

PTA *extra*



National Year of Reading
Special edition

Weird and wonderful libraries

How to turn any space into a haven for reading!

E-readers, comics and audiobooks

Help every pupil find joy in reading

Bookish event ideas

that everyone will love

SUMMER READATHON

A fun challenge for the holidays

Meet our award winners

The 2025 National PTA Award winners tell their stories



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Welcome from Frank



Hello and welcome to the summer 2026 edition of PTAextra. I'm delighted to be writing to you for the first time as Parentkind's Chief Executive Officer. Leading the UK's largest parent charity is a privilege – in 2025 alone our 13,000 members collectively held 100,000 events to raise a huge £142 million for schools, a superb achievement that that we should all celebrate.

I'm particularly pleased to be introducing myself in this edition as we're celebrating our 2025 National PTA Award winners. You can read their inspiring stories and fundraising successes on [page 23](#). Plus, find out how to nominate your association for the 2026 awards on [page 30](#) and be in with the chance of winning up to £2,000!

This summer's PTAextra is also a wonderful celebration of reading. As 2026 is the National Year of Reading with Go All In, a nationwide campaign designed to help more people discover the joy of reading, this issue is packed with practical ways to get more books into the hands of the children in your school from [page 35](#).

We explore innovative libraries on [page 43](#), with creative ideas to squeeze book spaces into schools that don't have room for a traditional library. If you're planning ahead for the holidays, turn to [page 52](#) for tips on running a successful summer readathon and [page 49](#) has book-themed fundraising ideas that are as fun as they are impactful.

Thank you for the incredible work you do to support your school, families and their children. I hope this edition inspires you to go all in on reading this term!

Warmest wishes,

Frank
Chief Executive Officer, Parentkind



Meet our winners of the 2025 National PTA Awards on [page 23](#)



Discover how your PTA can help with the barriers to reading for pleasure on [page 35](#)

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PTAextra

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Whatever your event needs, you're sure to find it in our supplier directory, tried and tested by our own PTA members



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Have a story to share?

If you would like to feature in a future edition of PTAextra, email us at: editorial@parentkind.org

Share the digital version of PTAextra with your committee



On the cover
This issue, Lydeard St Lawrence PTFA

THE loop

Keeping you up to date
with all things PTA



Introducing Frank Young, Parentkind's new CEO

In January, Frank Young became Parentkind's new Chief Executive Officer. He joined the charity back in 2024 as Director of Policy and Research and later became Chief Policy Officer, leading the organisation's work to make sure parents' voices are heard and are at the heart of education policy and public debate. He wants parents to be a much bigger part of our education debates when big decisions are made, and thinks every school should have an amazing PTA.

Before Parentkind, Frank had nearly a decade of experience in senior policy roles and served as a Non-Executive Director on the Board of Ofsted until August 2025.

When he's not at work, Frank loves playing Mario Kart and Mega Monopoly with his son. He dreams of one day retiring to a cottage in the Scottish Highlands or on a remote Scottish island, but in the meantime wants to help Parentkind stand up for parents and celebrate the incredible work of PTAs!



From the socials

Your burning questions and
comments from PTA Hangout

- Q** We registered with the charity commission as a PA using the Parentkind constitution. We also set up our bank account as a PA. We now want to change into a PTA – is it more involved than just changing our name on the Charity Commission website and our bank account?
- A** To change your association type, you'll need to amend your constitution, call an EGM giving 21 days' notice and vote on the change. Guidance on the different association types can be found on our website: go.parentkind.org/constitution
- Q** Should the minutes taken from an AGM be circulated to everyone afterwards?
- A** They need to be made available to all members to view if they wish, how you do this is up to you as a committee.
- Q** We're holding our first colour run event this year. Please help me with tips/advice/recommendations!
- A** We have a comprehensive guide over on our website, free to members: go.parentkind.org/colour-runs



Reminder!

Nominate your PTA for an award!

Our 2026 National PTA Awards are now open for nominations – and with a top prize of £2,000, it's worth giving it a go! Head to [page 30](#) for more details.

What's your child's favourite book?



As 2026 is the National Year of Reading, we asked our Parentkind colleagues a very important question: *"What's your child's favourite book?"* It started a wonderful discussion – we could fill the whole magazine with their recommendations! Here are a select few:

"One of the best books we had was You Choose by Pippa Goodhart - no words, but lovely illustrations and lots to talk about. The other one that really sticks with me is Wonder by R. J. Palacio. Neither of my children loved reading but my son loved that story."

Kirsty

"All Julia Donaldson books!"

Jeanne

"Dog Man by Dav Pilkey has given my reluctant seven-year-old a love of reading. He can read a whole one in 20 minutes now. And The 13-Storey Treehouse books are fun too. My daughter loves the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, as well as a graphic novel called Smile by Raina Telgemeier."

Ruth

"My son got the biggest telling-off of his life when he took a pair of scissors to the Percy the Park Keeper book..."

Clare

"My five-year-old loves Captain Underpants and Dr Roach's Monstrous Stories. My seven-year-old loves The Iron Giant by Ted Hughes and my nine-year-old adores all of the Wings of Fire books by Tui T. Sutherland."

Sarah

"I loved reading Tinsel by Sibéal Pounder with my daughter every Christmas for a few years! Not sure Point Horror or Sweet Valley High are great examples from my childhood though..."

Anna



Reminder!

Time to clear out old stock

Before the summer holidays, have a clear out of expired stock – throw away anything past the 'use by' date, but items with 'best before' dates can still be sold if they're good quality.

There's an open door for parents at the Department for Education

Following the publication of the Schools White Paper, Every Child Achieving and Thriving, our CEO Frank Young welcomed clear signs that parents are being heard at the Department for Education. From recognition of the impact of parental engagement to the creation of a new parental engagement team, the message is clear: parents must be partners in change.

Our work to ensure the Government puts parents front of mind was reflected throughout, including the use of our parent research. A particular highlight was the direct mention of PTAs and the 'important role' they play for schools due to the great work they do 'supporting parents and the wider school community'.

And it was also encouraging to see the value of our Parent-Friendly Schools accreditation reflected, with the report saying, 'We will also increase awareness and build on the learning of existing programmes, such as Parentkind's Parent-Friendly Schools Accreditation.'



Frank Young at Number 10 Downing Street

This term calendar

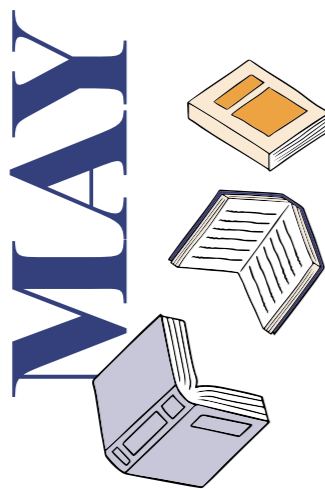
Looking to make the last few months of the school year a term to remember? Here are some significant days and dates to keep in mind for a fun-filled summer term



22 April

Earth Day

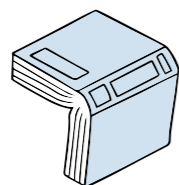
A day that invites the world to take a stand for clean air, clean water, renewable energy, and the protection of our health and the billions of species that share this planet with us. Consider organising a litter pickup event to celebrate the day. earthday.org



National Share-a-Story Month

Organised by the Federation of Children's Book Groups, National Share a Story Month is an annual event designed to celebrate children's fiction and inspire a love of reading. This year's theme is Once Upon a Storytime. fcbg.org.uk/nssm-month.co.uk

For even more ideas on helping pupils fall in love with reading, check out page 49.



1 May

May Day

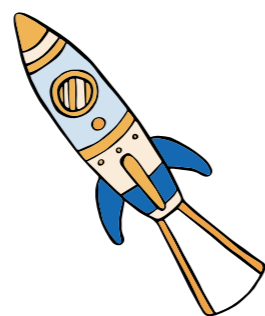
Get that maypole at the ready! As well as maypole dancing, you could hold an event for your school with traditional celebrations including flower baskets, crafting and crowning a May Queen – and why not a May King too? Only seems fair.



4 May

Star Wars Day

May the fourth be with you... celebrate with space-themed costumes and games, food and cakes inspired by a galaxy far, far away, or even a screening of one of the films!



4-10 May

Deaf Awareness Week

This week aims to share and highlight the different ways many deaf and hard of hearing people communicate, including sign language and lip reading. Use this as a learning opportunity and a chance to make your PTA events more accessible for deaf or hard of hearing individuals in your community. rnid.org.uk

21 May

Outdoor Classroom Day

A movement to encourage educators to take children outside to learn. Your PTA can contribute by helping to fund outdoor classrooms and sprucing up areas where pupils can learn, read and explore. outdoorclassroomday.org.uk



Pride Month

It's never been more important to celebrate, advocate and learn more about the LGBTQ+ community. With a rich variety of books written by and about LGBTQ+ people for children and young adults, why not host a rainbow book sale?



