

PTA Summer Newsletter – April 2018

Come on sunshine!

A very warm welcome to all new families joining URC this term and hello again to those of you returning! We hope you had a lovely Easter and are now settling back into the routine.

Firstly I would like to introduce the PTA team:

Chair of the PTA – Nina Whitehead, my son Alfred is in green group and I previously had another son attend URC.

Vice Chair - Georgie Love, her son Jack is in purple group.

Treasurer - Emily McPherson, her daughter Lottie has just started in Rainbow room.

Secretary - Emily Taylor, her son William is in the main school room.

There is also fabulous team of other committee members, made up of Mum's of children at the school past and present. If you are interested in coming along to a meeting or would like to help out at any of our fundraisers please let us know or speak to Mrs Robinson. **Our next PTA meeting is on Tuesday 8th May, 8pm at URC.**

The PTA was set up in order to help the Preschool with a shortfall of funding as new legislation meant that preschools could no longer charge top up fees once children were entitled to their 15 hours free childcare. Unfortunately, the money provided by the Government does not cover the Preschool's running costs – this means there would be two less members of staff and the outstanding level of provision would be threatened if the PTA didn't help raise extra funds. It was decided that the PTA would not cover the cost of wages, but instead buy equipment and resources.

To highlight how such funds have benefited the preschool, last year alone we were able to carry out the following:

- 6 brand new IPADS and ipad covers.
- New outdoor equipment such as the little reading hut & the red seesaw.
- Pre-school learning equipment such as numicon.
- Christmas party & Easter gifts for the Children
- Safety dividers so your children are safe in the garden from the steps.

Fundraising Contributions

NEW FOR 2018!

Our main source of money comes from the voluntary contributions that parents make the term after their child turns three. **This year the PTA have decided to decrease the amount of money we ask parents to donate per child per session as we want to be able to make the pre-school a place that everyone can afford.** BUT we ask if you can afford to donate the contribution then please do so. The money is spent wisely on all the children at the pre-school.

Please make sure you provide these vital contributions, we really do need them (you will receive a letter each term) and don't forget to fill in the Gift Aid form so we can make your contributions stretch that bit further.

URC Fundraising Events Summer 2018

Alongside your valuable contributions, the PTA also organises events throughout the year to help us raise further funds and provide a fun setting to socialise within the 'URC family'.

Please put the following dates in your diaries with further details to come soon:

- **Family fun run – Saturday 16th June 1-3pm, The Oval Harpenden. <http://www.theovalrun.co.uk/> We will be asking you to sign up & sponsor each other in the coming weeks.**
- **Wesley's coffee morning - Saturday 23rd June, High street Methodist church Harpenden. Come along & see the teachers serving coffee & raising money for URC.**

Easyfundraising

PLEASE SIGN UP!

Do you shop online? If so, please consider using 'Easyfundraising' and register using the link <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/urcharpendenpta>, there's absolutely no cost to you, but URC will receive a % of the value of your purchases whenever you shop through this site. There are some great shops registered including Amazon, John Lewis, Waitrose, Boots, M&S, Boden and many more!

Keeping in touch

To keep up to date on our news and events please join our Facebook page – just search URC Preschool PTA Harpenden and you should find us. This is also an easy way to ask any questions or to receive useful reminders!

Please also see the PTA notice board (above the children's pegs) for information.

Have a great term!

Nina Whitehead
PTA Chair