

St. John's School PTA - Christmas '21 Update

Keep Calm Christmas is *still* on! (just different...)

The PTA are happy to announce Father Christmas is coming to St. John's on **Saturday 4th December, 12pm to 2pm** for a **Christmas Grotto Experience!** This will be a pre-booked event, details on how to book tickets are below.

This will be held outdoors on the infant playground and the Grotto will be set up in the new shed. There will be a **winter warmer bar, hot chocolate, reindeer food making, a BBQ and entertainment** to keep the pathway to the grotto fun and Christmassy. Those not seeing Santa are still welcome to attend and will not be charged an entrance fee. Hand Sanitiser will be provided, and please take any other precautions that are right for you.

The fair usually raises around £2500 for the school's children and is the biggest event in our fundraising calendar. The PTA voted to hold a smaller, outdoor event, due to Covid-19 and rules surrounding cases at school. If a trigger point is reached, the school has to 'bubble up' and close to events. Rest assured, we will still hold the Grotto (during school hours) if the event is unexpectedly cancelled. **Spread the Christmas Cheer and help raise money for our PTA!**

An **INVITATION to the Grotto** will be sent out to KS1 children in the next few days and a whatsapp message/text message will be sent to KS2 parents. Tickets will be £5 per child, and £3 per additional siblings. There will be a QR code provided on the invite, as well as a link to Justgiving, with instructions on how to pay. Please include your name or your child's name in the message box when making payment to help with ticketing purposes.

To minimise the risk of cancellation we are proposing to bring Christmas cheer with **class parties** and a **mufti day** on the last day of term. More details to follow soon!



Virtual Mega Christmas Raffle...is back and

BETTER THAN EVER! There are over **25** prizes to be won in our amazing Christmas raffle, including £100 cold hard cash, donated by **Andrews Estate Agents**. New for this year, we also have a family ticket to Windsor Castle, an Amazon Echo Show, and vouchers from Haywards at the Grasmere and the Bath Cheese Shop Café. **An extra special thank-you** to

the parents at our school who have donated prizes from their very own independent businesses. **Elisha Greenslade** - £150 voucher for a Pamper Party, **Katie Poynter** - Biosculpt gel nail voucher from her business Just for you Beauty Room, Body Shop Consultant **Georgia Taylor** - £30 of Body Shop products, **Selina & Chris of Crumbs of Keynsham** - ceramic mug and £10 voucher (total value £30), and **Janine Dolphin** has worked with artist **Jenny Sharpe** to create a stunning cushion. A massive thank you to **Heather Legg** for her work with securing a beautiful, magnum sized bottle of wine valued at £60 from The Pig Hotel near Bath. See the rest of the amazing prizes and get your tickets on Justgiving - please read **ALL instructions** when buying tickets. Draw to take place virtually on Facebook on Wednesday 8th December, 8:30pm.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stjohnschristmasraffle>

Create free donations for our PTA while you Christmas shop!



Please use easyfundraising when you shop online to create free donations for your PTA. It's so easy, just download the app on your mobile, or install the donation reminder tool on your desktop or laptop. Open the app, search for the retailer you want, shop as usual and St. John's PTA will automatically receive a percentage of your purchase. Over 6,000 shops and sites, including John Lewis, Boots, M&S, Boden, New Look...the list is endless!

The link is <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnssakeynsham/>



You can also make Amazon pay us too by shopping through AmazonSmile. Visit smile.amazon.co.uk, sign in with your usual Amazon details, select St. John's School Association (Location Keynsham) and start shopping! **You can make a huge difference to our fundraising efforts by using AmazonSmile and easyfundraising.**

We Need YOU! You can make a difference in 2021/22

We will need the help and support of every parent however big or small, even if it's just one thing like bringing a bag filled with donations for bag2school, signing up to AmazonSmile or easyfundraising to support us. You don't need to be a regular volunteer - every parent is PTA. We recognise this has been a tricky year and more than ever, virtual ways to give are important, especially when they cost us less than the time it takes to make a cup of tea. If you're a Year R or new parent and you've never got involved with the PTA but think you could lend a hand in any small way, please join with us and leave a message in the school office with your name, phone number and email, or email talktothepta@outlook.com.

All news and activities mentioned are subject to any changes from central Government or the local authority, and we will align with all safety procedures and support the school in doing so.

Check for up-to-date information on our Facebook page. Search for St John's Keynsham PTA

Thanks for your donations to Bag2School

Thank you so much to everyone for working together through this ongoing uncertain time. By having a cupboard clear out & donating to Bag2School, you raised another **£75**. The next collection is **Friday 8th April 2022**. Please bring any tied shut water proof bags to the bench by the school office. See our WhatsApp group or Facebook page for more info. Please check the 'what to donate' page as items like duvets cannot be donated. We're paid in weight; so shoes, boots or heavier clothing items are especially welcome. Go here:

<https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

Stay up to date in our WhatsApp group

We still use Facebook, but WhatsApp has become so useful to us as a way for any school parent/carer to stay informed and be able to volunteer at the level right for them, even if it's just once a year. If you want to get the latest PTA information and news, please send your first name, initial and phone number to the Chair on 07714149275 to be added. From there, you can also choose to join any of the sub-groups to get more involved, like our Green team or Christmas group.