

## Got the idea?



Raise some extra cash with Lucy Smales' suggestions for novel fundraising activities



### The sky's the limit

This is a colourful spectacle, a great outdoor event and will test the skills of budding aviators! Pupils, parents and teachers enter a competition to design and fly a kite. Spectators watch from an appropriate position. Prizes, which may be donated by local businesses, could be awarded for the most original design or the kite which stays longest in the air. There should be an entry fee for every kite and/or sponsorship for the time that individuals can fly their kites. This event could be combined with a barbecue or picnic to raise extra funds.

### 'Take a tenner' challenge!

In this unique challenge (and easily organised event), families are requested to accept £10 from the PTA with the aim of using the money to make a lot more. This could be done in a number of ways: making food such as jams or pâtés to sell, organising a family fun day, making cakes or homemade cards, operating a car cleaning service or organising a family quiz. With some thought and imagination from parents and children alike, this is an exciting challenge to see who can make the most profit from £10 and thereby raise funds for the school. >

# It's a gift!

Not all PTAs are wise to the benefits of Gift Aid but with Rachel Newcombe's advice, a lot more of you will discover how just a little effort can reap surprisingly big rewards

**A**s a PTA, you'll want to make the most of the money you raise. But are you aware that Gift Aid can boost your funds and help the money go further?

'Gift Aid is a simple scheme enabling charities to reclaim the basic rate of tax on donations received from UK taxpayers,' explains a spokesperson for the Giving Campaign. By using Gift Aid, the value of individual donations can be increased by 28%, something that can be very beneficial, especially if you're able to involve lots of donors. So, for example, if someone donates £10, the taxman adds £2.82, giving you a total of £12.82.

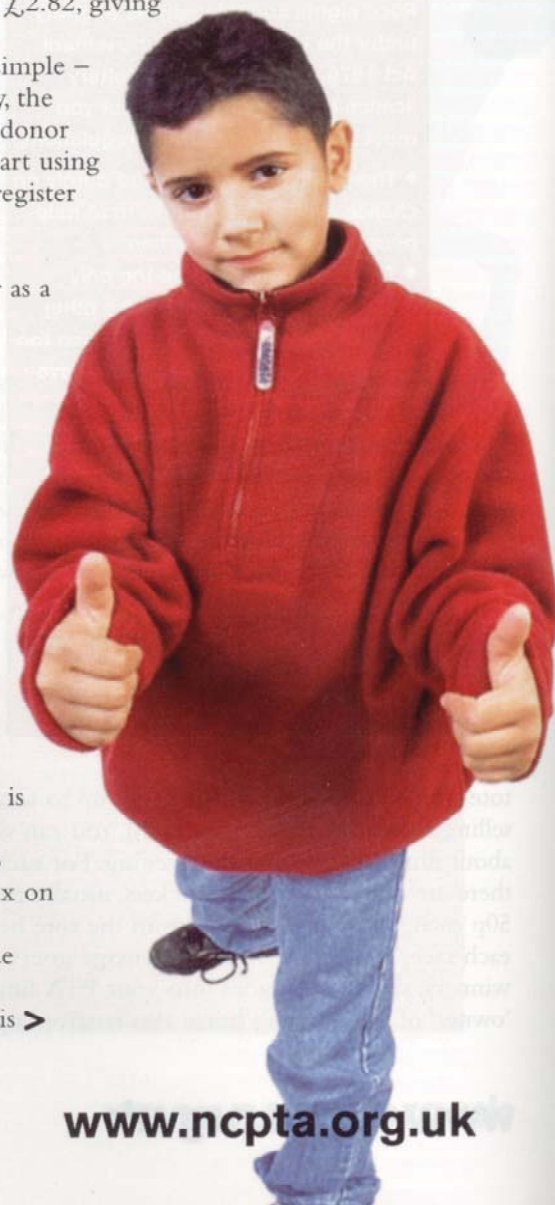
Benefiting from the scheme is pretty simple – the PTA has to be registered as a charity, the donor has to be a UK taxpayer and the donor has to make a Gift Aid declaration. To start using Gift Aid for the first time, you need to register with the Inland Revenue to receive tax repayments.

