

BEATRIX POTTER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Magdalen Road, Earlsfield, London SW18 3ER

Headteacher Mr S. Neale, DipEdTech DipEd MA

Deputy head Ms D. Lawrence, BEd

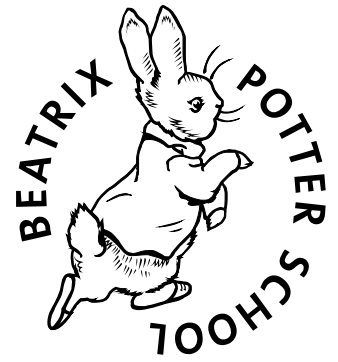
Business manager Mrs V. Taylor-Walker BSc (Hons) MA

Telephone 020 8874 1482

Fax 020 8871 9416

Email info@beatrixpotter.wandsworth.sch.uk

www.beatrixpotterschool.com



FROM THE BEATRIX POTTER GOVERNING BODY

Dear Parent

Beatrix Potter Voluntary Parental Contribution Scheme

During each academic year we ask all parents to contribute a small regular amount to the school to enrich the quality of our children's education throughout the academic year. The scheme is voluntary, and allows us to maintain a high and varied standard of education for our children. Voluntary contributions are now common in many state secondary schools and a number of primary schools have introduced similar schemes.

We are asking parents to make a donation to the school for each term or academic year (a simple direct debit form is attached). We are suggesting a regular donation of £12 per term **per family**, although you are welcome to give more, if you are able, or if you have more than one child in the school and would like this to be reflected in your donation. We recognise that there are many ways to contribute to the work of the school (time, classroom help, working with the PTA), so you may choose not to give. However we want to encourage as many families to give additionally via a small, regular donation. Even if you are unable to give the recommended minimum amount, we would value any regular donation you can afford. **Parents are also asked to Gift Aid their contribution which adds 25% to your donation at no extra cost to you.**

What would the money be used for?

Funds raised through parental contribution will be used to enrich or expand the educational activities provided to our children. They would be allocated to provision of such activities as dance, drama and the arts, music, sport and physical activity, which often fall outside the National Curriculum and don't attract the funding they deserve. The regular nature of the contribution scheme allows us to plan our expenditure with a degree of confidence on educational activities such as the following:

Planned Budget	
Creative workshops, Opera, Art or Storytellers etc	£1,000
External speakers in Science, History, Geography etc	£1,000
Sports, dance and drama	£5,000
Total	£7,000

The way that the funds are spent will be decided upon by the Head teacher and teaching staff; and is at their discretion and professional judgement as to what would most benefit the development of BP pupils and the principle of 'better education for all'. Each year the voluntary contribution fund will establish a proposed budget for planned activities and all expenditure will be reported back to parents.

Why are parents being asked to contribute money to a state funded school?

Small schools like BP have not been able to take advantage of the funding economies of scale open to larger schools. Although the move to two form entry will help us in this respect, nonetheless tightening budgets continue to make it a challenge to provide the full range of educational experiences many of us would want or expect for our children. Beatrix Potter has an outstanding reputation for the quality of education, care and support it provides to our children and we are keen to sustain this.

What about the PTA and existing fundraising events?

Beatrix Potter has one of the most successful and energised PTAs in the borough. In recent years the PTA has raised between £15,000 and £20,000 each year from a range of events. This money has been allocated to special purchase and varied items of expenditure, such as kitting out the ICT suite; stage lighting and sound systems for the hall; and providing PCs and whiteboards for each classroom. Sometimes a specific need is identified by the school, and the PTA works towards raising these funds. The requirement for new classroom equipment and facilities will not go away. Perhaps more importantly, the fundraising events organised by the PTA make a significant contribution to the sense of community within and around the school. The Summer fete, quiz nights and discos all help build a vibrant sense of community for parents, pupils and teachers and the majority of parents (and children) are very keen for this to continue. The financial contribution would not be an alternative to PTA fundraising and the work of the PTA will therefore continue and expand.

What do I do now?

If you are new to the school or would like to contribute to the scheme going forward ask for a form from the school office or go to the web site where a form is on line.

Please make sure you tick the right box for the amount you wish to give, before completing the bankers and Gift Aid details.

Return the form to the office with the envelope clearly marked 'Voluntary Parental Contribution'.

All information relating to donors and donations will remain confidential and the Head teacher and staff will not have access to information on which families are giving via this scheme.

Thank you very much on behalf of the School Governors, PTA and the Head teacher and staff of Beatrix Potter School.