

Chair's Report 2024/2025

We have celebrated numerous achievements, encountered various challenges and demonstrated the core values of a supportive school community. As your co-chairs, it has been our privilege to collaborate with passionate parents, dedicated teachers, and enthusiastic students throughout this year.

Our ongoing objective is to contribute to a flourishing school environment and to raise funds for improvements that will benefit all students.

We are pleased to present highlights from this year and look forward to pursuing our ambitious plans for the upcoming school year.

Acknowledgments

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all PTA members, with particular recognition for those who have accepted new roles. Special thanks go to Anthony Munn, who accepted the role and the responsibilities of Treasurer. Also Heidi Mahony as Co-Chair. We are also pleased to welcome new parents to the team this year; their fresh perspectives and assistance in organising events have been greatly appreciated.

We would like to formally acknowledge the contributions of our volunteers, including those whose children have now just left the school. In particular, we wish to thank Vicky Barber, who, alongside Samantha Blundell, coordinated this year's school circus—a biennial event that was successfully resumed after a pause due to the global pandemic. We also offer sincere appreciation to Samantha Blundell for her exceptional management and organisation of the Christmas events over recent years. The commitment demonstrated by Samantha has been integral to delivering memorable occasions for participants while ensuring the continued financial support necessary for our programmes.

Finally, we wish to thank all parents, staff members, and students for their ongoing support—whether through volunteering or attending events. We are fortunate to be part of such a committed and vibrant school community.

Events and Highlights for 2024/2025

This year, we held our first 'Back to School Picnic' event. Many thanks to Nicky Mellet for organizing it. Families gathered on the school field for a picnic with pizza, games, drinks, and sweet stalls. The event was a success and has been requested as an annual tradition.

The School Disco took place in October with a strong turnout; the children were excited to join the event and take part in the games.

The Christmas Fair continues to be one of our school's most well-attended events and serves as a key fundraising initiative. This year, the fair was again scheduled on a Saturday and drew an impressive turnout. Numerous students noted their positive

experiences and appreciation for the occasion. The consistent commitment from our school community remains essential to the ongoing success of this event.

Additional events hosted this year included Elfridges, Easter Bingo, and the Enormous Crocodile walk. We received very positive feedback regarding these activities and look forward to continuing to offer similar events, as well as introducing new initiatives in the future.

Other fundraising initiatives include Stikins labels, Bucks Lottery, Easy Fundraising, clothing bins, large clothing bag collections through Happy Bags (once a term), Panto tickets, Refreshment Sales, Christmas cards, Hot Dog Days, and Friday Snack Treat sales.

All funds raised and spending will be outlined in the Treasurer’s Report.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Our main challenge is a lack of volunteer time to pursue all the ideas we receive. Our vibrant PTA is in action and always on the lookout for new members to join our crew!

With some long-standing team members moving on and whilst having some new members join this year, it's a perfect time to get involved. Why not reach out to us? Even just one hour per term can make a difference—whether you're helping out at meetings, wrapping presents from the comfort of your home, rallying participation, or keeping everyone refreshed and stocked up at events. Every bit you do matters, and we love having fun together while making school life even better!

Future Outlook: Goals for 2025/2026:

Our goals remain similar to last year...

Action	Target Group	Purpose
Encourage joining PTA committee	New parents, especially with children in younger classes	Increase PTA membership
Encourage involvement in event organising and fundraising	Non-committee parents	Boost participation in events and fundraising
Request support in identifying possible donations	Parents	Find donations for regular expenditure
Encourage match-funding and company support	Parents	Gain sponsorship or raffle donations from local businesses

Work with governors on joint initiatives	Governors	Enhance school community and promote activities
Review and introduce different events	PTA	Refresh event calendar
Build PTA communications calendar	PTA	Plan events and communicate with parents
Ongoing review of School Association documentation	PTA/School	Update constitution, event processes, GDPR policies
Ensure inclusive event planning	School	Link activities to school initiatives and values

We would like to conclude by expressing our sincere gratitude to all the families who support us throughout the year by participating in events. Their financial contributions are greatly appreciated, and we remain committed to minimizing costs to make participation accessible to as many individuals as possible.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Samantha Blundell, who is stepping down as Secretary following her children's transition to other schools. Samantha has been a central figure within the PTA for several years, serving as Treasurer while also leading the organisation of numerous events. Her significant contributions have greatly benefited both the PTA and our school community, and her extensive knowledge and experience have been invaluable to us all.

After being in role for a year, Heidi Mahony will also be stepping down in her role as Co-Chair, but will continue to be a member of the PTA and support events going forward.

Looking to the future, we remain confident that the PTA will continue to exert a meaningful and positive impact on our students' academic experience and overall well-being. Your continued support is greatly valued, and we respectfully invite you to consider participating as we collaboratively strive to further enrich our school community. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you'd like to know more, or just fancy a chat, we're always happy to hear from you—drop us a message and let's work together!

Heidi Mahony and Jo Lindsay, Widmer End School Association Chairs, September 2025