1-7 June

Volunteers Week

This week highlights fantastic PTAs like yours and everyone who lends a helping hand to make things happen for your school community. You can thank old faces or encourage new ones to join, but at the very least take a moment to celebrate your achievements with your fellow volunteers. volunteersweek.org

6-14 June

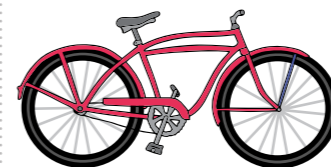
The Great Big Green Week

A week to celebrate climate and nature. Take part by organising a litter pick or clothes swap at your school, or hold an assembly about the climate crisis – there is a free resource pack on the website with lots of useful information. greatbiggreenweek.com

9-15 June

Bike Week

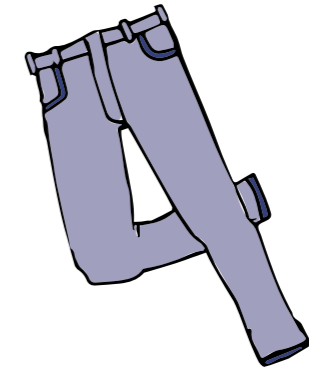
The UK's biggest celebration of cycling! It's great for our own health and wellbeing and has a positive impact on the world around us. Your PTA can encourage more pupils to cycle by fundraising for a school bike rack or road safety lessons for those wanting to cycle to school.



18 June

Autistic Pride Day

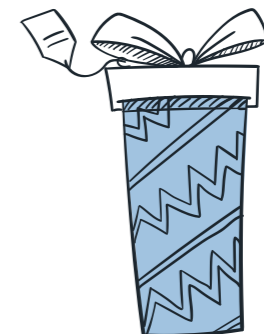
A day to celebrate autistic people and an opportunity to ensure your PTA's activities are as inclusive as possible. The movement was founded by Aspies for Freedom in 2005 and emphasises that autism is a difference, not a disease.



19 June

Wrong Trousers Day

"It's the wrong trousers, Gromit, and they've gone wrong!" Celebrate the classic stop-motion movie by asking the children to wear their weirdest, wackiest trousers to school for a non-school uniform day. Extra points if they have cheese in their packed lunch.



21 June

Father's Day

Let's give a hand for the incredible fathers and fatherly figures in our lives. Help the kids out with gifts and mementos by opening a pop-up shop, or invite dads into the school for an event – we're sure a beer bottle tombola would be much appreciated!

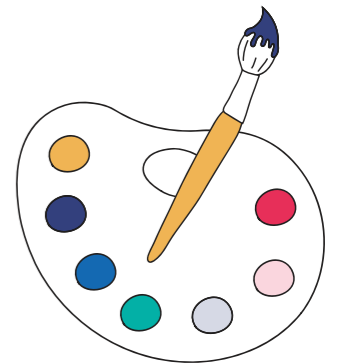
Want tips on setting up a tombola? Check out our quick guide over on page 11.



24 June

National Writing Day

Celebrate the power and pleasure of creative writing on National Writing Day! Help pupils become storytellers with writing workshops, challenges and competitions.



28 June-6 July

Children's Art Week

Encourage the kids in your community to get creative and express themselves. Set up a stall selling art supplies and crafting goodies or host a fair for young local artists to sell and showcase their work to your community.

Map out your fundraisers for the last few months of the term with our full academic year calendar:



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C I N E M A SQuick guide
to tombolas

The tombola is a classic PTA fundraiser – easy to run and loads of fun! Here's how you can drum up excitement while raising money for your committee

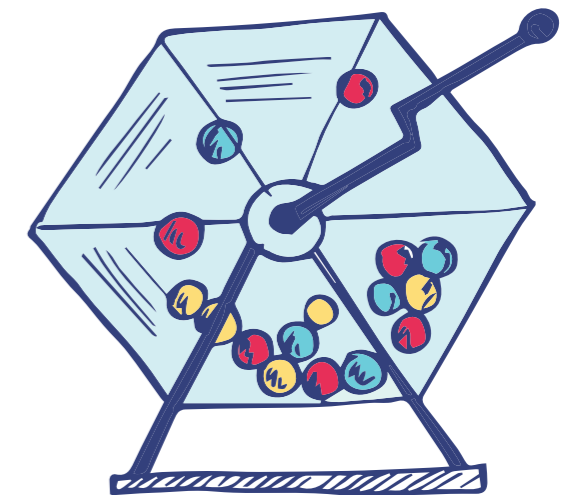
1 Perfect prizes

The perfect tombola starts with the perfect prizes. Depending on your players, cuddly toys, chocolate boxes, sealed toiletries and bottles of alcohol help grab the interest of both pupils and adults. Buy these specially for the tombola, or use leftover goodies from previous events and donations from the community. If you have a lot of prizes to get through, you could put together prize bundles such as luxury hampers, or sell super cheap tickets to encourage more people to have a go!

Top tip! If you're including any alcohol as raffle prizes, check the requirements with your local authority as you may need a TEN licence.

**2** In season

If you want to run a tombola as a standalone event, you'll need a small society lottery licence to do so. But you don't need any special licences to run a tombola as part of a larger event, so host one at your summer or winter fair to add some extra interest. For summer, fun outdoor games, miniature inflatables and toys make amazing prizes. For winter, warm and festive treats like chocolate boxes, Christmassy biscuits and a bottle or two of mulled wine for the adults are just the ticket.

**3** Tickets please

Cloakroom tickets are ideal for a tombola. Make sure the drum is filled with the winning tickets and the remaining 'losing' tickets. Depending on how many prizes you have, we recommend one winning ticket for every four losing ones. Traditionally, winning tombola tickets are those ending in a '5' or '0', but you could assign specific numbered tickets to prizes instead.

4 Win the day

Players buy tickets to pick numbers from the tombola drum – one ticket is one draw, five is five draws, and so on. Every ticket you sell needs to be the same price. Tickets are drawn from the revolving drum to decide the winners. All the tickets need to be sold and drawn during your event, so make sure you have enough time to get through all your prizes.

Top tip! To help everyone feel included, offer a small bag of sweets or something similar to players who don't draw winning tickets.

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Find out more



Modern day PTA: Co-roles



In this issue, we're looking at how teamwork makes the dream work with co-roles

What are co-roles?

Committee officers, such as Chairs, Treasurers and Secretaries play a vital role in PTAs. But these roles don't have to be the sole responsibility of one person – committees can help share the load by having a pair of Co-Chairs, Co-Treasurers or Co-Secretaries.

What does a co-role do?

Whether an officer role is filled by one volunteer or two, the responsibilities are mostly the

same. Co-Chairs, Co-Treasurers and Co-Secretaries will do the same tasks any Chair, Treasurer or Secretary would do on their own. The main difference is that the workload is shared evenly between the two volunteers.

In committee meetings, both co-role volunteers have a vote each – except for Co-Chairs. For Co-Chairs, one volunteer should be agreed as Chair for each meeting. They will hold the extra deciding vote in the event of a tie.

What makes an effective co-role?

- Strong, regular communication
- Ability to delegate and pick up tasks
- Complementary skillsets

Why would I need a co-role?

- **If you have a larger PTA with a lot of activity to monitor:** Having co-roles can help stop lone volunteers from feeling overwhelmed and improve wellbeing
- **If there are volunteers with complementary skillsets and knowledge:** For example, one Co-Treasurer may be more skilled at preparing and presenting reports, while the other is more familiar with using accounting tools and software
- **If PTA committee members have conflicting schedules:** For example, if one Co-Chair has childcare commitments which means they can't attend a committee meeting, the other Co-Chair can lead it in their place
- **If it's more comfortable:** Some volunteers might feel unsure about taking an officer role on their own, so sharing the role with someone else will help them build their confidence and skills

Want a refresher on everything Chairs, Treasurers and Secretaries do? Take a look at our **downloadable PTA role cards** for all the key information and responsibilities:



Turn the page to read how Louisa Alcock and Clare Railton stay in sync as Co-Chairs.

Dynamic duos

Louisa Alcock and Clare Railton work together as Co-Chairs at Walton Primary Academy PTA. We spoke with them to learn how they share this key role

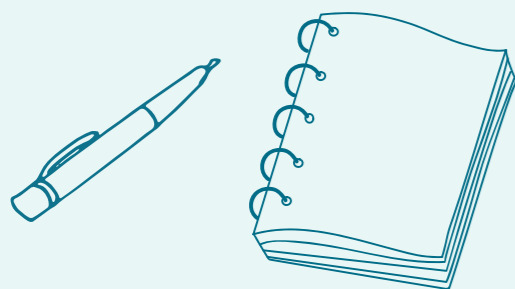
“Having someone to share the decision-making with and run ideas past makes it less daunting, and having someone to laugh with when things don't go to plan makes it manageable alongside busy family life.”


Clare: When the previous Chair said she'd be retiring as her daughter was going to high school in September, Louisa asked if I'd like to Co-Chair with her. I didn't know Louisa at all before we joined the PTA, but we got on so well together in the early stages, we knew it would work.

Louisa: Clare joined the same time as I did. We were both keen to get the PTA back up and running and just clicked straight away! We've been Co-Chairs since 2024. We have different strengths, so we naturally gravitate towards certain responsibilities. Clare is always on it with things like licence applications, grants and spotting a good bargain, while I put together the newsletters, social media posts and do the admin for booking our events.

Clare: It's nice to be able to share the load. I could not do what we do on my own, especially doing my normal job too. If one of us has a lot going on in our personal lives for example, the other will do more during those times. We're also very honest with each other if we don't like or agree with something, which helps.

Louisa: I'd say the only challenge we have with splitting the role is that we're both very pro-active and like to get on with things and occasionally we might forget to let each other know – but nothing major has been duplicated so far!



