



Parent & Teacher Association

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## **PTA SUMMER NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2017**

### **Thank You**

This is my last letter as Chair of the PTA so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the PTA committee for their fantastic support and hard work over this past academic year. My thanks also go to all you parents, carers and staff for supporting all the events we have arranged this year, we couldn't have done it all without such brilliant support. It's been a great year of fundraising! Everything we raise goes directly back into resources and equipment for the Preschool to benefit our children. With your continued support, we can carry on helping the wonderful Preschool maintain such a nurturing and caring environment for our children attend.

### **Fundraising 2017**

We have had some great events since the start of the year and it's been a busy fundraising period over the last couple of terms. Here's a breakdown of the money we've all helped raise so far:

**Quiz Night - £461**

**5K Run - £1,082**

**Farmers Market - £239**

**Pamper Night - £220**

**Wesley's Takeover - £335**

**Waitrose tokens - £371**

**Easyfundraising - £537**

## **Voluntary Contributions**

Huge thanks to all those that have been paying their voluntary contributions. Our main source of money comes from these voluntary contributions that parents make the term after their child turns three. Unfortunately, the money provided by the Government for 3 to 4 year olds entitled to 15 hours nursery education a week, falls way short of what is needed to run the Preschool at the outstanding level it currently achieves. In fact, Preschool only receives around 50% of the funding needed for each child. Therefore, when the PTA was set up the idea of a voluntary contribution was conceived to help fix this shortfall. We ask parents to pay £4 per session, little more than the cost of a coffee! Please make sure you provide these vital contributions, we really do need them and don't forget to fill in the Gift Aid form so we can make your contributions stretch that bit further.

### **What we have spent the money on**

The PTA have purchased new play mats and toys for the main room to keep the area fresh and provide new play items to stimulate the children. The garden has had a bit of a make-over with the great new sandpit and mud kitchen being installed. Feedback from the children has proven this to be a big hit with them! In addition, we have paid for staff training, new uniforms, a new colour printer and scanner, snacks for the daily morning snack tables, stationary and art and craft materials.

## **PTA Committee**

We would love to welcome more volunteers to join us from September. Being on the PTA is a great way to meet other parents/carers and get involved with the Preschool. We meet once a term in the evening to discuss fundraising events and ideas and organise social events. We recognise everyone has busy commitments and responsibilities that make it difficult to give up too much time, but all contributions of help really make a difference. Please do consider joining us – don't forget to fill out and hand in the PTA Committee form handed out the other week. And please do come along to the AGM on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September – it will be held in the Church at 9:30am after drop off.

## **Easyfundraising**

Don't forget we are currently running our £2 two week challenge! So please continue to do your online shopping via [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) – every penny helps!

### **How it works**

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!

### **PTA Dates For Your Diary**

- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July - End of term picnic party with bouncy castle! This year we'd like to include everyone in the end of term picnic, which will be straight after sports day on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Please bring your own food and picnic blankets and we will be providing a bouncy castle and ice lollies for the children. It will be a chance for parents/carers and children to say goodbye to all your Preschool friends.

We will also be doing a summer raffle where you will have the chance to win a number of great prizes. The PTA will be selling raffle tickets at the start of July and more details to follow.

- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September – AGM meeting, 9:30am in the Church
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September – next PTA meeting, 8pm at Preschool.

Jo Sim  
PTA Chair