In England and Wales you can register as a charitable trust with the Charity Commission, but if you're based in Scotland or Northern Ireland you need to seek Inland Revenue recognition as a charity.

### Getting a declaration

'Once registered, the next step is to get a Gift Aid declaration from your donors,' explains the Giving Campaign. This isn't a lengthy process, you just need their full name, address, details of the donations covered by the declaration, details of the charity and confirmation that the donor is a UK taxpayer. The good news is that declarations can apply to future donations and can even be backdated to 6 April 2000, enabling you to reclaim tax on past and all future donations.

Although the declarations can be made orally, electronically, by telephone or in writing, opting for the written method is >



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### Dining out

This is a social event for parents, teachers and friends, and an excellent way to raise money. You'll need several



volunteers to produce each of the three courses of a meal, and to provide a venue where each course can be eaten. Parents, teachers and friends pay a set amount for a three-course meal. Each course is presented in a different home, preferably within walking distance of each other. The guests move from home to home to complete the meal. You could suggest a theme for the evening, reflected in dress and choice of food, such as a European or African evening.

### Trolley dash

For this event you will need to rely on the good will of a local supermarket. Do any of your parents work in a supermarket? If so, they could be invaluable in setting this up. The trolley dash could be the winning prize of a raffle. The winner is given a set amount of time to take a trolley around a supermarket and obtain as many items as possible within this time. Everything that goes into the trolley is taken home. You could organise a competition for people to guess how many items will be in the trolley at the end, or the total value of all the items in the trolley.

> recommended, especially as you'll need to keep paper or computer records showing that your donors have agreed to you reclaiming their tax. Sample Gift Aid declaration forms can be downloaded from the Giving Campaign website at [www.givingcampaign.org.uk](http://www.givingcampaign.org.uk)

To help encourage donors to use Gift Aid, and put the benefits into perspective, the Giving Campaign recommends, 'stressing that it won't cost donors anything extra, and giving them details of what the extra funds raised by Gift Aid could buy'.

## Fundraising possibilities

Many PTAs are already reaping the benefits of Gift Aid, such as Leckhampton CE Primary School in Gloucestershire, a runner-up in the recent round of the



Learning Together Awards (see page 11). 'The PTA organised an Everest Challenge to raise money for new buildings. The children climbed nearby

Leckhampton Hill one

weekend, with the idea being that if enough people took part they'd have climbed the height of Everest,' explains a PTA member.

'The children were sponsored to take part and sponsors were given the chance to use Gift Aid. As a result, we raised over £1,500.'

If you're unsure if Gift Aid is applicable for certain fundraising events, talk to your local tax office. In some circumstances they might be able to make special arrangements, for example, one PTA managed to get permission for freewill gifts at a quiz night to be treated as Gift Aid. These donations, however, must be voluntary and cannot be part of the price of attending the quiz.

There are numerous ways to gain the benefits of Gift Aid, so think creatively as you plan your fundraising and you too could boost your funds! ●

## When to use Gift Aid



### When you can claim

- voluntary donation schemes
- sponsorship of events
- money from PTA members – a completed declaration when they first join can cover their entire membership.

### When you can't claim

Gift Aid isn't applicable in all situations, and can't be used for the money raised from selling goods or services, so doesn't cover:

- raffle tickets
- admission to fundraising events
- money raised from sales of goods, such as books, cakes or jumble.

## Useful links



- Inland Revenue: Tel: 0845 302 0203, [www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/charities/claim\\_tax\\_back.htm](http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/charities/claim_tax_back.htm)
- To register for Gift Aid or register as a charity if you're in Northern Ireland: Inland Revenue Charities, St John's House, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside L69 9BB Tel: 0845 302 0203
- To register for Gift Aid or as a charity (Scotland): Inland Revenue Charities, Meldrum House, 15 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7UL Tel: 0845 302 0203 (select option 2)
- The Charity Commission: Tel: 0870 333 0123, [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)
- The Giving Campaign: [www.givingcampaign.org.uk](http://www.givingcampaign.org.uk)  
Download a sample Gift Aid declaration form and Gift Aid toolkit from this site.

NCPTA has recently published a revised PTA Info sheet on Gift Aid. See the website at [www.ncpta.org.uk](http://www.ncpta.org.uk) for more details.