Louisa and Clare's top tips

- 1 Make sure you're on the same page and have a clear vision and plan, otherwise the split role won't work. It's about sharing the load and supporting each other.
- 2 You must have volunteered with that person before or know them personally. It helped me seeing how Louisa took on the role of Secretary and how hands-on she was.
- 3 It's no small task juggling running the PTA alongside busy family life, so it's important to give yourselves a pat on the back every so often and feel proud of what you've achieved.



Images: Walton Primary Academy PTA, Freepik



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Ask Clare

advice & support



When running a PTA, you're bound to encounter challenges – and that's where we can help. At Parentkind, we have a dedicated team of advisers, headed up by our PTA Community Manager, Clare. With 25 years of experience and a wealth of knowledge to share, she offers her straight-talking advice on your issues

Q Who should be the signatories on our PTA bank account? The school is suggesting the School Business Manager.

A Only elected committee members should be signatories on the bank account as they are responsible for the running of your association. If the School Business Manager isn't an elected committee member, they can't be a signatory. Remember, the funds raised by your PTA belong to your PTA and not the school, so it's not the school's job to keep an eye on things.

Q Do we have to hold a certain amount of money as a reserve?

A You only really need as much money in your account as you need to run your next event and make any regular payments. It's a good idea to have a minimum level of reserves based around that, but it's not essential. You shouldn't be building up large sums of money either. Your funds need to be spent in line with the objects in your constitution, and if they're not spent, no one is benefitting. Obviously if you're saving up for a large project, that's different!

Q Are we expected to spend our own money on PTA items and then be reimbursed?

A There shouldn't be an expectation of this. Your committee should agree an expenses policy that outlays how much can be spent by an individual at a time (if anything), and make sure there are receipts to back all spending. You could also use a pre-paid card for purchases, where committee members can spend a pre-approved amount loaded onto the card by the Treasurer. You certainly shouldn't be expected to make expensive individual purchases for your PTA, and all spending should be agreed in advance by your committee. A model expenses policy is available to download from our website: go.parentkind.org/model-expenses-policy



Q How often should we be purchasing items for the school?

A There's no strict rule around this. Some PTAs spend throughout the year as and when the school requests something. Some will have a timeframe, such as at the beginning or end of every school year. Find out what works best for you and your school. Sit down with the school to find out their preferences and what their plans are so you can think of some things you could fund in line with this, or go through any ideas your PTA may have had. We recommend the school gives your PTA a wish list so you've got some choice. They may have a large project that will need more time and fundraising to complete.



Q We really want to buy some books for the school, but we don't know which ones to buy. We have so many favourites between us, we can't make a decision!

A Talk to the school – they will know which books they need the most, or which ones get read so much they need replacing more often!

Q The school have received a complaint about a committee member. What are they expected to do?

A The school should acknowledge the complaint, but your PTA is separate from the school. Schools can step in as an objective third party to help resolve conflicts, but they shouldn't lead any enquiries. With that in mind, the school will need to ask whoever has complained to speak directly to your PTA. Once you receive their complaint, your PTA should follow a complaints procedure to manage it. If you don't have one in place, you can use the template available on our website: go.parentkind.org/model-complaints-procedure

Got an issue you need advice on? Contact Clare and her team:

Live Chat

Helpline
0300 123 5460
(Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Message us at [PTA Expert by Parentkind](#) or post a question in our community group [PTA Hangout by Parentkind](#)

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How to make the most out of passive fundraising

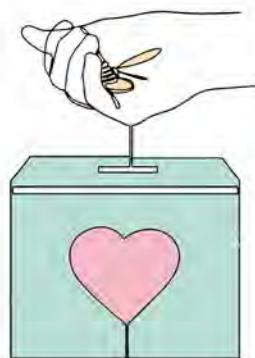
Passive fundraising is income that trickles in without too much effort. Not only is it an easy win for your PTA, but it's a great way for busy parents to support you and feel more connected to the school community

1 Payroll giving

Payroll giving is a simple and tax-effective way for parents to give to your PTA on a one-off or regular basis.

Anyone can join a payroll giving scheme if their pay or pension is taxed through PAYE and their employer offers it. As the payment comes out before income tax is taken off, donors are given tax relief on their donation immediately and at the highest rate, which essentially means your PTA receives more money than the parent gives.

Many organisations offer payroll giving, from large corporates to small family businesses, so spread the word and ask your community to check with their employer. If their employer does offer the scheme, setting up a regular contribution is easy – all they have to do is complete a donor form for their payroll department.



2 Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a government tax relief scheme that increases the value of cash donations from UK taxpayers by 25%. So for every £1 donated under Gift Aid, HMRC will give you an extra 25p! You can claim Gift Aid even if you're not registered with the Charity Commission, but you do have to register with HMRC. Eligible supporters will need to sign a declaration form confirming they are UK taxpayers, but aside from that, it's an easy way to get a little bit of extra funding for your association.



For step-by-step instructions on setting up Gift Aid, head to Your PTA Expert:



3 The Parents Lottery

For effortless fundraising that gives your supporters the chance to win up to £25,000, our Parents Lottery is a real winner. You don't even need a gambling licence: our comprehensive licence covers both your PTA and school for free. Simply sign up via our website and tell your community all about it for a sustainable income stream. You'll also get a free guide with tips and advice on reaching out to your community: theparentslottery.org

4 Match funding

Match funding is when a company pledges a sum of money relating to the amount their employee raises for a charity. If you establish a good relationship between your PTA and the company, this could lead to even more opportunities such as sponsorships, gifts in kind (for raffles and auctions) or general donations.

The best way to get started is by having conversations with your community, highlighting the ways their employers can get involved.



5 easyfundraising

With easyfundraising, your PTA earns money while parents shop online and with

selected retailers instore. So far, PTAs and schools have raised over £13.5 million! Not only is it free, but easyfundraising offer free support and advice every step of the way. To get involved, register your PTA (it only takes a couple of minutes) and then share the scheme with your school community. On the easyfundraising website, you'll find lots of ready-to-use marketing materials to share too: easyfundraising.org.uk/parentkind

6 Online donation platforms

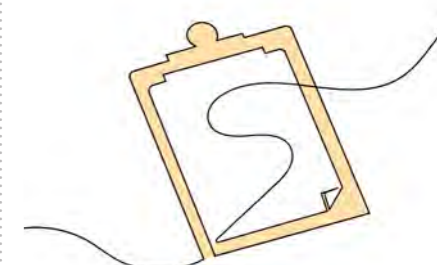
Fundraising platforms such as JustGiving and

GoFundMe are perfect for raising money, either for a particular project or event, or as an ongoing boost to your fundraising. We recommend setting up an online profile with lots of information and photos of your PTA, and then sharing the link far and wide on your social media channels, newsletters and WhatsApp groups. Regularly remind your supporters that if they fancy fundraising for your PTA independently, for example with a charity run, they can do it easily through your chosen online platform.

7 Wish lists

Some people prefer to support a charity by purchasing items rather than giving money,

so they know exactly how their contributions are making a difference. You can create public wish lists on websites such as Amazon, and the items will be delivered straight to a member of your PTA or the school. Alternatively, you can create a public document, perhaps on Google Docs, with items your PTA or school needs. Speak with the school first to make sure you're only including things they truly need on the wish list, and that they're okay to receive deliveries. Remember to share the impact these items have with your supporters to encourage more people to get involved.



8 Register to receive donations on eBay or Vinted

If you're registered as a charity, you can receive

a portion of the money an eBay or Vinted seller makes with every sale. It's quick to set up for both your PTA and the seller. The donations are deposited into your PTA's account each month.



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The power of local PTA meet-ups

Are you curious about how other PTAs are run, or simply want to meet people who know what it's like to juggle raffle prizes, risk assessments and WhatsApp groups alongside day-to-day life? Then come to one of our Parentkind meet-ups!

Children welcome!



“It’s great to hear everyone’s ideas and how they make it work.”

Our meet-ups are for all PTA members, whether you’re part of a long-running committee or just starting out.

Hosted by our Community Engagement Executives, these informal chats are held in Yorkshire and the Humber, the North West, West Midlands and Scotland. They’re perfect for swapping stories, sharing your proudest wins and talking honestly about the trickier bits too. No pressure – just practical support and plenty of, “We tried that too!” moments.

local suppliers and crowd-pleasing prizes to summer fair must-haves, be prepared to come away with lots of tried-and-tested ideas. Because no PTA should feel like they’re doing it alone.

Meet our Community Engagement Executives



Yorkshire and the Humber
 Sarah Anyan
sarah.anyan@parentkind.org



North West
 Ruth May
ruth.may@parentkind.org



Scotland/West Midlands
 Jo McMahon
jo.mcmahon@parentkind.org

“Can you do these PTA meet-ups every month?! It’s so useful to chat through ideas and share local suppliers.”

These gatherings are also an opportunity to find out more about Parentkind membership benefits. If you’ve ever wondered whether you’re making the most of what’s available, this is the perfect place to find out.

But more than anything, these meet-ups are all about connection. They’re a safe, supportive space to ask questions (even the ones you think you should know), celebrate what’s working and pick up those golden nuggets of advice only fellow volunteers can offer. From favourite

Can’t join us in person?

We also host regular meet-ups and webinars online. And if there’s a topic you’d love us to explore, let us know!

“Thank you so much for organising this PTA meet-up, I’ve learnt so much! When’s the next one?”

