

# PATCH

## newsletter



Christmas 2021

**Friends**, this is a very late and short-lived 'Welcome to PATCH'. For those who are new to the school, PATCH has been the Parent-Teacher Association for St Mary's Fields Primary School for many years. Our main purpose has been to raise funds so the children can enjoy things like playground equipment and school trips that are not covered by funding from Local Government.

We have been so lucky to have held two events since the beginning of the school year. A big 'thank you' to everyone who came along to support the Pre-loved Uniform Sale in October and our recent Pop-up Christmas Fair.

## Round-up

Those of you with a good memory will remember the 5p Challenge that we ran a while ago, where each class had a jar to fill with 5p coins.

Well done to all the children for raising:

ST MARY'S FIELDS  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
**5p  
CHALLENGE**

**£125**

Sadly, this is the last newsletter from PATCH. A lot has been happening behind the scenes about the future of our work as a charity, which you can read about in **Committee update** on page two.



October's Pre-loved  
uniform sale raised:

**£65**

## Christmas 2021

It was fantastic to see so many of you at our Pop-up Christmas Fair.

A big 'thank you' to everyone who donated cakes and prizes.



was raised  
by Christmas  
jumper day.

### Competition

Well done to Emily for the closest guess to 554 jingle bells in the jar.



The Pop-up  
Christmas Fair  
raised:

**£586**



## Committee update

At our committee meeting in July, we talked about our concerns for the future of PATCH and we agreed that it was time to bring our work as a charity to a close.

We need to stress that we have not taken this decision lightly and there are several points that we need to make you aware of.

### The Committee

**We are struggling to keep all places on the committee filled.**

Of course, we understand that people's circumstances change and we sincerely thank everyone who has been able to keep PATCH going. We also appreciate that not all of our school community have time to spare or simply do not want to take on such responsibilities – that's fine, we are not trying to make anybody feel guilty.

However as trustees, the Committee still has legal responsibilities to keep PATCH running as a registered charity,

which have, unfortunately, weighed heavily on us for a while.

### Relationship with the school

**All is not doom and gloom!**

PATCH was set up many years ago and a lot has changed since then. The main thing is that we now have a much closer relationship with the school.

### Still a need for fundraising

Although the school now has access to many more sources of funding and services, there is still a need to raise money for those extras that the children enjoy, of which school trips is just one. However, we believe

that this can now be done without the demands of running a separate organisation and that we can now hand those activities over to the school.

It is also worth pointing out that not every school has a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) but still hold things like summer fairs. ►

### This is not the end!

**This is not the end of school discos, cake stalls and summer/Christmas fairs!**

**Fundraising has now passed to the school and events will always need people to help out so why not leave your details with the school office?**

## PATCH PICTURE POST



**April 2017:** getting 500 paper plates ready for **May's Bake Sale**.



May 2017  
**£207**



**Bag 2 School collection**

November 2017  
**£120**



**Our first Summer Picnic on the field**

Summer 2017  
**£925**



**Christmas Fair:** as well as a corridor full of **Gingerbread Houses**, the equipment cupboard was transformed into Santa's grotto, we served hot chocolate outside and made music around the Christmas tree.



October 2017  
**£500+**

*Meet & Make*

**Our first Meet and Make:** having fun making decorations for the **Halloween Disco**.

We also ran our first and only **Film Night**, which turned out to be more spills than thrills!



Christmas 2017  
**£1028**



## What happens next?

### Over the next few weeks we will have:

- settled any outstanding balances to services or organisations to which we have subscribed;
- sent out an update to our school community showing the final bank balance.

### We will hand over to the school:

- all equipment and materials used for our events;
- the balance of our bank account **on condition** that this is used only for the benefit of the children, such as to help with school trips.

### And finally:

- David Mumford, our co-opted committee member, will notify the Charities Commission that PATCH has now closed;
- all fundraising activities will be organised by the school.

## Closing thoughts

As we move closer to closing PATCH, we would like to thank every one of you who has donated, baked and bought, helping us to help the children at St Mary's Fields. We also appreciate the generosity of all the companies and organisations who have kindly donated prizes and services for our events. Finally, please join us with special PATCH thanks in particular to Mrs Lawton and Mrs Summerhayes at the school for their support behind the scenes in making things happen, sometimes even before we've asked!

It has been a great privilege to serve as your committee and super fun at the same time.

*Wishing you a safe and peaceful Christmas!*

**Sarah, Jemma, Mel, Kevin, Liz and Rachel.**



### Sorry you are leaving!

Please join us in thanking Mrs Dulieu for her tremendous work at St Mary's Fields and wishing her every success at her new school.



Spring 2018  
**£550**



Christmas 2018  
**£1307**



October 2019  
**£738**



Summer 2019  
**£1643**



Summer 2018  
**£1297**



Christmas 2019  
**£1026**