

Bisham C. of E. Academy

PTA Chairs Report

20th January 2026

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA over the last year. We had our busiest year with 11 fundraising events that have only been possible with the support and dedication of the Committee members, the wider PTA parent support group, the school community, the teachers and staff. We currently have 24 members on our PTA events WhatsApp group who regularly give their support in whichever way they are able and it is hugely appreciated. As we all know, being involved in even a small way (lending something out, giving an hour with a smile behind a stall, picking something up from the shop that's been forgotten), all means the events can run well. We can then give the children and school community a lovely time, whilst raising some much-needed funds to put back into school life.

We took over £6000 this year and we have funded some great initiatives which our Treasurer Jess outlines in the financial report. Some highlights were 10 iPads, Christmas Snow globe workshops, the school disco, First aid workshops for yrs 5 and 6 and a small world area for the Purposeful Outdoor Play scheme (POP).

We are seeing our school grow and are trying to match that with our events, constantly trying to keep them varied and exciting. We are continuing to use our Bisham Bucks our school currency in place of cash and we thank the parents for embracing this change. With banks closing on the high street, depositing cash is becoming increasingly difficult and time consuming. I think the children enjoy having their own bucks to spend. The class WhatsApp groups now have reuseable payment links pinned in the descriptions so bucks can be purchased easily and used at any PTA event this year, next year, whenever.

We continue to reuse and repurpose items (books, prizes, gifts, reduce plastic etc) and are in the process of clearing a storage containing that currently sits in the playground to store items onsite.

Our families and friends can continue to help raise money through Easy Fundraising and Asda Cash pot, and our Preloved Uniform Sales (thank you Hannah E for managing stock).

As our AGM runs January to January and achievements during that time are below, along with things we have learnt and feedback we have been given.

Spring and summer term 2025

Valentines bake sale is always a nice event and the children seem to enjoy making and then eating their creations. Mrs Brookman has the tough decision of choosing a winner for which a small prize is given in assembly. I did discuss not making it a bake-off but more a general bake sale but the children seemed keen for the bake off so we shall carry on with that. We stress that all cake donations are welcome with 'a bake it or fake it' tag line to ensure not only do we have enough cakes to sell on but also that there is no extra pressure when life is busy.

Recycling Collection saw a massive 300kg of donated clothes for this first collection, and although the second collection was much smaller, I still think it's probably a good thing to do from time to time to encouraging recycling.

It was decided that our **School Disco** this year would focus on giving the children a good time as opposed to it being a big money maker for the PTA. We covered costs with a bit of PTA member donations, but costs were quite high due to the DJ's fees and being offsite in Hurley village hall. We will explore other options for next time. The children had the best time, making use of the space outside for games and there was an incredible chill-out room full of soft textiles and sensory lighting (thanks Emma). The tuckshop was a total feast for eyes and bellies with little remaining at the end! Massive thanks to Lydia, her mum and all the parents that helped. It's quite a complex event but it was brilliant.

The **Mother's Day** event was again well received with 90 books being gathered from all over the place (special thanks to Hannah F and her mum). The children were then able to choose a tea bag, choc treat, biscuit, wooden heart key ring and a bookmark to slot into the beautifully gift-wrapped books, along with a sticker and a flower. They looked pretty and we hope the books were enjoyed.

We took a break from the 'Grow a Pound' challenge that has taken place the past few years and decided to try a very low management **25 Challenge**. Hannah and I explained the challenge concept to the children during assembly (do 25 activities, in 25 days and raise £25 pounds. Complete the challenge for a prize and class dojos). We were totally blown away by the enthusiasm and the amazing challenges the children set themselves.

We set our main fundraiser the **Summer Fete** earlier this year. It was a good team effort with jobs being divided up but we realise we need more in the way of support for set up on the morning itself. Massive thanks to Mr and Mrs Brookman for helping from early morning until late afternoon. A lot didn't go to plan (card

machines stopped working, the Pedal Aeroplanes mixed up dates, the Fire Engine come was busy and the insane heat that day), however, we raised nearly £3000 plus gained in-kind and financial sponsorship (meat was sponsored by Field & Flower, and Clever Little Designs contributed financially to our expenses. Thanks you) and lots of good donations for raffle prizes. We decided not to serve alcohol this year which seemed to be fine. Perhaps this was due to the heat but it's something we will consider for next time. We had some new games and stalls this year (thank you to Teds Grandad to making us a games board) and will be looking at reusing/changing some for next time. A local ukelele band provided music, our new school Glee club performed for the first time (after just 4 rehearsals!). Thanks to our willing teachers, Bisham Abbey staff, the Church Friends and all the grandparents who helped on stalls. It takes a lot of bodies on the day to make the fete a success. Giving each class a stall to man has worked well the last 2 years so we will continue with that for this year. It's only the 3rd fete our PTA have put on at Bisham and we welcome all ideas, support and feedback. We will be asking for a new events team in the coming months, especially as we will sadly losing one of our event champions Hannah F at the end of this year.

The last event of that academic year was a **pre summer show Bar** was set up for the hour prior to the annual summer show, (The Lion King). We used drinks stock left over from the fete, plus purchased some extra alcoholic drinks along with some light snacks. It was the first time this has been done but a nice thing to do and allowed parents to use up any Bisham Bucks they had left over from the year. We will look to do this again this year and welcome any offers of help to set up, serve and importantly, clear it all away.

Autumn term 2026

A few nice events this term including another **textile recycling drive** and the annual **Bonfire bake off**. We tried our first **Bisham Pumpkin Patch**. Children could choose a pumpkin from our 'patch' outside, have a hot chocolate, a sticker and have a photo taken with some props. It looked great but we underestimated how many children would want to take part (we purchased 50 pumpkins to start and then bought another 20 for the next day and we ran out of hot chocolate early one). Aside from a disappointed faces, which is not what we ever want, the overall feedback was positive, and we will repeat it next year. Lot of pumpkins were returned to enter the carving competition and were displayed on the playground for collection. We will push advance sales, so we get our number right!

Another successful **Christmas Wreath** making afternoon for parents held in Hurley church hall. Expertly organised by Esther and her mum, the afternoon was full of fun and laughter and the creative juices flowed. Esthers mum kindly made a few extra wreaths which were sold to Hurley residents giving us a fabulous profit of over £600. Looking forward to next year!

Elfridges Shopping event closes the year on a high bringing in twice as much as last year. We had a fantastic amount of parent support with wrapping and manning stalls. Thanks to those parents that worked tirelessly and to Mr Thrift aka Blow up Santa for being a great sport.

All 101 children drew themselves and the teachers for first personalised **school tea towel**. We were pleased with the result, and sold them before Christmas. We still have some left to sell at the fete, and decided to gift them as a thank you for teachers, church, Bisham Abbey and for people who support us. A nice thing for the school community to have and we will certainly repeat in a few years' time.

The PTA have taken over the teas and coffees served at the class **Collective worship** in the church. Thank you to those parents who have helped – it means a lot.

A look ahead to Spring and Summer term 2026

Valentines Bake off, Mother's Day event, Easter Challenge, World Book Day event, Fathers day event, Den building and outdoor skills, Freeze pop Fridays
Summer fete, Summer show bar

Here's to another great year with the Bisham PTA. Thanks again

Kathryn Marshall (Tommy and Jesse's mum!)