



St Anthony's PSA supporting our school and children

# ST ANTHONY'S PSA ANNUAL REPORT February 2025

**ST ANTHONY'S PSA**  
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## **Introduction and executive summary**

It has been a great year for the PSA in a fundraising capacity, we have raised our largest amount to date with regards to the fireworks, we introduced two new events which proved really enjoyable and also raised money.

The committee has an excellent working relationship with the school, school governors and school parents – all of whom make up the Parent Staff Association of St Anthony's.

### **Premises Licence**

The school has a premises license, so organisers of individual events which means that we can hold fundraising events where we can serve alcohol and entertainment without restrictions other than that of our insurance. This allows us to serve alcohol, play music and gather in larger numbers for events.

### **Charity Registration**

We are a stand-alone charity and have our own charity number, this brings with it its own responsibilities but allows us to reach further in our quest for outside funding and support as many companies want to know their donations are solely accountable for by the charity they are in communication with.

This year we have had some amazing fundraisers the Mothers' and Fathers' Day sales, whilst not being big fundraisers, have been loved by the children for allowing them the responsibility of buying a present and giving it as a surprise. One of new event was 'Elfridges' gifts were meticulously bought wrapped and given the 'Elfridges' stamp of approval, the school PE shed was decorated to standards only seen at the North Pole and the magic began! We had two school discos which fit nicely into the school calendar and are loved by the children and the parents who volunteer. The other new fun raiser was the barn dance, with around 5 weeks to organise we pulled out all the stops and had an awesome night of dancing, delicious food, a well-stocked bar, this was a great success raising over £2,500. The fireworks event was a huge success maybe raising our largest total to date, over £10,000.

### **Donations to school**

In terms of donations, the PSA have managed to support the school by funding the continued improvement of reading materials, offering a broad and varied range of books and literature on offer to the children. A curriculum donation to support a certain topic or area of learning for the whole school.

Our other annual donation commitments to the school have remained in place and these include the hardship fund, Panto contribution, Year 5 tree climbing, Year 6 pizza after SATs, and Christmas chocolates. Refreshments at the school nativities.

### **Looking to the future**

Going forward, the PSA have agreed to fundraise and donate for a new outside classroom in farm school, this will allow the children to utilise this commodity in all weathers and really make the most of this amazing area. We have paid for the planning permission which came in just under £3,000 and have committed a further £12,000 towards the barn.

We are committed to supporting children with arts and entertainments this year, namely the school pantomime and Silly Scott, ensuring that this is more affordable for parents and that children are able to access these really important parts of a rounded education.

## **Our objectives**

The St Anthony's PSA exists to support the school and preschool with developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school and to engage in activities/provide facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils. We maintain an incredible working relationship with the school enabling us to plan and execute events, knowing which events work well through experience and past knowledge.

## **What do we do?**

The PSA is the custodian of the fundraising arm of the school. This is impossible without the coming together of our school community. We all work together to pull off some fantastic events; some just for the children, some for the school community and some for the wider local public community. Thankfully, we have been very fortunate to have a long history of strong and passionate support for the PSA, led by the parents. The PSA then donates money to the school for the agreed purchases.

## **Our achievements in 2023/2024**

The achievements of the St Anthony's PSA for this last academic year have been broad in their scope. They include:

### **Administration:**

- Changing the Charity Commission and Parentkind details so that they are in line with current serving members.
- Ensuring insurances are up to date.
- Ensuring we have a volunteer trained and holding the Premises Licence.
- Submitting accounts to the Charities Commission

### **Fundraising through the following events**

- Mothers' Day sale
- Fathers' Day sale
- School Discos
- Barn Dance
- Fireworks event

- Elfridges (photos below)



### We have donated towards the following:

- Planning permission donation
- Hardship Fund
- Books
- Tree climbing
- Year 6 SATs pizza lunch
- Christmas chocolates
- Balance bikes for Early Years
- The Pantomime/Silly Scott



