



Parsons Down Schools Association

Infant School: Paynesdown Road, Thatcham, RG19 3TE 01635 862475
Junior School: Herons Way, Thatcham, RG19 3SR 01635 866700
Chairman: Samantha Carpenter Secretary: Lynn MacLauchlan
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Reg charity no 279717

Date 10.5.17

Dear Parents/Carers,

WHO ARE THE PDSA?

As a parent/carer to a child that attends Parsons Down you are automatically a member of the Parson Down Schools Association (PDSA), we have a small committee of parents and teachers who meet regularly to plan events and bring new ideas to the school.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We are a registered charity that holds regular fund raising events throughout the year to raise money for both the infant and junior schools, we raised £13,000 last year. We also run some events simply to enhance your child's experience at school, for example, selling Mothers and Fathers day presents gives children a chance to surprise parents, by choosing and paying for something independently.

HOW DO WE SPEND THE MONEY?

The head teachers at both schools have a wish list of things they would like money for, this ranges from small amounts to buy things to enhance a particular topic, to larger amounts for investment into items for school that could not be purchased within the school budget. Items we have brought over the last couple of years include visualisers for every class, playground equipment and hundreds of books! We also regularly subsidise extra activities like swimming lessons and the life bus.

WHAT EVENTS DO WE RUN?

Here are the events planned for the rest of this school year, we have already had the Christmas Fayre, 3 discos, a clothing collection, quiz night, sold Mothers day presents and had an Easter Egg competition.

9.6.17 Summer BBQ (backup date 23.6.17)
W/C 12.6.17 Selling Fathers day presents
W/C 18.9.17 Bag2School clothing collection

We also have a couple of other fundraising events in the pipeline that we are looking into! The PDSA page on the schools website is updated regularly with all our dates.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We can only do all of this with the help of parents like yourselves. Being such a large school it is easy to assume that there will be plenty of helpers on tap to keep events running but sadly this is not the case, and each year we lose experienced helpers as their children move on to senior school.

There are lots of opportunities to put any talents you have to good use –
Wrapping at home
Giving us new ideas to try
Making/sourcing items for us to sell
Volunteering to help at an event for an hour
Match funding from your place of work
Donating raffle prizes from your business or place of work

You are always welcome to join us in our committee meetings as a casual volunteer, or just help out where and when you can, anything you can do is really appreciated. Our meetings are held in the Junior school from 7pm, dates for the meetings are always in the newsletter and on the school website.

In the mean time there are a couple of links below to companies that we work with to help raise money for the school.

Easy2Name - www.easy2name.com - Name labels. Select **Parsons Down Schools Assoc RG19** from the drop down menu when ordering, to get 20% of your order donated back to school.

The Giving Machine - www.thegivingmachine.co.uk - Select **Parsons Down Schools Association** as one of your chosen charities and raise money every time you shop online through hundreds of shops. They even have a download that lets you know if you are shopping on a site that donates, to help remind you!

Scholastic Book Club - <http://shop.scholastic.co.uk> – Select Parsons Down School when checking out to earn a percentage of your sale, for school to spend on more lovely books.

Butlins – Go to www.butlins.com/pta and use the code PDSA1 and we can earn money from your booking.

I can always be contacted by leaving a message in either school reception, or by emailing the PDSA at pdsa@pdp.w-berks.sch.uk

Thank you
Samantha Carpenter
PDSA Chair

