



STARS PTA Chairperson's Report 2022/2023

I'm no stranger to working in the charity sector and with volunteer groups, and the work the STARS team do, with the support we get from within the school community, is second to none..

The objectives of fundraising, and community is at the heart of everything STARS do.

Often the focus is the money side of things, which is undoubtedly important, but so too are the community aspects of what STARS do. Most of our activities by their very nature are social occasions that bring families together within the school community, and you will hopefully have noticed that if there is half a chance to create space for a sit down with a cuppa and a cake, we'll do it. Life is about people after all.

The Charity

STARS is a registered charity with Trustees and a Constitution, its governing documents guide our activities, and we have a full set of accounts to show how we have raised and used the funds we have gained. These documents are available to be viewed if you wish.

The decision process for spending funds is based on an annual Wishlist from the school. Sometimes the items on the Wishlist are sourced by the school, other times STARS source solutions. Both methods are employed to ensure we get the best value for money.

STARS seek advice from a wide range of people and experts when it comes to our activities, this includes the pupils who speak with teachers about how their own school experience can be enhanced.

Highlights

Some of the highlights of this last year's STARS activities include the Christmas Fair, with its giant sleigh and tiny horse, the various retail focussed events such as the in-school shops we have run. Giving children a choice for the gifts they buy the adults in their life is a lovely thing, they take real care choosing the right things for the right price. The Summer Fair is the jewel in the crown for most PTA's, and ours is no exception, a key

aspect of it for me as Chairperson is seeing a wide range of people get stuck in to making it a success. Yes, there is a degree of adapting and improvisation on the day, all plans have to flex a bit when they are put under pressure, but the volunteers put a tremendous amount of effort in, and everyone in attendance has a great time.

Benefits

The PTA has benefitted the school and students in a number of ways in the last year, using funds for outright purchases, as well as co-funding and contributing towards various needs. Some things are hardly thrilling such as replacing the old wooden sheds around the school, but these are balanced with us supporting various teaching aids, safety equipment, and exciting opportunities like the Young Voices trip.

With physical items we have supported the purchasing of, we have sought to put a high priority on longevity, finding products that will last as long as possible, increasing their long term value, even when initial costs seem high.

Thanks

There is a large number of people who have contributed to STARS success this year, the core volunteer team of Elected Committee Members have worked really hard in their review and implementation of changes to keep the PTA up to standards expected of charities, and have delivered a brilliant programme of initiatives and events on top of this. STARS is also fortunate to have a wider team of regular volunteers, who are always prepared to roll up their sleeves and get the job done. These hugely appreciated heroes make a real difference to the school and its community.

Our thanks are also extended to the school staff who also volunteer at events and are always on the lookout for creative ways STARS can work with the school.

Join Us

The Committee & I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome new families to the school. If you have a desire to help support the school with events and fundraising feel free to chat with a committee member. PTA's have an infamous reputation, but we work hard to be inclusive and love working with like-minded, hands-on people. We take a professional approach to running STARS charity, but always make space for fun as a team. Our regular meeting dates are included in the school newsletters and all are welcome.

The invite to join the team is of course extended to existing families within the school too. You see the impact on school life that STARS make, and without people like you joining the team the PTA can't function - it's hard to imagine the school year not punctuated with Fairs, and all the other fun. Join the team.

Looking Forward

You'll be pleased to know that the STARS Team is already planning all sorts of things for the 2023/24 school year! The weather may finally allow the Starry Night Camp Out to take place, and there are rumours of a 60th anniversary ball...

Final Thanks

Finally, thank you all for supporting STARS. As parents ourselves we do know it can feel a bit relentless at times, and we do know that the costs for events feel never ending, but as you will see from the details presented in our Fundraising Review 2022-2023, we seek to create a wide range of initiatives, at a wide range of prices, so there is hopefully something for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Stevens', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

James Stevens Chairperson for STARS PTA