### New and ongoing Support:

- Estee Lauder continue to generously allow us to use their Kites Croft car park and the Free Church also allow us to use their car park for the fireworks event.
- We continue to have a strong relationship with Keyline and Beavers, who provide the backbone of our fireworks infrastructure equipment every year. Southampton Traffic Management
- We have been incredibly lucky to have Becky Coote, a parent, for running our online ticket sales and marketing for our Fireworks event. We have always been known to run competitively priced family focused events for our school and wider community. Becky is very much an integral part of the Fireworks planning team who is incredibly supportive and has implemented changes which will strengthen our event going forward.
- I was lucky to have Gemma Pullen agree to take the role of PSA Treasurer this year, Gemma has been forward thinking and a driving force for improvement at Fireworks and the school discos, supporting and involving herself often whilst abroad for work, Gemma is always at events helping or helping to plan and arrange from afar.

- This last AGM saw Clare Hulme take on the role of Secretary, she has been an amazing support and has really allowed me the time to breath and gather my thoughts, before I ask Clare to do something it is already done, she literally is my right hand. Her knowledge with the Farm School and barn has been unquestionable she has led with grant applications, official paperwork and lots in the background.
- Dave W joined us as an Ordinary Committee Member as did Nicole Allward, Nicole will step away from the committee at this AGM and will not be replaced. Thank you both for your support.

## Volunteers

- We continue to welcome new volunteers to our events. As previous loyal volunteers move on when their children leave St Anthony's, we have added more volunteers, and we hope this will continue. The 2024 fireworks saw over 60 volunteers (parents, grandparents and friends) helping. These events rely on volunteers, we are very grateful to those that give up their time to support.
- The committee will look to stand again and look to be re-elected, with the exception of Nicole.

## How PSA Donations Impact and Add Value

The impact and value of the PSA's support starts with how the PSA and school liaise on how the PSA's donations are spent. We roughly donate per school calendar year over £20,000 to the school to enrich their time at St Anthony's.

The PSA suggest projects and ideas to the school and vice versa. We work together to ensure anything purchased is done for its maximum benefit – be it longevity of equipment or cost benefit. We also have strong support from the board of governors. The PSA's fundraising really does have an impact and adds value to the school's community.

The school would not be able to afford the extras that are funded by the PSA without the PSA funding them. The PSA tries to choose projects that continue to build a love of learning for the children as well as the creation of happy memories. This is why we pledge to annual funding commitments such as subsidising the tree climbing experience for Year 5 pupils, the annual trip to the pantomime (see photos below), the purchase of books to support the KS1 and KS2 curriculum (to ensure it is fresh and current) and the hardship fund.



To illustrate the impact and value of what we provide and how we support the school, here are two more detailed examples:

### **Hardship Fund**

The PSA provides donations to the school so they can ensure children, whose family may be experiencing financially trying times, can participate on an equal playing field to their peers. Support comes in many ways, from providing shoes and uniform to helping with the financial cost of school trips. Each year sees different demands put on the Hardship Fund, but each year the school knows it can help those children and families because of the existence of the fund.

*“The school really appreciates the PSA’s donations towards the Hardship Fund. It represents the very essence of our Catholic community; the generosity of our PSA ensures families who might be going through a difficult time are well supported in a discrete and respectful way.”* Feedback from the school Feb 2024

### **Class Activity Funding**

As in previous years the PSA were able to supply the school with pizzas for Year 6 pupils as part of their celebrations for completing their SATs. Little things like this make lasting impressions.

## **Supporters**

The PSA would be stuck without its network of support, individual and corporate volunteers and corporate donors; they are the backbone of all the fundraising and events undertaken. Following are some words written by previous volunteers and donors about why and how they support us.

### **Individual Volunteers**

*“Helping the PSA this year has been just a bit of time given, but greatly rewarding as PSA events help to improve school funding and in turn our kids’ education. At the same time, it is a good opportunity to meet and know the school, the staff and other parents within the St Anthony’s family. We all have ideas, skills and trades which can help organise, prepare and make better school events. Sometimes it is just a pair of hands which is required to make an event more fun, enjoyable and successful for everyone. At the end, helping the PSA is a little time given for the benefit of our children and their education while they are at St Anthony’s.”* KS1 & KS2 dad