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Parentkind National PTA AWARDS 2025



In this edition of PTAextra, we're celebrating the winners of the 2025 National PTA Awards, including our cover stars and winners of the National PTA of the Year Award, Lydeard St Lawrence PTFA. We received more nominations last year than any other year to date, so it was truly a tough decision to choose our winners. Congratulations to everyone, nominees and winners alike – the work you do for your community is incredible!



National PTA of the Year Award

Winners: Lydeard St Lawrence PTFA

"A small group with a big heart can make all the difference."

"As headteacher of a small but mighty school, I can say with certainty that the PTFA team has played a vital role in not only enriching school life, but in securing its very future. In recent years, our school has been on a significant improvement journey. Like many small schools, we've faced challenges, but ours have been amplified by rural isolation and the long shadow cast by the Covid-19 pandemic. Through it all, the PTFA have stood beside us, steadfast, passionate and utterly committed to ensuring that our children have a vibrant, nurturing place to learn and grow.

Following the disruption of Covid-19, when community connections had frayed and children returned with new emotional needs, the PTFA became the heartbeat of the school's recovery. They helped rebuild not just structures and spaces, but hope, confidence and joy. Their actions reconnected families, re-energised staff and reminded the children that their school was still a place of warmth, care and possibility.

Their initiatives have been both imaginative and deeply meaningful. The magical tractor run – a joyful celebration of our farming community – has become a much-loved annual event. It raises vital funds but, more importantly, it honours our rural identity, building pride and belonging among children and families.

They created our growing garden, a space where the whole school comes together to grow, harvest, prepare and cook. It's not just a garden – it's a living classroom that teaches sustainability, responsibility and wellbeing. The PTFA opened the gardens to raise money for St Margaret's Hospice, working with the children to celebrate our ECO school.

Their commitment to reading saw them provide a book for every child, promoting literacy and the simple pleasure of owning a story for guided reading. And through Year 6 ambassador projects, they've supported leadership development, giving pupils purpose, voice and responsibility.

Beyond our school gates, the PTFA's vision continues to grow. They've recently begun working with other PTFAs across the Bath and Wells Multi-Academy Trust (BWMAT), hosting joint sports days and creating shared experiences that foster unity across schools.

Their donation of space for School of Rock anti-bullying workshops shows a deep and ongoing commitment to kindness, inclusion and the wellbeing of all children – not just their own.

Above all, the PTFA fights for equity. They ensure every child can access trips, activities and essentials, quietly supporting families with dignity and care. Their impact can be seen in growing confidence, better attendance, calmer behaviour and children who know they matter. They are proof that a small group with a big heart can make all the difference."

- Words by Rebecca Lihou, Headteacher



Primary PTA of the Year Award

Winners: The Plascrug Primary School PTA

"Six PTA members led the planning and secured over £40,000 in grant funding."

"The school follows the Eco Schools Initiative (awarded platinum status in 2016), which encourages student engagement with sustainability. Both the Eco and School Councils regularly voiced frustration about the lack of year-round access to the woods, nature area and field due to a compacted, waterlogged connecting area. In summer 2024, Year 1 pupils were asked to design their ideal playground. Their ideas, alongside input from the Eco Council and teachers, inspired features such as a polytunnel, planters, trellis and benches.

Six PTA members led the planning and secured over £40,000 in grant funding with support from pupils, staff and parents.

Several biodiverse nature zones have been developed, including a boardwalk and bog garden that link established trees to the pond, doubling the green space in the Year 1 yard. We've Improved year-round access to

outdoor areas, which has increased opportunities for learning and play, even in poor weather. The polytunnel comfortably fits a whole class and supports food-growing projects, and there has been a noticeable shift in the school's culture towards outdoor engagement."

- Words by Joanna Jordan, Member/Parent Governor



Secondary PTA of the Year Award

Winners: Eggescliffe School PTA

"The PTA allows EGG SOUP to raise its own funds [...] any additional revenue will be utilised by the PTA to support further extracurricular activities."

"EGG SOUP is our student newspaper. It started life a few years ago as a small club run by one English teacher and has grown to become a printed tabloid newspaper with a distribution of 2,000 copies delivered to students, families, local residents and businesses.

The PTA has been instrumental in supporting the school to grow the newspaper club. Parent volunteers with experience in newspaper journalism advise the club with tips on article writing, as well as sub-editing and setting the pages. Parent volunteers also help to deliver and distribute the newspaper to the community.

Behind the scenes, one of the most crucial aspects to the growth and success of EGG SOUP has been the financial support given by the PTA, which is a registered charity

with Trustees and a dedicated bank account. By keeping any revenue generated by sponsorship and advertising separate from the school, the PTA allows EGG SOUP to raise its own funds, giving supporters assurance that the project is not-for-profit and any additional revenue will be utilised by the PTA to support further extracurricular activities.

The project has great potential for further growth, with discussions underway to involve every department within the school, including art to create graphics and train photographers, IT to train students in using industry-standard software to typeset the newspaper, and business studies to build a team of students with strong customer relationship management and sales skills. This is all coordinated by a joint effort with school staff and PTA volunteers, many of whom have years of experience in these fields.

The response from the local community has been fantastic, and more students are getting involved each term, gaining valuable experience and portfolio evidence for their future careers."

- Words by Andrew Hatton, Chair



PTA Fundraising Activity of the Year Award

Winners: Stocks Green School Association

“Altogether, we raised £13,000 – approximately £130 per child.”

“The idea came for Stocksfest came from our brilliant Site Manager, Ken Till. Before he even joined the school, Ken – a local parent and musician – imagined bringing a live music festival to our school grounds. When he pitched it to me I loved the ambition, and we knew we had a team who could make it happen.

Our aim was to raise funds, of course, but also to bring people together after some difficult years. We wanted to create something joyful and bold that would spark genuine community pride.

We had 13 PTA committee members and 80 volunteers – including parents, staff, pupils, governors and local business owners. Our headteacher, Mr Hipkiss, was behind us all the way, and many staff gave up their time to help on the day.

Stocksfest was held on our school field in Hildenborough – the size of three football pitches.

We had a 30-piece orchestra at the entrance, live bands, NERF laser tag, stilt walkers, food vans, bubble tea, handmade jewellery stalls and a brilliant bar and BBQ run by parents. Around 1,000 people came throughout the day.

Altogether, we raised £13,000 – approximately £130 per child. These funds are already delivering real impact.

Stocksfest is now an annual event. It showed what’s possible when a small school with a big imagination brings its whole community together. It wasn’t just a fundraiser – it changed how people feel about what we can achieve.”

- Words by Erin Florendine, Chair



Changing the Life of the School Award

Winners: Friends of Coltishall Primary School

“The Happiness Hive provides a quiet space for pupils to read, craft, play team games, talk or simply reset.”

“In 2024, Friends of Coltishall Primary School brought a transformational project to life: the Happiness Hive, a dedicated outdoor cabin designed to support pupil wellbeing and emotional regulation. Made possible through our exceptional fundraising efforts, the Hive has become a deeply valued space that complements the school’s wider wellbeing approach, including the myHappyminds programme.

This purpose-built cabin was created in response to the school’s need for a calm, structured space to support mental health, emotional development and social connection. With standard local school capital funding

set at just £6,000 per year, a project like this would normally take years to realise. But thanks to the school community’s support across multiple fundraising events, we could fully fund the cabin’s build.

Now fully integrated into daily school life, the Happiness Hive provides a quiet space for pupils to read, craft, play team games, talk or simply reset. It is used at lunchtimes and during lessons as part of emotional regulation support, 1:1 pastoral care, and group interventions. For children with additional SENCO needs or those experiencing anxiety or overwhelm, it’s become a safe, consistent environment that promotes confidence, inclusion and self-awareness.

The Hive is not just a cabin, it’s a symbol of what’s possible when parents, teachers and children work together for lasting change. Its creation has improved emotional wellbeing, strengthened the school’s support systems and enhanced everyday experiences for every pupil.”

- Words by Wendy Griffith, Chair



Community Initiative of the Year Award

Winners: St Kevin’s Parent Council

“This event really showed us the impact that a little effort and thoughtfulness can have on our community.”

“The Friendship Garden began as a grassroots idea from St Kevin’s Parent Council in late 2023, inspired by a shared desire to transform an underused patch of vacant land into a space that could support outdoor

learning, wellbeing and community connection. Driven by the belief that every child should have access to safe, engaging and green environments, the Parent Council worked closely with school staff, the local authority, and local businesses and organisations to bring the idea to life.

The aim of the project was to create a sustainable community garden that would primarily benefit children at the two schools and the local nursery, while also welcoming wider community use through partnership with the nearby Safety Zone community centre. The goal was not only to repurpose disused land but to create a lasting community asset that could be used for learning, growing food and bringing people together.

The initiative quickly gathered momentum throughout 2024, with funding from North Lanarkshire Council and the UK Government. More than 50 individuals played active roles in planning and delivery throughout 2024 and into 2025, including members of the Parent Council, teaching staff, community volunteers and parents from both schools. Pupils contributed through a garden-naming competition – ultimately won by a Year 6 pupil from Bargeddie Primary – and helped plant the first crops in spring 2025.

The Friendship Garden has provided new learning opportunities, a space for both schools to connect and is a point of pride for the community.”

