

Ideas for How to Spend the PTA Funds

- **School Trips & Enrichment Activities**

Funding trips to give children diverse experiences—for example:

- A visit to the Science Museum in Edinburgh
- Trips to Newcastle to see plays, visit museums or art galleries
- Cultural or religious experiences
- Transport costs for school trips

- **In-School Experiences**

- Inviting speakers (e.g. the planned Gladiator visit)
- Author visits
- Artist visits
- Whole school experiences that benefit all children

- **Facilities & Resources**

- Forest school toilet
- Outdoor play equipment
- Books
- Wildflower seeds
- Contribution towards improved internet wiring

- **Annual or Special Events**

- Whole-school Christmas treat
- End-of-term fun day
- Visits to Alnwick Playhouse
- Movie night
- Disco

- Talent show (children showcase out-of-school skills)
 - **Support for Families & Pupils**
 - Subsidise trip costs for families who are struggling
 - Leavers' hoodies
 - Hardship fund – e.g. a 'Together We Thrive' fund or 'Whittingham TEAM - together everyone achieves more'
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Fundraising Ideas

- **Swaps, Sales & Donations**
 - Teddy bear/toy/clothes swap
 - Vinted: older pupils could learn how to photograph, post, and manage sales
 - School calendar (pupil-coordinated photo project)
 - School tea towel – popular gift idea for grandparents
 - Mother's Day gift shop – kids make bracelets and wrap with flowers (£5 each?)
 - Shopping night/clothes swap
 - Unwanted clothes sale
 - Krispy Kreme doughnut fundraiser: buy at 50% discount and resell
 - Chocolate raffle/hamper
 - Hampers (Christmas, Easter, etc.)
- **Fun Competitions & Activities**
 - Class penny competition – fill large water bottles with coins; prize for the winning class
 - Pancake Day – £2 per child; pancakes served at break with toppings
 - Duck race – sponsor a duck

- 100 Club draw
- Smarties fundraiser – give each child a tube of Smarties and ask them to return it filled with 20p coins
- Human slot machine – teachers hold up fruits; kids pay per turn for a chance to win
- 50/50 raffle – winner gets half the pot; the rest goes to the PTA
- Talent show entry fees
- World Record attempt: <https://kids.guinnessworldrecords.com/records/set-a-record>
- **Special Events**
 - Magic evening – magician performs for an hour; hot dogs served afterwards (similar to a disco)
 - Pro Strike Events: kids pay to take part; run externally; PTA keeps 50% (<https://www.prostrikeevents.co.uk/>)
 - Food demonstration evening – Jane Lovett-style; ticketed event with demo, glass of fizz, etc.
 - Pub quiz
 - Beetle drive
 - Race night
 - Sports day – sell refreshments or create themed hampers instead of raffles
 - Coffee morning or afternoon – other local schools do this successfully
 - Christmas coffee morning with stallholders
 - Whittingham Show – get the community involved

Final Note

I really appreciate how hard the PTA has worked and the fantastic fundraising efforts this year. I do think we need to be mindful of how much is spent and ensure that a portion is kept in reserve for future projects the school may need help with.

It's important that funds are not used for things that should be covered by families, and that we continue listening closely to what the school and pupils truly need. This approach has worked well in the past—for example, funding the yurt and the running track.

We should consider whether the PTA could contribute towards new internet wiring, as this would benefit the whole school.