*“I, like most parents, have quite a hectic, manic life. So finding time can sometimes feel like an impossible task. Two years ago, I helped out at the school fireworks and the summer fete. Both times I was made to feel not only welcome but completely not pressured, however little or much I could help was always appreciated. I felt not only*

*like I was able to give back to the school but have been able to get to know more faces in the playground. And if I'm honest I enjoyed the experience.”* KS1 dad

*“Being a parent volunteer has been really rewarding It has been lovely to be part of the children’s education and has given me the opportunity to make friends with other lovely parents and get to know some of the children across the school. I have helped out at school discos, the Mother’s and Father’s Day sales. I love feeling like I have been able to give something back to our wonderful school and community.”* KS1 mum (2022)

Outside catering company at fireworks: Yes, I would definitely do it again, I thought it was well executed even in the rain, we’ve been to a few events this year that have been chaotic from the organisers side, you did a grand job. You should all be really proud and pleased. The display of fireworks was incredible, we were at a large new forest firework event last week and the fireworks weren’t nearly as impressive. (2023)

## **Corporate Volunteers and Donors**

*“As a national company and part of the Travis Perkins Group we are happy to support local charities and community projects.*

*As part of our business cornerstones we feel it’s important to give back to the local communities we rely upon for the continued success of our business. For us at Keyline Southampton, this is a real opportunity for us to do so and support a really great local event.”*

Alex Hairsnape, Branch Manager, Keyline Southampton Sept 2019

## **The Future**

The PSA is always planning for the future – what projects it can support and what it can do to support the school, children and families.

As mentioned in the Introduction and Executive Summary, the elected committee has agreed to support developments in Farm School, the barn is our sole focus in addition to the regular commitments.

## **External Sources**

The PSA is trying to embrace a strategy of finding external funding to price match/donate/sponsor events and projects so the onus of finding the funding is not always felt to be on the parents. In the past, parents who have worked for banks that have been involved in fundraising have been able to access a price match scheme from their employer. We will continue to explore these opportunities as they become available.

Those athletic parents that enter races/events are able to donate sponsorship money to the PSA, we are a registered charity.

We were lucky enough to receive a price match donation for the funds raised at the glow toy stall at the fireworks, a huge donation of £500 from a parent who works for a business that price matches donations made when they volunteer.

We also have our Easy Fundraising page where it is free and easy to donate through shopping that you would normally be doing online, all your favourites are on there from Amazon to Waitrose. If you download the Easy fundraising app you can set a reminder to donate every time you visit one of their partnered sites.

## **Volunteers**

The way events are run and managed is always evolving and the PSA, especially for the fireworks, is trying to create enough volunteer support for a rotation of volunteers to be implemented so that everyone takes a turn at volunteering and everyone takes a turn at enjoying the event. This will only work if everyone plays their part and helps.

## **Obstacles to overcome**

In the coming 12 months, the school is likely to be affected by many external influences, way beyond any of our control. The continued uncertainty of the financial markets and the current political instability and the cost-of-living crisis continues play a part in school life and impact on school budgets. As a PSA, we need to be able to help keep the school in the stable place that it is now. To ensure we can do this, we will continue to do what we are good at and look to find ways of continuing to sustain the financial support we give the school and ask that our members – parents and staff – continue to support us in the amazing way they have been for many years.

We are actively looking for companies/businesses that are able to help with donations of time and/or materials, financial donations to help with our barn project as detailed in our previous barn letter we currently short of around £20,000. If any member has a company/trust or knows of a company/trust that they think would be interested in discussing how we could build relationships and support, we would be interested in talking with them.

## Additional information

New email address is [stanthonyspsa2025@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonyspsa2025@gmail.com)

St Anthony's PSA's governing body is ParentKind. Our membership number is 35377. ParentKind provide us with our Constitution, Insurance and legal guidance to ensure we are adhering to our legal obligations.

St Anthony's PSA is a registered charity with the UK's Charities Commission. Our registered charity number is 1182582.

St Anthony's PSA is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. Our reference is ZA519367.

St Anthony's PSA is registered with the Gambling Commission with a Non Commercial Small Society Lottery Licence, registration number 451.

The Treasurer's Financial Report for the Academic Year 2023/2024 is in a separate stand-alone report that can be read in conjunction with this report.