- Words by Gareth James, Chair



PTA Transformation of the Year Award

Winners: Mary Hare School for the Deaf PTA

“The PTA has become a trusted, influential partner.”

“In 2024, the Mary Hare PTA underwent a remarkable transformation. The growth took off when we launched our all new “100 Club” lottery in 2024, which raised significant funds in an engaging and fun way. The funds were reinvested into student-led projects through a Dragons Den style “Pitch to the PTA” initiative, where students proposed ideas for improving their school environment, invaluable in building their speech and language skills as well as presentation ability. Successful pitches included new common room activities, astronomy equipment for the boarding houses and sixth form space upgrades, culminating in a Pitch Fund of £1,400 being reinvested in these projects.

One of the highlights of the year hosted by the PTA was the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, a wonderfully whimsical event that brought the school community together. Each year group designed their own fabulous ‘MAD HAT’ table centre piece, turning the marquee into a colourful parade of imagination.

The PTA understands how vital strong communication is in maintaining meaningful connections with parents – especially in our boarding school – and we have worked hard to ensure families feel informed, included and engaged in school life. The PTA enhanced communication through monthly newsletters and a dedicated PTA page in the school’s “Soundwave” publication, showcasing the PTAs achievements and inviting further engagement.

Through these efforts, the PTA has become a trusted, influential partner, bridging the gap between home and school.”

- Words by Michelle Fellows, Communication Lead



New PTA of the Year Award

Winners: Durham Gilesgate Primary School PTFA

"Our first year has gone better than we could have possibly hoped!"

"Our journey began with our governing body. Parent governors were surprised to find that the lack of a fundraising body, such as a PTFA, excluded our school from funding opportunities, and they knew the school could do more to harness local talent and energy. Some of the challenges that were reported in governing meetings included time constraints on teachers to provide everything they wanted for their children, difficulties in home-school communications and perceived challenges engaging families with their children's education (including socioeconomic, language and cultural barriers).

In April 2024, we formed a steering group after a successful public meeting demonstrated our project

was viable. Subsequently, we spent time with staff, volunteers and our Pupil Parliament to develop our ideas. The PTFA became incorporated at its first AGM on 5th June 2024. We launched publicly at a community fun day two weeks later, announcing the winner of our children's competition to design our logo.

Our first year has gone better than we could have possibly hoped! Our group has grown to 30 plus volunteers who represent our diverse communities – including young working-class parents who felt intimidated by the school setting, recently resettled refugee families, families travelling from afar for our specialist provision for deaf children, and families who have migrated to Durham (domestically and internationally) for the university.

We've organised three large community events, have become regular faces in school assembly and, through lunchtime and afterschool clubs, have engaged with nearly every one of our 155 schoolchildren at some point in the year."

- Words by Jenny Lawshaw, Chair



Volunteer of the Year Award

Winner: Ali Hutcherson, Friends of Hinderton

"Ali never stops – she has an energy, passion and determination unlike anyone I have ever met."

"Ali Hutchinson is a one-of-a-kind superstar who has single-handedly relaunched and re-envisioned 'Friends of Hinderton' and the impact 50 families can have to support the education and wellbeing of the pupils of Hinderton - a small specialist primary school for autistic children.

Ali took on the role of Governor and was then asked to relaunch the PTFA, which had ceased in 2015. Without hesitation, she agreed and immediately launched into a fundraising campaign – 'Hundred miles for Hinderton'. She raised a fantastic sum of £1,050 to support music enrichment, which had already created a lasting impact upon her own son. Ali's first fundraiser was not only financially successful, but caught the attention of the local media. This selfless act of personal challenge fundraising inspired a sudden parental engagement and supportive community.

In under a year, and under Ali's leadership and encouragement, Friends of Hinderton has won competitions, held numerous parent-led fundraisers, held a children's sponsorship event, engaged in community events and raised in excess of £10,000.

Ali never stops – she has an energy, passion and determination unlike anyone I have ever met. Her tireless efforts in fundraising, social media celebration, community links and outreach have made a monumental difference in the lives of the children at Hinderton. She has done all of this while supporting the complex needs of her own children, supporting numerous other SEND parents in the community and fighting for SEND reform."

- Words by Emma Howie, Treasurer



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Parentkind National PTA AWARDS 2026

The National PTA Awards 2026 are a celebration of the time, hard work and dedication that PTAs and supporters volunteer to raise vital funds for their school community. Our annual awards give PTAs the chance to receive local and national recognition for their achievements, as well as the chance to **win up to £2,000!**

And the categories are...

PTA Fundraising Activity of the Year Award

Prize: £250

For outstanding innovation in fundraising, this award celebrates the impact of funds raised, the strength of the home-school partnership, the support from parents and any challenges that have been overcome.

Changing the Life of the School Award

Prize: £250

For outstanding non-fundraising achievements, this will be awarded to a PTA that has had an impact on school life, such as changes to the school's physical environment and/or ethos.

PTA Community Initiative of the Year Award

Prize: £250

Celebrating projects that specifically engage the school with the local community, this award is for the successful cohesion between the school body and local businesses, residents and other community groups.

PTA Transformation of the Year Award

Prize: £250

For PTAs who have grown as an association, demonstrated by their members or projects, and gained recognition from their school, community and other successful collaborations. PTAs will need to demonstrate at least two achievements.

New PTA of the Year Award

Prize: £250

For newly formed PTAs or PTAs who have relaunched after a 12-month absence. Tell us the rationale behind the formation of the association, what you hope to achieve and any challenges you have overcome.

PTA Volunteer of the Year Award

Prize: £250

For outstanding contribution to a PTA. An individual may be nominated by PTAs, parents, school staff, governors and other educational professionals.

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PTA Inclusivity in Action Award

Prize: £250

Recognising PTAs that go above and beyond to include pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND/ALN) and long-term health conditions, removing barriers and creating activities, events and communication that work for all families.

Primary PTA of the Year

Prize: £500

Winners will be chosen from all nominations received for PTAs associated with primary schools or nurseries, decided by our panel of judges.

Secondary/Post-Primary PTA of the Year

Prize: £500

Winners will be chosen from all nominations received for PTAs associated with secondary and post-primary schools, decided by our panel of judges.

National PTA of the Year

Prize: £2,000

The crowning glory of the National PTA Awards, the recipient will be chosen from the finalists in all categories (except PTA Volunteer of the Year Award). The award will be given to the PTA who best encapsulates the ethos of a PTA and their contribution to the school and/or wider community.

“

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Helping groups celebrate is what we love to do

The Parentkind National PTA Awards are a celebration too – recognising the PTA teams who give their time and energy to their schools. The people who make things happen.

Through our own Teacher of the Year Award, we help parents celebrate teachers. Now, through the National PTA Awards, we're proud to celebrate the parents who volunteer their time to make school communities stronger. That's what this sponsorship is all about, communities coming together to recognise one another and mark the moments that matter.

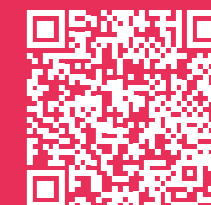
We're looking forward to celebrating alongside you and shining a spotlight on the incredible work of PTAs across the country.

– **Michael Smith, Chief Marketing and Product Officer of Collection Pot**



Our 2025 National PTA of the Year Award winner - Lydeard St Lawrence PTFA

Scan here to submit
your nomination:



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★ How to nominate

Award nominations are open to all PTAs in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

- PTAs can nominate themselves or be nominated by someone else
- The project or new/relaunched PTA must have occurred between January 2025 and December 2025 (for relaunched PTAs, there must not have been a PTA at the school in the 12 months prior to relaunch)

- Nominations can be submitted via our website or by sending the completed digital version of the nomination form via email
- Nominations open: **Monday 13th April 2026**
- Nominations close: **Midnight on Friday 26th June 2026**

If you have a query about the National PTA Awards 2026, please email us at ptaawards@parentkind.org

Spending wisely

“Foundation stage children are able to read by Christmas. It's incredible!”

Louise Blyth, former Chair of Quilters PTA, shared how her committee brought big changes to books and reading resources in their school

Tell us about yourself and your PTA.

I was Chair of Quilters PTA for seven years. We currently have 13 members.

This year, we've managed to bolster our numbers up with a few new parents who have been really keen!

How did you come to invest in a reading scheme and a new phonics programme for the school?

A few years back, the school came to us about a new reading scheme for the juniors. The kids answer basic questions on their laptops and it predicts their reading level. It picks up the children who are more fluent at reading, but it also picks up the children who are reluctant to read. We invested £7,000 in that scheme.

More recently, the headteacher told us our phonics scheme isn't suitable anymore. They had books that were quite possibly from the 1980s! It wasn't following what the children should have been doing in their curriculum.



A new phonics programme would cost £20,000 and the school asked if we would fund it. I was instantly sold because it sounded really good, even just on paper.

£20,000 was invested in a new phonics programme

How did you approach fundraising for these projects?

I am very competitive. When we first came on board, I remember the Treasurer saying to me, “We've just

had a backdated Gift Aid. It was a lot of money. It's obviously boosted our yearly take. You're never going to make that again.” And in the back of my head, I'm like, of course I am! We doubled it in the first year and we just kept building on it.

For as long as I've been on the PTA, we've always run what can only be described as the World Book Day extravaganza. We have book sales in both the infant and junior schools, and in my first year – I'd never seen anything like it – kids were scrambling to buy books!

