

Friends of Mandeville Primary School PTA AGM – 30th September 2026

Chair report 25/26

Welcome and Introduction:

I joined the PTA committee when my son started reception at Mandeville School in September 2025. In December 2025 I was elected as co-chair to join Vrishni Maraj. Alongside myself, new committee member, Alina Volans joined too. Regrettably, we lost Cass Cassidy, Laura Mattarini and Hema Adan at the end of the year who have moved on to new schools. They were a huge part of the PTA committee and gave a great deal of time and commitment to us and will be hugely missed. Nevertheless, we will continue to strive to raise funds, provide extra resources, create enriching opportunities for the children and school, and build our school community. We will actively continue to recruit new members to join us, further growing our team, with new and exciting recruitment drives.

Year in Review and Highlights:

This year we ran a range of successful fundraisers including:

- Hook a duck stall at the scarecrow festival and May Fayre
- 3 discos, 1 per term
- Christmas and summer fayre
- Staffed Fanny Galore event
- Tuck shops

And we also held a range of new events too:

- 3 popcorn sales **NEW**
- 6 ice lolly sales **NEW**
- Self-portrait tea towels **NEW**
- Just Giving playground funding, raising £2096.50 **NEW**
- Easter hamper raffle **NEW**
- World cup sweep stake **NEW**

And not to forget to mention, a bake sale run by the year 4 class, a donation of £250 from the Premier League for the SEND department which the PTA match funded to a grand total of £500, and our outside fundraisers 'Easy fundraising' and 'Stikins'.

We celebrated David Attenborough's 100th birthday by fundraising to 'grow a garden'. As a result, the school were donated £120, plus children's gardening tools and equipment, plants, flowers, seeds, compost and more! As part of this garden improvement, myself, Alina and Hema came into school and dug out and replanted the sensory garden. New planters were built ready for planting, and a large herb planter for nursery was built and donated too.

Following a request from school, we reached out to the community via social media for a donation of a washing machine to wash the preloved uniform that school sells to parents as a financially supportive and environmentally friendly incentive. As a result, we were lucky enough that someone donated a washing machine, and a parent of one of our pupils kindly collected and delivered this to us, both free of charge.

I would like to highlight that over the past year we have run some new, very popular and successful fundraisers, in particular the ice lolly sales raising over £800. Consequently, we were lucky enough to receive a charitable donation of a Walls ice lolly freezer making the lolly sales so much more efficient for us. We plan to continue implementing new, fun and enriching ideas like this.

We are excited to currently be a part of Tesco's Stronger Starts scheme (blue coins) in three Tesco stores in Harlow which is running August – November 2026, fundraising for a new bike shelter for the bottom playground.

Taking on the role of social media rep as well as co-chair, I have been working hard to improve our presence on Facebook. I also created an Instagram account for us, sharing regular posts and updates, using Canva for a bold, professional look. This gives us a gateway to parents/carers and the community. Additionally, we modernised the PTA logo, inclusive of our charity number, but keeping the well-recognised red hand print.

We also started using a platform called 'Zeffy' for online ticket sales and our raffle too! This has been a successful step forward and has been welcomed and complimented by parents and carers. We are moving along with the times, which is not only more environmentally friendly, but also quick and easy for its users, saving time and improving efficacy.

Impact of Funds Raised:

Our biggest achievement this year is, in December 2025, we had the £10k key stage 2 playground equipment installed. We also funded:

- A contribution towards school trips/enrichment
- SEND school equipment
- Ice lollies for all children on sports days
- Year 6 leavers pizza meal

Totalling £15,043.03

Following a huge clear out and reorganisation of the PTA shed by myself and Hema, we invested in some new equipment for the PTA. Building up our inventory and replacing old damaged items, we bought items including a new BBQ, gazebos, new games for the fayres, and two notice board banners to mention a few.

Thank yous and acknowledgements:

I would like to express my gratitude to all the members of the PTA committee for your ongoing support, dedication, time and commitment. We couldn't do this without you. I would also like to thank all school staff, including a special thank you to Mrs Whisker and Miss Hales. Thank you to parent and carer volunteers, and all local businesses and companies who support the PTA, and everyone who supports the PTA in whichever way they can.

Looking Ahead:

I am very excited about our future plans and goals. I suggested the idea of an 'Elfridges' PTA Christmas shop, which is a very exciting and enriching event for the pupils, an idea that school is fully supportive of, which should be a great festive fundraiser.

I feel very strongly about further improving our inclusivity for the pupils and families, around SEND and family diversity.

We have a variety of events and ideas for the upcoming year including:

- Termly discos including SEND disco sessions
- 'Elfridges' Christmas shop

- Mandeville Christmas spectacular (Christmas Fayre)
- Family quiz night and much more!

We are currently in the process of liaising with a trust for a grant for a shed for the preloved uniform, to create an inviting shop for parents/carers to purchase items. I have spoken with Travis Perkins who have offered a generous discount for a shed including free delivery.

Our goal is to fundraise for the school's wish list of:

- New curtains for the hall
- Sunshades for the field
- Large fans/aircon units
- Bike shelter and scooter pods
- IT equipment
- Preloved uniform shed
- Picnic benches

We plan on growing our PTA team of active members and we would like to think of new ways to promote and get people on board. We would like to continue to deliver successful events and fundraisers, ideally raising more money each year as our two-form entry school grows. I really am deeply proud of all we achieved last academic year, and am really looking forward to this coming year. Thank you all!

Written by Leigh-Anne Lawrence,

Co-chair Friends of Mandeville PTA,

On behalf of both co-chairs; Leigh-Anne Lawrence and Vrishni Maraj