in further information then please email [PTA@st-antonys.com](mailto:PTA@st-antonys.com) and they will be happy to answer any questions you may have discreetly e.g. what sizes are available? How do I pay/collect?

### **PTA Facebook Account**

Please join/follow the PTA Facebook account for regular updates/news <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

### **Funds Raised so Far**

All monies raised is spent to benefit the pupils at the school, and student input is extremely valuable in deciding on how these monies are spent. Therefore, next week, form tutors will be asking students for their ideas to add to a 'wish list' and the PTA will evaluate the feedback at the next meeting and make their decisions unanimously.

### **Easy Fundraising Website**

If you are not already aware, there is an easy way to help raise funds for the PTA by signing up to the easy fundraising website, which can be found on the following link:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/search/cause/?q=St.%20Antony%27s%20\(Urmston\)%20PTA&cat=cause](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/search/cause/?q=St.%20Antony%27s%20(Urmston)%20PTA&cat=cause)

### **Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm in school. All welcome!

### **Q&As**

We would like to strengthen our PTA committee and below you will find some Q&A's to help further understand how the PTA benefits the pupils at the school, as well as the wider school community.

### **The BIG Sing Christmas Carol Concert**

Finally, to get you in the festive spirit, the PTA will be selling refreshments at the upcoming BIG Sing Christmas Carol concert which is being held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, so if you are attending please bring cash with you. If you haven't already got your tickets, then you may purchase these from the following link:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-antony-s-rc-high-school>

With kind regards,

Mrs K Rothwell

On behalf of the PTA

## Q&As

### What do PTAs do?

A PTA is a Parent Teacher Association, an organisation with a mission to make the school a better place for children to learn. St Antony's PTA brings together parents, teachers and children to raise funds and strengthen the school community. Money raised is usually spent on things that the school budget does not cover.

### Why should I join one?

There are many reasons why you should join your PTA. From making new friends and getting to know the school environment, through to helping raise much needed funds and making a difference to the children and school community. All of these things help you grow in confidence as a parent and it feels good to know you are making a difference for your children and for generations to come.

### What will be expected of me?

There is no expectation on any parent volunteer, any amount of time you can give to the PTA will always be well received. There are a variety of ways you can get involved, from engaging with social media activity, attending PTA Meetings through to volunteering at events or coordinating events. Even donating preloved items, raffle prizes or suggesting brilliant ideas are ways of getting involved. There seems to be a myth that if you get involved with your PTA you will never be able to escape! We make it clear that parents can come to our meetings to just listen and learn, or they can take a more active role if they want to, there are no set expectations.

### How do I join my children's school's PTA?

You automatically become a member of the PTA simply by being a parent at the school. If you would like to take a more active role and find out more about PTA volunteering opportunities then attend a PTA meeting. This is a great first step. It is always a good idea to attend a few meetings to get to know the PTA and then when you are more confident you can start to take a more active role if you wish. You could always take a friend or two along and take on some tasks together.

### Why is it important for a school to have a PTA?

A good PTA can help strengthen the child, parent, school community and can become a huge marketing tool for the school, a way of strengthening their reputation and increasing family engagement. The PTA can help communicate with families more effectively, enhance fundraising efforts and qualify for grants and awards to support the school. All of this activity helps enhance a school's reputation within the community. The PTA is often referred to as the heart of the school community and in our case it really is.