From a PTA point of view, we made it clear that any money raised on World Book Day goes back into books, because to me that was only fair. On World Book Day we raise about £1,200.

We have a summer fair every year and a charity ball every other year. Our raffles tend to raise a lot because of the amount of work we put in making those community events.

We try and put on a lot of events, but then we have easyfundraising and commissions from Stampstastic's name labels. We have bits and pieces like that running in the background as well.

Does your PTA use grant funding?

We were very lucky many years ago to win an Aviva grant, which was £5,000 for a big project. We've had smaller ones like the Tesco Blue Tokens for our garden project. Nothing for books. And it's a lot harder to find grants that apply to us nowadays. But obviously we keep trying!

How much have you invested in total into the reading scheme and phonics programme?

Quite possibly £30,000, if not £35,000.

How do you usually approach PTA spending?

We always get three quotes on things, we don't just order it from Amazon. Even if it means we save just a fiver here and a couple of quid there, we're always looking to see if we can get it a little bit cheaper. And if parents own businesses that we can buy from rather than ordering from big businesses, we tend to do that. We had some wood bark

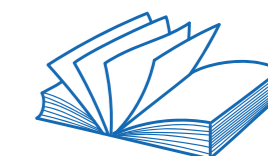


delivered for our outdoor area, had it dumped in the playground and had parents come in to shovel it in because it saved us about £600!

What has been the impact of the new reading scheme and phonics programme?

It has changed everyone's life. For the staff it's made teaching the children to read so much easier. The books are matched to the phonics the children are learning in their classes, so they can read pretty

much 90% of every single book. So you don't have children getting frustrated because it's too hard. And the amount of fiction, the non-fiction...it has totally changed the school. Foundation stage children are able to read by Christmas. It's incredible! The children are reading so much better and they actually enjoy it.



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How PTAs can help every pupil find joy in reading

Make every year the *National Year of Reading* by instilling a love for books in your school

Parentkind's 2026 'Reading for fun – parents' views' report shows a clear message: parents value reading, but many need help to make it part of everyday life.

Encouragingly, **86% of parents** say it's important to read with their primary-aged children, showing strong awareness of the role reading plays in learning and wellbeing. Yet this doesn't always translate into practice. **Fewer than half (41%) of children aged four and under are read to regularly**, highlighting a significant gap in early reading habits.

Confidence is a key barrier. **28% of parents say they avoid reading with their child because they lack confidence in their own ability**, rising to nearly a third among fathers.

The report also reflects changing habits. Children are now **more than twice as likely to spend time on social media (53% daily)** than reading for pleasure (20% daily).

Overall, the findings show that parents want their children to read for fun, but need support – that's where your PTA comes in.



Before you put your fundraising hat on...

Ask your school for ideas
 Your school might be crying out for certain books, reading aids or other resources. Teachers also hear conversations between pupils every day, so they might have some fun ideas for you!

Ask other parents for ideas
 They know their kids best! They can tell you what their child is interested in, what their particular barriers are to reading and what might motivate them to read more.

Reading to learn vs. reading for fun

There is a huge difference between reading to learn and reading for fun. When it comes to having fun, pupils don't have to (and often don't want to) pick challenging books or those aimed at their age range. When holding a book sale, you might want to consider grouping books in terms of interest or genre rather than age or skill level. You could also label some books as 'quick' or 'cosy' reads to show that reading is about the experience, not about what pupils feel they should be reading. Just keep in mind the possibility of younger children picking up books that might be inappropriate for them.

Reading for fun – parents' views – Parentkind research



Images: istock.com/Caitimage/Robert Daly

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Reading isn't just about paperbacks

From e-readers and audiobooks to magazines and graphic novels, there are lots of different reading formats you could fund to encourage pupils to read. Ask the school if there are any magazine subscriptions you could contribute to, if they could do with some e-readers in the library, or consider adding more graphic novels to your book sale.

Keeping reading accessible

To help get children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in your school into reading, adaptive book kits are amazing. These interactive books make stories more accessible and engaging with simplified, repetitive text and tactile, textured pieces. They are available as printable or physical sets. Speak with your school's SENDCO as they'll know all about adaptive books – they can tell you if they need some and, if so, which ones to get.

Dyslexia pens, or reading pens, are also incredibly useful tools that many schools are crying out for, and not just for children with dyslexia – the pens often have language settings, so can be used for pupils for which English is an additional language too.



There's a book for everyone

We all remember reading books at school that we hated! It's not that these books were unenjoyable – they just weren't enjoyable to us. This kind of experience can give reading a bad rap as pupils might not realise there are books out there more aligned with their interests.

Whether you give them away as prizes and freebies, or offer them up as part of a book sale, there are lots of fun, trendy reads that your PTA can introduce pupils to. There are books on KPop Demon Hunters, Fortnite, Minecraft, Pokémon, LEGO, Taylor Swift... whatever pupils like, there's bound to be a book about it! And don't forget the pupils who just aren't into stories – there are plenty of non-fiction titles out there suitable for all age ranges.

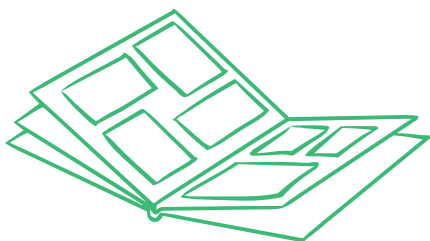


Representation matters

When collating books for sales and prizes, try and include titles that feature different ethnicities, cultures, religions, family situations and physical appearances. It's hugely validating if a child can see themselves represented in a book, plus if a child reads about lives and experiences different to their own, it builds their emotional intelligence and empathy.

For more bookish event ideas, head to [page 49](#).

Images: istock.com/DGLimages, Freepik



Supercharge your school fundraising with SuperKind

PTAs regularly report their sponsored events as by far their lowest hassle to highest return event. With 2026 marking the National Year of Reading, more PTAs than ever are choosing sponsored reads as their go-to fundraising event. Simple to organise, inclusive for all ages, and hugely engaging for children, sponsored reads are proving to be one of the most effective ways to raise funds while championing literacy.

As the **official schools fundraising partner of the National Year of Reading**, SuperKind is proud to support PTAs in making their sponsored reads bigger, easier and more successful than ever. By engaging pupils directly in sponsored activities – from sponsored reads to 2026 challenges to colour runs – PTAs find a powerful way to connect with a much wider circle of supporters. Children love creating and sharing their own fundraising pages, and research shows these pages reach **4x more donors** than traditional campaigns, as kids send them to grandparents, neighbours, and even family abroad.

The results speak for themselves: PTAs using SuperKind typically **raise 3x as much** as their previous offline campaigns. And because children take the lead – asking for sponsorship, logging their reading and spreading the word – these events are minimal hassle for busy volunteers.

Even better, SuperKind is free to use and **automatically handles Gift Aid**, adding up to a 25% boost to your total at no extra effort.

Empower your pupils, inspire a love of reading, rally your community, and achieve record-breaking results – all with SuperKind.



We chose SuperKind because it's one of the only fundraising platforms designed specifically for children, making it easy and empowering for them to get involved. The children loved seeing their efforts make a difference and the results were incredible! We raised over £16,000 towards our new playground, smashing all previous totals. SuperKind made it fun, motivating, and effortless.

– Angela Farmer, Ashmead Primary School PTA



We raised over £2,000 using SuperKind for our sponsored read. We set up a sponsorship page and shared this with the school community; SuperKind also generates a QR code that you can add to posters advertising your fundraiser. The SuperKind link and page were so easy to use. And now we can buy some amazing new books for children at our school! This is the third time we've used SuperKind and would definitely use them again."

– Helen Ward, Friends of Elmwood School



Start fundraising today at: [SuperKind.org/PTA](https://superkind.org/PTA)
Or get in touch at: hello@superkind.org

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PTAs can now partner with GoHenry to help raise important funds for your school. Get started today and get a £25 PTA donation for every parent you recommend who joins GoHenry. Imagine the difference it'll make to your PTA fund and school!

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Parents will need to activate their child's GoHenry account. We'll send £25 to your school's PTA account once the account has been active for 28 days. Consumer survey was conducted by Censurwide in September 2021 with 2,000 adults (age 18+) and 1,000 children (age 6-18) in the UK. T&Cs apply. © GoHenry Limited. All rights reserved. The GoHenry card is issued by IDT Financial Services Limited, a principal member of VISA Europe.

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The parents lottery

It's tough balancing fundraising alongside running the events kids love. Let the Parents Lottery do the heavy lifting, so your PTA can focus on the fun stuff!

The Parents Lottery is a fully managed, user-friendly online platform that empowers your PTA to generate a powerful income stream. It's easy to set up and your PTA won't need a special lottery licence - we've got it covered. Plus, Parentkind members get a whopping 60% of every £1 ticket sold!

Players can win up to £25,000!

*Schools and non-members get 50%

26
5

How to get started:

- ✓ Enter your contact details on our website, along with the details of your school
- ✓ Set up your account - make sure to upload a picture!
- ✓ Tell friends, family and everyone in your community how to take part in the lottery

Ready to see those funds start rolling in?
Visit theparentslottery.org/join

Gamble responsibly

A Lottery is a form of gambling. If you, or someone you know, needs information and/or help with a problem gambling, please call the National Gambling Support Network on 0808 8020 133 or visit www.begambleaware.org. Parentkind PTA Members will receive 60% and non-members and schools will receive 50% of each ticket sold naming them as beneficiaries. You must be 18 or over to play or claim a prize. The lottery is licensed and regulated by the Gambling Commission. (Licence number 057904). The Parents Lottery is a weekly lottery promoted by Parentkind Enterprises Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Parentkind. It is run under our remote operating licence (Licence No: 057904) and all proceeds will come to us, allowing us to ensure the highest return to PTAs and schools on the market.

