

## **PTA Spring Newsletter – January 2018**

### **Happy new year!**

A very warm welcome to all new families joining URC this term and new year and hello again to those of you returning! We hope you had a lovely Christmas 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.

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:

- Newly revamped bathroom facilities
- Refurbishment of our new Red Room
- Tapestry – our new online learning Journal
- Essential staff training
- Christmas party & gifts for the Children
- Craft & Art supplies

## **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. Without it we could not of funded the Christmas party, the Christmas presents or the upcoming Easter Egg hunt. 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.

## **Fundraising Events 2016**

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:

- **Quiz night with Godfrey's fish & chips - Saturday 3rd March, tickets £10 per person, onsite bar. Tickets on sale soon.**
- **Family fun run – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 1-3pm, The Oval Harpenden**

## **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!

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### **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.

### **PTA needs your help!**

After ½ term we will be asking you to donate your **un-wanted Christmas presents for adults and kids for our raffle hampers**. Please keep hold of them and Chris Rae will be collecting them in February from you.

Raffle tickets will be sold in the run up to quiz night.

**Have a great term and looking forward to seeing you all at the Quiz night on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.**

Nina Whitehead  
PTA Chair