



Charity No. 1074903

Friends of Little Gaddesden School - Information

Dear Parents,

Our PTA - The Friends - is one of the real strengths of the school and is a contributing factor as to why parents choose Little Gaddesden. We are a social group who raise money for the school, but try to also have a good time whilst doing so.

However, at the last few committee meetings, many parents suggested that it was important to clarify why the fund raising element of the 'Friends' is so important to the school, as not everyone is clear on the formalities of the Charity and its funding responsibilities.

The formalities: As our school is a voluntary-aided school, it means we are a *maintained school*, eligible for capital funding by the department for education via Herts County Council. However, at least 10% of the costs of capital funding must be provided by another organisation, in our case this is The Friends.

The Friends also help reinforce the strong link with the Diocese of St Albans; as a voluntary aided school the contribution from the parents then enables the school access to additional funds supplied by the local authority.

Fund Raising:

The Friends is therefore a very active PTA and we host a variety of social events for parents and families each year. As well as being lots of fun, these activities help raise valuable funds used to increase opportunities for the children at Little Gaddesden School. The Friends could not survive without support from parents, carers and the wider community.

It is our goal that no child shall ever miss out on a school trip for financial reasons. But in addition to this, as recent Government cuts filter down to the local authorities and the school's budget is reduced, it is relying more and more on the Friends to help fund specific projects. As you may have seen in recent newspaper articles, the funding cuts to schools will only increase, this means that the funds raised by The Friends become even more fundamental to continue to offer our children an enriched education with a variety of amazing learning and sporting opportunities. In recent years we have bought

- Interactive 'Clevertouch' screens for classes 1 & 3
- Purchased iPads
- Equipment and resources bought in 'Golden Time'
- Playground equipment
- Transport to the Christmas theatre trips
- Transport to swimming at Hemel Hempstead
- As well as many other smaller projects
- Contribution to footpath and facilities improvements
- In the last year, we have given the school a lump sum of funding as our contribution to the day to day running costs of the school. This was considered fundamental to allow the school to direct their central funds to pay for increased teaching time and TA

support in classes. We are exceptionally lucky at Little Gaddesden School to have such qualified and experienced teachers and a high level of teaching support per pupil, but this comes at a cost. Therefore, our contribution helps the school manage their budget to allow our children to benefit from this excellent teaching support.

Being a small school the responsibility of fund raising often falls on a few people, but we would like to encourage everyone to try and become involved in the important work The Friends do to enrich the education and opportunities offered. We completely understand that due to work and other commitments not everyone can give their time, but we always welcome new ideas and support, as little or as much as you can offer, any contribution will be gratefully received.

If you would like to help in anyway, or would like further information about The Friends please contact any of the committee members.