



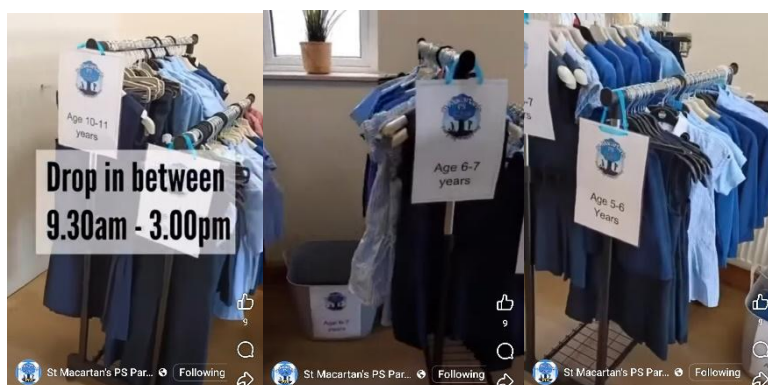
Trustees Report Year Ending December 2024

The trustees wish to begin by acknowledging the work of all the staff of St. Macartan's Primary school, who go above and beyond their duty to ensure that our children get an education within the limited budget of available to them, particularly our school Principal Karen. It's important to recognise the pressures of an increasingly demanding workload that education staff are being expected to perform under. It has been our hope through the different pieces of work that our committee has carried out, that staff know they are supported and there it has had positive impact on staff, and in turn benefit all our children.

PTA Activities

The focus for the 2024-25 academic year of the PTA was "building community and connections" with a variety of activities having been planned.

Preloved Uniforms at the Hope Centre- The Hope Centre were delighted to be approached by our PTA to facilitate the passing on of preloved uniforms during August to families within our communities. Their trustees felt that it was a huge success and are keen to support it again this summer. Thanks to Fiona, Gemma and Noelle for the work they did in preparing the uniforms and presenting them so well.



Summer 2024 'Back to School Outdoor Clean-up' - A clean-up of the outdoor play and classroom areas took place over two Saturday mornings on 10th and 17th August. Parents of the wider school community were invited to come along and help out the school get the outdoors ready for school restarting in September. There was powerwashing, strimming, brushing up, painting fences, weeding, preparing the polytunnel and assembling of storage all undertaken over the two days. A special mention of thanks to Justin and Ronnie McCaughey who collected, paid for and transported the gravel for the pathways and fresh sand for the children's digging areas.



Colour Run- The weather on Friday, 13th September, was ideal, and there was a great turnout of families to this event. The sounds of laughter and chatter filled Knockmany Forest as families made their way along the two different courses, enjoying the evening and connecting with each other. Refreshments were serviced afterwards by our volunteers and school staff. Thanks to everyone who made this a success and a special word of thanks to Donna McKenna and Una McElroy who took care of planning the route, organising volunteer roles and arranging access to the facilities with Mid-Ulster council. Total raised - **£710**





Running vests and Football kits - 7th November saw the delivery of running vest and football kits to the school. Thanks to Donna McKenna who had been working on this from the previous academic year. She has sought out sponsorship, managed design and the delivery of both these kits. It is hoped that they children will feel a sense of pride and belonging when they wear these at the different competitive events.



Christmas Jumper Resale and Coffee Morning, took place on Saturday 16th November. Thanks to Martina McGarry who took the lead with organising this event and securing food donations etc. from local businesses. It was a lovely morning to connect with others and get prepared for the upcoming festive season. From the food donations, there were even enough biscuits and buns to have tea at the P1&2 Christmas play! Also, it would be important to acknowledge the generosity of Clogher Éire Óg's GFC for the use of their 'Shed'. Total raised - **£242.50**



Coffee Break in SARS @ EA Armagh- Mairead brought the remaining biscuits and buns into work and held a Coffee break which raised a further - **£70**



Nolliag na mBann- The PTA hosted a social gathering for the ladies of St. Macartan's PS on Saturday, 4th January 2025, at the Cheeky Fox Restaurant, offering tickets at a cost price of £30 per person. The event provided an excellent opportunity for attendees to connect with fellow parents from St. Macartan's PS, before the snow fell heavily.



Barriers and Challenges

The PTA has faced some challenges with activities, particularly due to limited space within the school building. As a result, the proposed welcome tea for new families in June 2024 was not feasible, as the numbers could not be accommodated in the school building. However, we remain hopeful that the PTA will explore alternative options for the following school year's intake, ensuring a warm and welcoming start for our new families in September 2025.

With the support of different key individuals within our committee taking the lead on various events, we've managed to successfully organise and achieve a number of positive outcomes. To keep things efficient, the Chairperson aimed to limit the number of meetings, and using WhatsApp for communication and logistics has been helpful. That said, engagement has declined, and it may be worth exploring a more effective tool to better drive action and collaboration.

As a committee we are yet to explore the possibility of a family treasure hunt in the near future and we look forward to welcoming new ideas and an agreed focus for the year ahead.

Finally, the Trustee would like to thank all those who have supported the delivery of the PTA activities throughout the year and we look forward to us all making a difference in September 2025.

"It takes a village to raise a child", so let's continue to grow and strength our village, for our children.