



Monday 16th June 2025

Sent on behalf of the Governing Board

RPTA THRIVE FUND – CAN YOU HELP?

Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents,

We are writing to talk to you about the difficult subject of school finances.

As a school we aim to deliver a high standard of teaching, recognising the needs and abilities of every child. In order to do this, we invest 84% of our school budget on staffing, to provide high quality, inspiring teaching that challenges and motivates all children. This leaves 16% for basic necessities such as stationery, teaching and learning curriculum resources and all the running costs of the school site, including utilities. Any extra income the school can generate from lettings, RPTA events, parental contributions and potential grants allow us to supplement the development opportunities available for our children.

As you will be aware from the media, schools are facing huge financial pressures and most schools have been forced to make spending cuts. Many Hertfordshire primary schools (including ours) have already had to implement measures to reduce the number of support staff (non-teachers), despite knowing the invaluable contribution those staff make. The governors and senior leadership team wish to avoid further significant cost cutting measures, but this is likely only to be possible through the support provided to the school by our families. This is where you come in...

What?

As governors, it is our job to ensure the school is making the best financial choices in the interests of the school and your children. This means making sure we have enough funding both in the short and the long term to deliver high quality education. In light of requests received by parents and as a result of ongoing funding shortages, the governors' Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee is introducing a voluntary funding scheme, the '**RPTA THRIVE FUND**'.

Who?

Many families in our school and the wider community continue to face challenging economic circumstances. However, we have been made aware that others have enquired about providing additional financial support to the school. We appreciate that this might not be a possibility for everyone. Parents and carers support the school in many ways, not always financial. Generous giving of your time, to school or RPTA events is invaluable and we would like to take this opportunity to thank those who do what they can. For others, time is of a premium and we have been told they would prefer to show their support financially.

Why?

We have received a number of enquiries in the Parent Focus Group meetings (minutes available on the website) about the possibility of making more regular financial contributions to the school. We

have also reviewed the funding models in other schools. As such, we are launching, in line with many maintained schools in the area, a parent-led, Gift Aid-enabled funding scheme. We hope that money raised through this scheme will enable the school to continue to fund enhanced provision over-and-above the core requirements of the National Curriculum, notwithstanding other financial challenges and what would be possible with current government funding alone.

For example, if 100 families (less than half of our parent body) contributed the cost of one barista coffee each week the scheme would generate an additional income of over £20,000 a year for the school which could be used to fund enrichments such as equipment, trips and/or books.

How?

If you or a family member are in a position to contribute, then we invite you to follow [this link on the school website](#) to set up a regular payment via direct debit to the RPTA (a registered charity no. 290848). There is no minimum donation, and you can stop the payments at any time.

Where?

All funds raised by the RPTA are spent for the benefit of the children, ensuring value for money and maximum impact. Whilst we always welcome parents' views, donors will not be able to specify how money is spent as it will be spent in line with the school's needs and priorities.

For additional details or to ask any questions please email the Finance, Premises and Personnel committee at governors@redbournprimary.co.uk, who are happy to discuss further.

With huge thanks in advance,

Governing Board
Redbourn Primary School