

PTA Events – What To Expect

The PTA would like to welcome all the new St John's families! You'll have hopefully seen that the PTA organise a range of events that are held throughout the school year. Last year we had some feedback from new parents that they didn't know what to expect at the events, and so we thought it would be useful to give you a quick low down!

School Discos (Friday November 8th & Friday May 1st 4.45 - 7.00)

We aim to run two school disco's per year. Discos are always held on a Friday at Worrall Road School Hall (entrance via the playground on Mornington Rd). The doors open at 4.45, the DJ will be warming up with the aim of getting the disco in full swing at 5.00pm. The first hour (until 6pm) is designated for the infant children (EYFS, Year 1 & Year 2) but older siblings are of course able to come along – they may just need to tone down their dance moves whilst the little ones have control of the dance floor! Key stage 2 children join in the fun at 6.00 and the disco ends at 7.00.

We run a bar serving soft drinks and alcohol, and hot food is also served – usually in the form of hotdogs, veggie hotdogs and/or falafel wraps. The DJ is a professional DJ who comes along with his lights and sound system, encouraging the kids to dance, play games and enjoy themselves. Parents are welcome to stand around the sides of the hall watching the children, or they can get some fresh air under the canopy and chat to friends at the bar.

Children also have the option of going out to play in the playground, but parents are responsible for their children so they do need to keep an eye on them. There is also usually a nail and temporary tattoo stall.

Most children choose to get changed into their party clothes ready for the disco, but some just wear their school uniform.

There's no denying that the disco is a loud and busy event, but the children love it and you'll be rewarded with them having a lie in the next morning!!

Christmas Fair (Friday 6th December 3.15 – 6.30)

The Christmas Fair is the biggest event of the year. Straight after school head over to Worrall Road school hall and the classrooms surrounding it. Each class is allocated a stall to run – the class reps take the lead with organising the stall and parents/carers from the class sign up to take shifts to help run the stall. As well as the usual bar and hot dogs, there will be a grotto (with tickets to see Santa hopefully being sold in advance) and various Christmas themed games/crafts/activities. One stall the children always love is the Secrets Room where the children go in (without their parents) buy a gift for their parents/loved ones and wrap it ready to put under the tree ready for Christmas day! It is a busy and exciting event and well worth a visit.

The Christmas Raffle is drawn at the end of the Christmas Fair – you'll have a chance to buy raffle tickets which will go out in the book bags a couple of weeks before the fair, and can

buy more at the fair. On this note, if anyone has any contacts of anyone who may want to donate prizes to our raffle, please get in touch (pta@stjohnsprimary.org.uk)!

On the day of the Christmas Fair, children can pay £1 to go to school dressed in Christmas-y 'non school uniform' (the teacher will collect the £1 at the beginning of the day.)

Film Night (Friday 7th February 4.45 - 7.00ish)

This is a bit of a more chilled event, mats are laid out in the hall for children to relax on, pizza and popcorn are available to buy, and a film is shown on the big screen. The film is chosen nearer the time but we usually try to get hold of a new release which is not yet out on DVD which is a U and suitable for all.

The bar will be serving soft and alcoholic drinks so that parents/carers can catch up with friends whilst the children watch the film... what could be better?!

Parent's Social (Thursday 5th March 7.30-10.00ish)

This varies from year to year, but generally is a fun night for parents/carers to get out without their children to socialise and let their hair down. In the past we've held very successful pop up café's where delicious three course meals were served, as well as quiz nights and bingo! Watch this space to find out what this year will hold, but put the date in the diary now and book a babysitter!

Summer Fair (Friday 12th June – 3.15 – 6.30)

The other big event of the year – the Summer Fair is held straight after school on a Friday. The Worrall Road playground becomes a hive of activity, with various stalls, games and activities taking place – roughly based on a 'theme' which is chosen nearer the time. As with the Christmas Fair, each class is allocated a stall to run – with class reps taking the lead with support from other parents taking a shift to help run the stall.

Drinks are served at the legendary St John's Bar, and hot food and delicious snacks are plentiful. If our British summer fails us, we do have a wet weather plan, and the stalls get moved inside (just like the Christmas fair).

On the day of the Summer Fair, children can pay £1 to go to school dressed in 'non school uniform' – with an outfit roughly based on the theme of the fair.

St John's BBQ (Friday 3rd July)

This is the day you find out what class your child will be in next year, and after school you will have an opportunity to meet your new class teacher. Straight after this, head over to Worrall Road to enjoy a delicious BBQ whilst the children play in the playground and you can raise a toast to the end of a fantastic school year!

Other events

A few other events may crop up throughout the year – a craft workshop for parents or a trip to a local wine tasting place – details will be available as/when these occur.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

All these events can only happen with the support of parents/carers. This is how you can help;

Discos/Film Night/BBQ

Your class reps will contact you nearer the time asking for volunteers to help out on the designated station for your year group. You will be sent a doodle poll to sign up for a half hour slot to volunteer your time.

- If you are asked to be 'on the gate' this involves taking people's tickets (if tickets bought in advance) or selling tickets on the gate. There may also be glow sticks, or UV facepaints to sell on the gate for the discos.
- If you are asked to volunteer at the bar, you will join Vicky/Becca the bar managers in selling and serving drinks.
- If you are asked to volunteer serving food, you will take the money for and serve the hotdogs, crisps, snacks etc coming from the kitchen. There is no cooking or food preparation involved.
- If you are asked to man the tattoo/nail bar, you'll have the joy of delighting the children by painting their nails/applying their temporary tattoo!
- If you have a yearning for hiding away in the kitchen cooking sausages/pizza, get in touch as Lucy the Catering Manager is always looking for new recruits to join her kitchen team!

Christmas/Summer Fairs

Please, please, please support your Class Reps by signing up for a half hour shift on your classes stall.

Parents Social

If you're a chef and fancy catering for a pop up café, please get in touch!

We hope this information was useful to you and gives you an idea of what to expect at our events. Please do come along and find out for yourselves – there's always a great atmosphere and the children have a whale of a time – as do the grown ups!! Siblings not at school are always more than welcome to come along too (and pre-schoolers don't need to pay an entrance fee)!

With very best wishes

The PTA Committee