

PTA Chair's report – September 2026

As highlighted each year, our PTA at William Penn is about much more than simply fundraising. Our PTA exists to provide closer links between home and school, and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school. We are all a part of the PTA; this is not defined by being on the committee. As a registered charity we continue to ensure that we follow the guidelines set out by the charities commission.

A brief overview, six parents (Steph M-H, Katie E, Harriet B, Rachel O, Chloe B and I) plus Mr Brookes and Mrs Constable formed the committee for the academic year September 2025 to August 2026. In 2024 when Steph, Katie and I took on our roles respectively as Secretary, Treasurer and Chair, as a PTA we effectively 'inherited' £5708 in the existing PTA account. From this point as a committee, we wanted to safeguard a financial 'buffer' for the school but also build funds for future projects. We also wanted to involve as many people as we could along the way to form a sense of community. This year we have lost count of the wonderful number of volunteers, and we hope that it keeps growing - thank you! On the financial side we have contributed £9615.37 to the school this year with a 'buffer' remaining in the account for further projects.

There are several successful events to mention or the academic year September 2025-July 2026. The first being the introduction of **Fireworks Night**, which was a huge success, with a delightful family atmosphere and we had wonderful feedback from those that attended. Including comments such as *'we felt that our children were in a really safe, family environment'* Mrs W. *'My daughter is only 4, and after each firework she said that it was her favourite!'* Mrs Li. *'We loved it, seeing everyone together at William Penn, it's such a special school'* Mrs Lo. The low noise fireworks were considerate for our neighbours in a rural location and meant that even our youngest and perhaps hesitant attendees loved them! It was also a financial success raising £259.17 for the school. This event along with the summer fair has our highest outgoings but they are our two wider community events. The **Summer Fair**, for a third year exceeded our expectations in terms of funds for the school which totalled an incredible £1250.94 (largely due to significant funds from the summer raffle). Our volunteer numbers surpassed the 40 of last year, this was a real team effort, staff, parents and friends of William Penn.

The **Smarties Challenge**, now this one really surprised us as our second highest fund raiser of the year raising £502.71, so I feel it deserved a mention of its own! Throughout the year we have also had consistent fundraiser staples of the **Cake Raffles** and **Ice Pop** sales which have been topping up funds totalling £226.05!

The **Colour Run** felt like a real celebration of the year at the end of the summer term, great excitement and fun was had by all the children (and teachers and helpers covering the children

in paint and water!). We raised £267.79 and intend on running the event again next year! It tied in well as the last Friday for our year six children.

The **2026 Leavers** were a lucky bunch this year with the addition of their very own wonderfully personal mementos of Leavers Yearbooks, painstakingly put together by Rachel O – thank you! They were also gifted their own copies of ‘The First Year’ a very apt book to guide them through the transition to secondary school. Their Leavers disco and pizza party was a great collaboration and was run in house for the second year by William Penn teachers (including DJ Haugh!) - thank you! and the PTA, which allowed us to invest in further lighting, tailor the event and save financially long term.

Last but by no means least, **The Library** needs a mention. Our main project for the past academic year, supporting the schools desire and necessity for a purpose-built library space. Mr Brookes led the way with the inspiration, research and exploration of available grants, and we were delighted to be able to contribute to such a wonderful whole school cause to benefit all our children. As a PTA, we contributed £8000 towards this significant investment in the school, which we should all be very proud of as a school community. This is an exciting chapter, and we can’t wait for the grand opening!

EVENTS/ SCHEMES ORGANISED SEPTEMBER 2025- JULY 2026

- ★ Neon Disco (Dec)
- ★ Fireworks night
- ★ Christmas cards
- ★ Christmas pop-up shop
- ★ Cake raffles
- ★ Fancy dress disco (Feb)
- ★ Spring extravaganza (easter egg hunt) & Book fair
- ★ Ice pop Fridays
- ★ Smartie Challenge
- ★ Summer Fair & Raffle
- ★ Colour Run
- ★ Leavers disco & pizza
- ★ Easyfundraising banner
- ★ Bags2 School
- ★ Astra textiles recycling
- ★ Uniform/ fancy dress/ book sales

ITEMS/ EVENTS FUNDED OR PROVIDED SEPTEMBER 2025- JULY 2026

- ★ Library contribution
- ★ Road Safety bollards (donation from Prestige)
- ★ Sports Kit (donations from Berwicks & Waterstream)
- ★ Additional disco lights
- ★ Fireworks glow toys
- ★ BBQ Butchers meat & food/ drink sundries (Fireworks)
- ★ Gobbledy books
- ★ Author visit (Gareth P Jones)
- ★ Horsham Parade entry contribution
- ★ Summer fair inflatable
- ★ Summer fair banner, prizes & supplies
- ★ BBQ Butchers meat & food/ drink sundries (Summer fair)
- ★ Colour run medals, goggles & gunge etc
- ★ JBB Leavers party pizza
- ★ Y6 Leavers Yearbooks
- ★ Y6 Leavers books (The First Year)

THANK YOU

As a PTA and as parents, we would like to express a massive thank you to all the teachers and staff at William Penn who have gone above and beyond, giving up their time after school and at weekends for events such as Discos, the Horsham Parade, Fireworks Night and the Summer Fair. Thank you to Mr Brookes and Mrs Constable for their contributions in our committee meetings and accommodating so many requests. Particularly hosting a Fireworks night in the first term as a Headteacher!

A huge thank you to all the volunteers (too many to list this time which is fantastic!) who have supported events this year. To extended family members who have stepped in to help, baking cakes, giving up their time and making generous donations.

To the committee members whom for another year have given up their time to attend meetings, organise behind the scenes, come up with innovative ideas, support with events and add a huge amount of value by sharing ideas and thoughts to make us a successful PTA. You are all outstanding and I am very grateful to be part of the committee with you, what a supportive group of people. A special mention to Steph and Katie you are such assets to the running of the PTA and keep us operating smoothly. They make my role incredibly straight forward!

Looking ahead to the coming academic year, the first event is the 'Break the Rules Day Disco' on Wednesday 21st October. Which several parents have already volunteered to help with – thank you! Our first committee meeting following the AGM on **Monday 12th October 3.30pm at Wiliam Penn**, will be our opportunity to review and plan for the events detailed on the school calendar.

We endeavour to ensure that everyone feels welcome and can be a part of the PTA in a way that suits them. With this in mind, we have implemented an open meeting policy for our regular meetings. Some meetings will be held in person at 3.30pm afterschool, others via Teams/Zoom call in the evenings. The idea is that everyone who is a member of the PTA (all of you) are welcome to join these meetings, we shall advertise future dates and times in the school newsletter.

Committee meetings on the other hand will be reserved for all members who are voted onto the committee at the AGM (or co-opted later if required). Our constitution states that we need to have 3 committee meetings a year and these are important as only committee members hold the right to vote on decisions.

Rachel Kerry

PTA Chair

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