

St Vincent's PTA

Chairman's Report March 2009

1. Introduction

As has become common practice for St Vincent's PTA we are again incorporating our informal annual meeting into the School Governors/Parents meeting, in order that as many people as are interested have the opportunity to find out about the recent activities of the Association.

All minutes of meetings, annual reports and summary statements are available through the website www.svdp.org.uk

For the second year running the accounting period of the PTA follows the school year, hence any items of funding and summary accounts presented at this stage will reflect activities from 2008 into 2009 to date.

2. Activities Overview

The PTA attempts to run a variety of activities with the dual aim of raising funds and offering fun events for parents, children, families and friends. Whilst we wish to maximise the profit from events where possible, this is not to be at the expense of limiting attendance or enjoyment. Hence we attempt to price events, food and fun at affordable prices, not least to encourage all to return for more!

This year sees the first year when the school uniform is not managed by the PTA, this was passed across to school who now operate a web-based order system, requiring minimal management and retention of stock. As part of the handover of the uniform responsibility to school, approximately £2000 of stock was donated to school.

As last year we have again been fortunate enough to have benefited considerably from Barclays £4£, matched funding for a number of our activities – we are very grateful to Barclays as it makes a considerable contribution to the items that the PTA is able to fund for the benefit of all the children. Thanks are also due to those parent employees who have taken the time to organise the events, as funding is only accessible if the Barclays employee is the primary organiser of the event. Full financial details of all activities are available through the treasurer's report.

Over the coming months it is the intention of the PTA, at the suggestion of our current treasurer, to move to an online banking system to enable simplification of transactions and access to monitoring our account. This will still carry the current safeguards and will enable increased visibility, subject to password access.

The PTA website www.svdp.org.uk continues to be updated with PTA news and school news, including the newsletters.

2.1. Fundraising

Events to date Academic year 2008 - 2009:

Family evening – held early in the new academic year to offer families new to the school an early opportunity to socialise with others.

Fashion Show

Ladies Christmas Evening

Children's party - held in Jan as Christmas term already too exciting! This was never intended to be a fund raiser,

In preparation:

Plant Sale planned 16th May

Fashion Show 7th May

Bags 2 School

Summer Party in the Park Saturday 11th July

In addition PTA assists at Sports day providing tea and scones and fund and run the Leavers BBQ.

The 100 Club is still being efficiently run delivering more than £500 of profit. The draws are made monthly, often at the PTA meetings unless there is a suitable event for a more public draw. The results are recorded in the minutes and published through the School newsletter. It has recently been decided to award two prizes of £20 instead of 1 of £30 and 1 of £10.

Fundraising Notes:

The events organised by the PTA that return the most profit tend to be the Summer Party in the Park and the Plant sale, both of which benefit further from Barclays matched funding. These events are also the most resource intensive, relying on considerable help from parents.

The fashion shows continue to return a useful profit. "Bags 2 School" is a venture that we participate in, requiring very little organisation, no financial outlay, no cost to take part and delivers several hundred pounds of profit

3. School Funding

The funds raised by the PTA are directed to support various school activities and equipment that would be difficult to offer by relying solely on the school budget. How the funds are spent is the decision and responsibility of the PTA, however options for spending the monies raised are discussed with school to evaluate any particular areas of need. A staff representative attends the monthly meetings so can provide an update of particular requirements should any arise. Mindful of varying school budget with respect to items to be funded from that budget, it is anticipated that the PTA will continue to discuss with school any items in particular need of financial support.

A number of items have been financed this year

Leavers BBQ, Gifts for Year 6 leavers (Academic year ended 2008)
Coach costs for trips including Savio, Boreatton, Theatre trips (minimising cost of trips for parents)
Christmas Party contribution
Series of modern, school reading books
Novels for class libraries
Artis for Key Stage 1
£100 made available each year to each class, for their teacher to spend on sundry items.

There are 2 main projects currently underway for funding:

1. Playtime items and shed for storage – the wishlist for this is in preparation with the children via their School Council. It is anticipated that the PTA will meet with the children, under the watchful eye of Mrs Beaver, to hear of their plans and choices.
2. Playground improvements – the playground has significant muddy or under utilised areas and as the school continues to grow in numbers it would be advantageous to have as much outside area available as possible. We are currently awaiting 2 sets of plans for further development of the playground. The plans will enable this to be tackled on a project by project basis, to take place in stages as and when money becomes available. The preparation of an overall plan at the outset will ensure that money is well spent to achieve a co-ordinated end result.

4. PTA Membership

Currently the committee roles are filled as below

PTA Officers

Chairman:	Nicola Jones
Treasurer:	Claire Sawyer
Secretary:	Maria Cooper
Webmaster:	Sean Maghee
Events Organiser:	Helen Wickham
Teacher representative:	all, on a rotational basis

It is noted with sincerity that, as all parents are automatically members of St Vincent's PTA, we very much welcome new participants in the meetings. It is seen as essential for the ongoing development of the PTA that new ideas and experience is introduced.

Towards the end of this academic year we will be looking to appoint a new Chairman, Anyone expressing an interest in this role is invited to contact the current Chairman by dropping a note into the school office, emailing pta@svdp.org.uk or speaking with me directly.

Meetings are held on a monthly basis during term time on a Wednesday or Thursday usually at 8pm at The Legh Arms, Knutsford. Details are posted on the website, noticeboard in the playground and in the school newsletter.

5. Summary

St Vincent's PTA aims to offer a range of events to both raise funds to support the development of the school and to offer social occasions for children, parents and staff alike.

Through the combined efforts of staff, parents and indeed many of the children themselves, we are able to support a variety of resources to enrich the school experience, whilst minimising the requests to parents for additional funding.

If you wish to contact the PTA with any comments or queries, there are many ways to do so: via the playground, drop a note into Mrs Rimmer's office or email at pta@svdp.org.uk .

Finally - Thank you to all for their support throughout the year, be it in attending meetings, providing prizes for raffles, organising and/or participating in events – as without this support the PTA would not function.

Nicola Jones,
PTA Chairman,
March 23rd 2009