Seabridge Primary School PTA

Chair's Report 2025–26

Good evening, and thank you all for coming. It has been a challenging but rewarding year for the PTA, and I'm proud of what our small but growing team of volunteers have achieved for the pupils and wider school community.

A year of events

This was a year of events disruption. We've had to handle a number of complications this year with almost every event impacted one way or another. From the fireworks that were postponed due to it being too windy, to the summer fair being postponed as it was too sunny. The weather has played an outsized role in the events of both the PTA and the school this past year. Despite the complications of having to reschedule events at short notice the PTA members have pulled together to make sure that each rescheduled event went ahead.

The one event we couldn't reschedule was the Christmas fair, which was not viable due to a shortage of volunteers. The PTA exists due to the efforts and support of the members and the wider community. Without every volunteer, in whatever capacity they help, and however much or little time they give, we wouldn't be able to do the things we do.

Our events are the heart of our interaction with the wider school community. Each one gives families a chance to come together, gives the children something to look forward to, and raises money that goes straight back into school life. None of it would happen without the parents, carers and staff who give up their time, and I want to thank every one of you who helped out, donated, ran a stall or simply turned up and joined in.

The year in numbers

Thanks to your support, 2025–26 was another strong year, despite the slow start. Our events raised £11,640 after costs, slightly up on last year. The Firework Evening, the Santa Dash and the Summer Fair were our biggest fundraisers.

Most importantly, we gave £9,205 back to the school, up from £7,562 the year before. That helped pay for the pantomime trip, Bonanza Day, new Early Years equipment, Year 4 residential travel, phonics books and Year 6 leavers' gifts, among other things.

We finished the year with a surplus of £2,434 and funds of £18,447, which puts us in a strong position to support the school this year. The details can be found in the full accounts.

Other activities

As well as the more well known events we have many ongoing activities that help raise funds for the PTA. These range from the obvious sports day refreshments, pre-loved uniform sales, Frozen Fridays to the more hidden, Lyme Lottery, clothing bank donations, easyfundraising and many more. All of these need volunteers to help keep them running and are all key to raising funds throughout the year.

Working smarter

This year we invested in making the PTA easier to run and easier to find. We launched a new PTA website at seabridgepta.org.uk, an online volunteering portal and a dedicated Summer Fair site with online ticketing. This meant less cash handling, quicker queues on the day, and clear information for families in one place. We're still improving these tools to make sure they work for everyone involved and if you have any feedback or suggestions please contact the committee.

We've also set up Google workspace for the PTA so that we can keep all our documentation in one place. Meaning that as new people join the team and as committee members change we don't lose the knowledge and wisdom from those who came before.

These tools belong to the PTA, not to any one person. They make it much simpler for new volunteers to step in and take on a role with confidence.

Our biggest success: people

The most encouraging thing this year has been the growth in people wanting to help. More parents and carers have offered their time, more have come forward for single tasks, and more are asking how they can get involved. Many hands genuinely do make light work, and nobody needs to commit to everything.

Our focus for the year ahead is to build on that momentum:

- **More volunteers, more flexibility.** We want a wide pool of helpers who can pick and choose, whether that's one hour at one event or a regular role.
- **Event subcommittees.** We'd like small teams in place early for the Christmas Fair and the Summer Fair, so planning is shared and starts in good time.
- **Sharing the load and the knowledge.** We're keen for people to shadow key roles, especially the Treasurer, so the PTA is never reliant on one person and is ready for the future.
- **Being ready to help.** We're gathering names for DBS checks so volunteers can support activities with the children.

Thank you

My sincere thanks go to my fellow committee members: Georgina Shawley (Vice Chair), Kirsty Townsend (Treasurer) and Sarah Davies (Secretary). Their time, effort and hard work have kept everything running. Due to her move to Year 6 George is stepping back from vice chair to focus on her in school responsibilities and moving into the school liaison role with the PTA, ensuring we have reliable and effective communication between the PTA and the school itself.

Thank you also to Mrs Kuffour, Mrs Fisher and all the staff at Seabridge for their continued support and partnership. Working closely with the school makes everything we do more effective.

Finally, thank you to every parent, carer, grandparent and friend of the school who supported us this year, whether by volunteering, donating or buying a ticket.

Looking ahead

The PTA is in a strong position going into 2026–27. We have good systems, a supportive school and, most importantly, a growing community of people who want to make a difference. If you've ever thought about getting involved, now is the perfect time. Come and talk to any of us tonight.

Thank you.

Mark Charlton
Chair, Seabridge Primary School PTA