



30th Anniversary Newsletter

Fundraising

Fundraising has always been important to Ashridge and over the years our committees have done an excellent job raising money. During recent years fundraising has become even more important and is now a vital source of income, without which Ashridge may have to close. Our efforts have increased to reflect this and we're pleased that this has paid off - in 2008/09 we raised around £4,500, in 2009/2010 around £5,000, and this year we are already in excess of £6,000!

We are totally reliant upon volunteers to maintain this level of fundraising activity. Unfortunately a number of the parents that have been our main fundraisers in recent years will soon be leaving (as their children move on to school.) Also, with an increasing number of Mum's returning to work, it is harder and harder to get volunteers. If you have any spare time, or particular skills that would be of help, we would really appreciate any support that you could give.

Community Spirit

Fundraising events are an opportunity to pull the community together and we always encourage parents (and families and friends!) of current and past Ashridge children to join us; everyone is welcome. Our Summer Fayre is by far our biggest event - both for raising money and involving the community. This year's Fayre had a real buzz to it; we had loads of feedback from people saying that it was a wonderful day. It was lovely to see children of all ages and extended families all enjoying the event.

We also hold other events during the year, intended to help people get to know each other and have a good time as well! These events include such things as quiz nights, Pampered Chef evenings, and a Twilight market (you will see dates advertised on the tables)

Sustainability

The change from three to two intakes (and ultimately one next year) to schools in Wokingham is having a massive impact on local pre-schools. Fewer children at the Nursery will mean less Government funding for Ashridge. However, in order to keep the nursery open 2 sessions a day, 5 days a week, our costs will remain the same. The financial impact of this is £9000 less income for Ashridge in this financial year.

We are reviewing our working practices to reduce costs where possible. However we must also attract more families to Ashridge in order to maximise our income. You can help us by recommending Ashridge to any young families that you come into contact with.

Recent Activity

During the past couple of years we have made some substantial improvements to our outside play areas. This is particularly important because of the growing emphasis on outdoor play within the early years foundation stage curriculum.

We have created a wonderful Nature Garden - a space where our children can experience and enjoy a natural environment. The entrance playground has been re-surfaced and the grassy area in the main playground has been replaced with artificial grass which is proving to be well worth the investment. We have also installed a new canopy to enable the children to play outside in most weathers. These improvements have obviously involved a significant investment, but a combination of fundraising and a government capital grant have made it possible

Committee

As you may know, some of the original founders of Ashridge are still heavily involved in the running of the nursery. We would love to see ex-Ashridge parents returning to the committee as sometimes it is at a later stage in life when you have time to commit to such roles. This is a great opportunity to make a difference to the local community and perhaps give back to something which gave your child a great start in life. In particular, roles such as Vice Chair, Publicity Officer and Secretary don't necessarily need to be undertaken by someone who currently has children attending the Nursery.

Any help in the Committee makes a huge difference to the others involved, who all give up their time voluntarily in order to ensure the continuation of such a fantastic pre-school for our kids. Parents also benefit by getting to know each other and creating a school community that will be enjoyed by all for many years to come.

Please consider whether your skills and effort could benefit Ashridge Nursery and the children.

The Giving Machine

As you now know, Ashridge Nursery depends and survives on the donations we receive. Most of these we get through fundraising...either through events we organise or products we sell.

However, we are able to raise funds through a medium that costs us, and you, absolutely nothing, except the click of a mouse. Amazon, ELC, John Lewis, E Bay, M&S, Boots, Asda, Currys & many, many more.....these retailers will pay Ashridge a commission every time you shop with them! BUT this won't cost you a penny!

Ashridge Nursery is registered with The Giving Machine so visit www.thegivingmachine.co.uk to find out more.

Gift Aid

We are really grateful for any donations that we receive; and we are able to claim, from the taxman, an additional £2.50 for every £10 donated if a Gift Aid form is completed (and the donation is from a taxpayer).

Wokingham Times - we could win £200!

The Wokingham Times Community Cash scheme offers charities and other non-profit making groups the chance to win £200. Every month they pull a token out of a hat and one lucky group wins the cash. Tokens are printed in the paper and these need to be filled in and returned. Each month a winner is pulled out of the hat - so the more tokens we send in every month the more chance we have of winning!

What can you do?

Please complete the tokens and send them to the address given. Keep on filling in the tokens for as long as the scheme is running so that we have a chance every month. Then keep your fingers crossed!
