



St. Monica's Catholic Primary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

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P.T.A. NEWSLETTER - October 2005

Dear Parents,

The new school year has truly started and we've been busy planning! This is a quick note, to bring everyone up-to-speed with our news.

Last year

We had another great year last year. In spite of the fact that access to the school hall was restricted for most of the first term, we still managed to fundraise an amazing amount of over **£4,200** for the school. We also spent the majority of that in buying school equipment, supporting school trips, etc. A great "thanks" to the committee members and all the parents who generously supported and participated in our events.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Since 2003, our PTA has official "Registered Charity" status. As such, we are obliged to have a constitution and we need to have annual AGMs to elect the committee members. But AGMs are not only there for electing members. This is a great opportunity for you to find out more detail about what the PTA has been up to, discuss your ideas for new events, network with other parents etc. This year we are combining our AGM with a social evening on 9 November. More details will follow separately, but *please* make a note in your diary *now* and take the time to attend. It's important for us and for your children.

Planned activities

We have already planned several activities for this year (6 just in the autumn term!). You have already had the invitation for the Quiz night but others include the ever-popular disco, hot-dog lunches, bedding plant sales, and a fancy-dress sponsored walk on Halloween night. Key dates at the bottom of this newsletter, but you can also find a calendar for all school activities including details of our events on our PTA website.

Bonus Ball

Don't forget to register for our Bonus Ball game. If you are not familiar with it, parents can "buy" a lottery number every term, for £1 per week, and based on the bonus ball number drawn on the Wednesday National Lottery draw, each week you can win up to £24 pounds! Look on our website for information, or contact any of the committee members.

Communications

All parents of the school are members of the PTA, we are just the committee. It is very important for us to maintain the dialogue with the parents. The PTA is based on volunteer work and we need your positive (and negative) feedback and your creative new ideas to maintain the enthusiasm and the momentum of the PTA. Are we doing the right things? Could we do something more? Do you have something irking you?

We need to know! We have tried to make communications with the PTA as easy as possible: You can email us (**PTA@StMonicasMK.freeseve.co.uk**), or drop us a note through our letterbox at the school office and there are always friendly committee members in the playground that you can talk to.

PTA Website

We would also encourage you to visit our website which can be found at: **www.StMonicasMK.freeseve.co.uk**. Apart from the school calendar and information on PTA events, you will find information on the role of the PTA, our constitution, who is who on the committee, pictures from school activities, ordering forms for school T-shirts, PE bags, and loads more. There is a new on-line discussion forum “*PTA Forum*” or you can use the “*Tell us...*” page where you can leave us feedback, ideas and contact details if you want us to respond to you.

On-line shopping

Do you shop on-line? If you shop from on-line retailers such as Amazon, Marks & Spencer's, John Lewis, Early Learning Centre, etc. you can help us *raise money for free*. Just go to **www.buy.at/StMonicas** or use the “*Fundraising*” link on our website, to reach over 80 different on-line retailers. It's free, you can save money and the PTA gets commissions automatically from your purchases. Tell your friends!

Dates for your calendar:

Fri 7 October	PTA Fish & Chips Quiz night (7:30-10pm)
Tue 11 October	PTA Hot-Dog lunch
Tue 18 October	PTA Autumn plant sale
Mon 31 October	PTA All-Saints Sponsored Fancy-Dress Walk
Wed 9 November	PTA Annual General Meeting
Fri 18 November	PTA Children's Disco (KS1 6pm, KS2 7:30pm)

We look forward to meeting you soon!

On behalf of the PTA committee

George Parapadakis, P.T.A. Chair