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Book grants

Want to make big changes to reading at your school? Here's our quick look at where to find book and reading-related grants, as well as other options you can explore to support children's reading

Where to find book grants

Grants4Schools – With a searchable database of grants and email updates about new funding opportunities, Grants4Schools is a great place to start exploring. Parentkind PTA Members get 50% off a 12-month subscription – find out more on our supplier page: go.parentkind.org/Grants-4-Schools

The National Lottery – With grants both big and small on offer, National Lottery funding covers the whole of the UK. You can narrow down your search to projects supporting education and the arts:

lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/funding

FundEd – For an annual subscription, FundEd gives access to over 300 school grants, covering the whole of the UK and searchable by school subjects and needs: funded.org.uk/grants

GOV.UK – The UK Government has published a broad list of charitable organisations, trusts and grant databases with the specific goal of funding libraries: gov.uk/government/publications/libraries-applying-for-funding/potential-funding-sources-for-libraries

Your community – From supermarket community schemes like Tesco Stronger Starts, to donations from small businesses and societies, there are loads of fundraising opportunities waiting in your local area. Find out more about how to get the community involved on Your PTA Expert: go.parentkind.org/Community-Promotion

Some grant givers don't accept applications from PTAs, but you can work together with your school to identify opportunities and submit applications.



Highlighted book grants

- ★ LoveReading4Kids Funding for Schools: lovereading4kids.co.uk/the-lovereading4kids-funding-for-schools-scheme
- ★ National Literacy Trust Libraries for Primaries: librariesforprimaries.org.uk/schools
- ★ The Siobhan Dowd Trust: siobhandowdtrust.com/about-the-trust

More to explore

- ★ Scholastic book fairs are hugely popular with children of all ages. Running one earns you free Scholastic Rewards, which you can claim and spend on books, teaching resources and more: bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/rewards
- ★ Usborne Community Partnerships provide unique opportunities to schools, including running events and discounts on book orders: usborne.com/gb/usborne-community-partnerships/about
- ★ Read for Good offer free guidance and resources to help schools make their libraries more accessible, inclusive spaces: readforgood.org/libraries

Scan the QR code to find out more about applying for grants:





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Weird and wonderful libraries



If there's not enough space for a library in your school but you'd like to help set one up, then it's time to get creative! No matter the size of your school or your PTA's budget, there are lots of unique ways to create an area for borrowable books for pupils

Images: Elite Gibson



Vending machines

Book vending machines have become a bit of a craze in recent years, and for good reason – they're eye-catching, fun to use and promote reading for pleasure, which is great for growing minds.

Most schools use book vending machines as a reward system – the tokens used to operate the machine are given to pupils for good behaviour or academic achievement, and pupils are allowed to keep whichever book they choose. But you could also run it under a borrowing scheme and hand out tokens in exchange for a returned book.

There are a fair few companies that sell refurbished vending machines. They can even customise them to include your school logo and colours. If you're struggling to pick a company, ask for recommendations on our Facebook group, PTA Hangout.



Phone boxes

If you don't like the idea of a vending machine but do like the idea of a vertical space for books, old phone boxes can be bought online and spruced up with shelves to become libraries too! They can be kept inside or outside, depending on where you have room on the school premises.



“

I saw a post on PTA Hangout about a book vending machine and felt it could encourage reading for pleasure across the whole school if it was fully funded through the PTA. Our book vending machine will not only support the school for this year but for years and years to come. Our recent Ofsted report even acknowledged that 'reading is a priority' and that the children 'love reading rewards – the book vending machine is a real winner!' We are so proud of our achievement and can see the positive impact it has made to our school.

Jimena Vergara-Lincoqueo, Chair of Clowne Infant and Nursery PTA

Vehicles

If you have space outside your school to park a vehicle, you could convert a bus, van or trailer into a quirky home for borrowable books.

Full disclosure, this project is a big undertaking! Firstly, you'll need to decide if your library will remain mobile or not. It will be much simpler and cheaper if the vehicle is no longer usable, but you will then have to ensure you have a permanent parking spot for it.

Once that's decided, the real work begins! You'll want to spend a good chunk of time working out how to make best use of the space. How many books can you store inside? Do you want to build in seating or other storage options? How can you make sure the library remains secure?

You'll need a lot of input from the school, of course, but also some handy volunteers who enjoy a good fixer-upper. The result will be a glorious reading space that will capture the imaginations of pupils (and hopefully garner the attention of the local press too, which is great exposure for your PTA and school community!).

“

We converted a double-decker bus into a school library. The blood, sweat and tears were beyond anything we had anticipated, but so was the end result!

The project came about quite simply through necessity - the school is housed mainly in Victorian buildings and was desperately short of space. Once funding was secured, we gathered work parties consisting of PTA members, parents and staff over many, many weekends to design, convert, paint and upholster our fabulous bus.

The difference to the life of the school is huge - we now have a library space that the children are excited to visit, a space for small group work, a space for reading groups and a private space for the school's Thrive Practitioner, who says that the difference to her work with the children has been immeasurable.

Kate Smallwood, Joint Chair of Friends of Bawburgh School



Images: Ellie Gibson

Sheds and shelters

Has your school got an unused shed you can claim? Or maybe there's a free patch that would be the perfect spot for an outdoor library?

If you have some sort of structure already in place, you'll need to check a few things before you fill it with books. Make sure it's waterproof, has good insulation, and factor any needed repairs (such as the roof or door) into your budget. With a good clean, a lick of paint, some shelves – and perhaps some furnishings like rugs, electric fairy lights and a comfy chair or two – you've got yourselves a library!

If you're starting completely from scratch, you'll need a base or foundation for your shed or shelter to sit on to keep it stable and dry. Flatpack sheds are easy to put together and relatively cheap, but you'll have to upgrade it to ensure it's waterproof and secure from pests, because mice love to chew books! Cabins and garden rooms are more durable and can look lovely, but they're often a lot more expensive.

Another option is a converted shipping container – there are companies that repurpose them, so your school could have a really unique library!

Must-haves for happy books:

- ♥ Little or no direct sunlight
- ♥ Good air circulation (*and not too damp*)
- ♥ Cool temperatures – 16°C to 21°C is ideal



Nooks, crannies and corners

Your library doesn't have to be all in one room – it could be dotted all over your school! Any wall or corner can be transformed into a home for borrowable books. You could even designate certain classrooms for particular genres or age ranges, and create a library map so pupils know where to find what they're looking for.

Perhaps the ultimate little book lover's dream is a reading nook. All you need is a comfy sofa or armchair tucked away somewhere, surrounded by stacks of books. Bliss!

“

Our brand-new library, which cost over £5,000, has transformed a dull and uninspiring corridor of shelves into an inviting room where children want to be. Every child in our school gasped in amazement when we came back after half term, and there is a renewed enjoyment of reading and of taking care of our books.

**Michelle Cheeseman, Head of School,
Friends of Milborne St Andrew First School**

Images: Ellie Gibson

Top tips for your weird and wonderful library

- ★ Speak to your school before you make any plans
- ★ Any building work will need to be coordinated by the school
- ★ Shop around if you're looking for professional help and get as many quotes as possible – ask for personal recommendations from your community too
- ★ Don't be shy about asking parents for help, both for putting together your library and maintaining it, and be specific about the skills you're looking for
- ★ Host a book drive – most families have a stack of books they'd be happy to donate
- ★ Apply to grants, contact companies, reach out to booksellers and approach the local press – this is the kind of project people love to help with!

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Bookish events for primary schools

Get the pupils in your primary school hooked on reading with these extra special storytelling events



reading experience, so why not get the children to design their own bookmark? The design could be of a favourite book, character or a self-portrait of the child reading, whatever inspires them.

All your PTA needs to do is hand out rectangular-shaped pieces of white card and ask the children to return their design by a certain date. Alternatively, hold a craft afternoon in the school and supply pencils, pens and paint for the pupils to use. Just remember to write the children's names on the back of the bookmarks so you know who made them! The winner could get a selection of age-appropriate books or a book token, or their design could be photocopied, laminated and given out for everyone to use.

Book walk

Combine the joy of reading with exercising in the great outdoors by creating a book walk. Simply set up a route, either around your school or in your local community, and tape up inspiring literary quotes along the way. Then task your walkers to hunt down each one, ticking them off on a map as they go and seeing if they can figure out which books they're from. At the end, you could hold a book sale with the books you quoted.

Turn the page for bookish event ideas for older children and teens.

Immersive storytime

There are many ways your PTA can transform storytime into a magical experience for the children in your school. From costumes, props and decorations to acting out the stories with actors or puppets, bringing a beloved book to life is a surefire way to create treasured memories for the little book lovers in your school.

Start planning your immersive story-time by choosing a well-known, much-loved book. If you were to choose *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson, for example, you could turn your school hall into a beautiful

woodland. Or if you decided to read one of the *Paddington Bear* stories, you could serve up sandwiches and ask the children to bring their own bears to listen to the story.

Keep the excitement of storytime going by handing out copies of the book afterwards for the children to take home, or hold a general book sale so families can pick a new bedtime story.

Design-your-own-bookmark competition

Fun, personalised accessories can make a huge difference to the

Bookish events for secondary and post-primary schools

Keeping older children interested in reading for pleasure is a little tougher – but certainly not impossible!

Mystery book sale

Bored of a standard book sale? A mystery book sale is a great way to build excitement for reading, introduce different genres and get pupils invested before they get the chance to judge a book by its cover!

Wrap up some books in paper and either write the very first sentence or a short description of what the book is about on the front. You could host a book swap in the same way by asking pupils to wrap up a book they've read and write a review on the front to entice a sale.

Author Q&A

Inspire pupils to read (and become future writers!) by inviting an author to speak at your school. Afterwards, you could have a book sale with signed copies of the author's work and a writing workshop.

Book bingo

Challenge your school with a book bingo. Create a board with a series of prompts, such as a translated book, a book with less than 200 pages, a genre you've never read before and so on. The first to check off all the prompts wins a prize!

You could launch the challenge with a cosy readathon in the school, with snacks and a 'sleepover' vibe.



The Masked Reader

Think the Masked Singer TV show, but for reading! Put the call out for willing pupils and faculty members to wear a mask and perform a dramatic reading of their favourite story, play or poem, either to camera or live on stage in the school hall. The rest of the school then has to vote who they think the Masked Reader is, plus name the book the Masked Reader has chosen. It's a really fun way to introduce pupils to new books, and you can sell them in a book sale afterwards or make a special display of them in the school's library!

Comic Con

Comic books are incredible storytelling mediums and are just as valid as prose novels when it comes to reading for pleasure. Host your own mini Comic Con by selling a wide range of graphic novels, comics and manga for pupils to buy. And if pupils are talented cosplayers, a competition with a professional photoshoot is a must!



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Summer Readathon

The long school holiday is a wonderful time to spark a love for reading with a big summer readathon! We think it's a perfect fundraiser for the summer break, so here's everything you need to know about bringing the joy of a summer readathon to your community

What is a summer readathon?

A summer readathon is a simple, fun-filled fundraiser where each pupil is sponsored to read as much as they can over the long summer holiday.

Each reader sets a reading goal, collects sponsorship pledges from friends and family, and donates their total to the PTA at the end. It's a perfect way to get pupils to fall in love with reading without even realising it!

Getting started

Send a letter home explaining the readathon, along with the dates it will take place. Include the date that children's sponsorship forms, readathon trackers and funds raised will need to be handed in after the readathon.

Setting targets

Every pupil reads differently and it's important for them to set goals and track their reading in a way that suits them.

Pupils could track their reading by:

- The number of books they read
- The number of pages they read
- The minutes they spend reading in total
- Reading for a certain amount of time each day
- The number of chapters they finish across different books

So, while one pupil's target may be to read ten books, another's may be to read for 30 minutes per day, and so on. It's all about finding a goal that they're comfortable with!

Readathon resources

Give pupils a helping hand with some key resources. Each pupil will need a readathon tracker to help record their progress – we've included one with this magazine that you can photocopy and hand out, or you can scan the QR code below to download it. You'll also need to give each pupil a sponsorship form so your readers can ask family and friends for sponsorship pledges, plus record how much they're raising.

Use our ready-made readathon tracker:



Stepping past the page

Remember, it's not just about print books and words on a page. **Many pupils find it easier and more fun to listen to audiobooks.** Some may want to track how many audiobooks they listen to or how many minutes they spend listening. Plus, beyond classic fiction, there is a world of non-fiction, graphic novels and comic books, online blogs, magazines and newspapers tailored for children and teenagers. Your readers have so much to choose from and what matters most is that they're developing their skills and enjoying themselves! This also helps your readathon be more inclusive of pupils who may have difficulty reading, such as those with dyslexia or additional learning needs.



Theming your reading

Giving your readathon a fun theme helps pupils engage and explore as they read. You could choose an overall theme for the whole readathon, or switch it up week-by-week. Different themes could help pupils to read in a certain genre or encourage them to read beyond their usual choices.

Sunny page-turners

Deserted treasure islands and scorching safari adventures are perfect for a summer readathon. From classic tales like Enid Blyton's *Five on a Treasure Island* to the amazing animals and plants living in the world's hottest places illustrated in Gail Gibbons' *Deserts*, this theme promises exciting new discoveries for everyone.

Royal readers

Invite your pupils to explore stories about kings, queens and everyone in-between. Every child will find something to love with this theme, whether it's catching up with favourite fantasy characters or learning about real kings and queens in non-fiction.

Ticking the boxes

Create a short list of challenges for children to complete with each book they read. These could include things like:

- Read a book released this year
- Read a book written before I was born
- Read a book recommended by a family member or friend
- Read a book that has won an award
- Read a book that can be finished in one day
- Read a book set in another country

Make sure your challenges are suitable for the age range of your readers. They don't have to complete every challenge, but it will encourage them to check out books they might not have chosen otherwise!



Fantastic fiction for all ages

Some pupils might not know which books to start with, so we've put together a list of some of our favourite fiction suggestions for different ages below. Every pupil has different confidence in levels their reading, so encourage them to choose books they enjoy and are interested in.

Ages 5 to 7

The Gruffalo – Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

Uncle Bobby's Wedding – Sarah S. Brannen and Lucia Soto

Coming to England – Floella Benjamin, illustrated by Diane Ewen

George's Marvellous Medicine – Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake

Ages 7 to 9

Bunny vs Monkey – Jamie Smart

Charlotte's Web – E.B. White

Varjak Paw – S.F. Said

A Bear Called Paddington – Michael Bond

How to Train Your Dragon – Cressida Cowell

Ages 9 to 12

Beyond the Bright Sea – Lauren Wolk

The City of Ember – Jeanne DuPrau

The Wild Robot – Peter Brown

Inkheart – Cornelia Funke

Ages 12 to 14

The Northern Lights – Philip Pullman

A Wizard of Earthsea – Ursula K. Le Guin

Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan

Like No Other – Una LaMarche

Ages 14 to 16

More Than This – Patrick Ness

Nobody in Particular – Sophie Gonzales

I'll Give You the Sun – Jandy Nelson

Wild East – Ashley Hickson-Lovence



Encouraging reading at home

Readathons are an amazing motivator for pupils, but parents and families can inspire them too. Why not encourage them to join in the fun with an adult readathon running alongside their children's? It can spark conversations at home, help pupils feel excited to dive into their next read and show them that reading is truly for everyone!

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At the end of the readathon, collect everyone's donations, tally up the total and share the achievement with your community. It's not a competition for who raised the most. Instead, reward your bookworms with certificates celebrating how much they've helped to raise collectively, giving every pupil a reminder of how much they've supported the school.

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Setting boundaries: more than just behaviour management

Jennifer Wyman, Bridge the Gap Child Mental Health C.I.C

Feeling exhausted repeating yourself or facing emotional pushback when setting boundaries? This webinar explores why boundaries matter, how they shape children's behaviour and practical ways to set clear, consistent limits while staying calm and confident as a parent.

06/05/26 | 7.30 - 8.30pm

An introduction to Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA)

Sarah Stewart, The PDA Society

Join us for a dynamic introduction to Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA). Gain insight into what it really means, explore how it impacts children, and walk away with practical strategies to support your child with confidence.

14/05/26 | 12 - 1.30pm

Supporting an anxious child

Jennifer Wyman, Bridge the Gap Child Mental Health C.I.C

This webinar equips parents and caregivers with practical tools to support anxious children. It explores how anxiety presents, ways to better understand and manage it and strategies that can help children feel calmer, more secure and better supported.

20/05/26 | 12 - 1.30pm

Be School Ready panel discussion

Dr Kathy Weston, Jennifer Wyman and Sarah Anyan

Starting school is a big milestone – for children and parents alike. This expert-led discussion explores how to support your child through the transition, from managing first-day nerves and building routines to encouraging friendships, developing key skills and preparing for early school experiences.

02/06/26 | 12.30 - 1.30pm

Preparing for secondary

Michael Whitworth and Miranda Perry, Abrial

The move from primary to secondary school can be a big change for children and parents. This webinar explores key differences between schools, how the parent school relationship evolves and practical strategies to help your child navigate the transition with confidence.

09/06/26 | 7.30 - 8.30pm

Healthy snacks and lunchboxes on a budget

Jenny Tschiesche

In this webinar, nutritionist Jenny Tschiesche shares practical advice on creating healthy, balanced lunchboxes on a budget. Drawing on 15 years of experience, she offers simple, affordable ideas and strategies to help families provide nutritious meals children will enjoy.

19/06/26 | 12.30 - 1.30pm

Helping your child succeed in reception

Lisa McLeod

This webinar helps parents understand what children learn in Reception, covering the 7 areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage, Early Learning Goals and the Reception Baseline Assessment. It explores adult-led and child-initiated learning, scaffolding play and ways to support early literacy, maths and communication skills.

24/06/26 | 12.30 - 1.30pm

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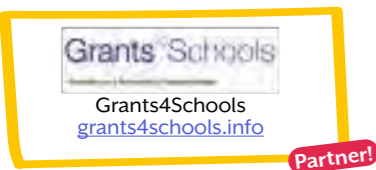
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