



Can you help to raise money?

There are a wide variety of fundraising events that the FOLGS have found to be successful. Some are more profitable than others, but raising money is not always the only objective. Improving partnerships between parents and teachers and between home and school plays a vital part in these events too. We appreciate that it is not always possible in today's society for everyone to spare time to assist in helping out at the schools' fundraising events. However, even if you don't have the time available, did you know you can still help raise funds for the school in other ways? I've given a brief explanation of two of the most popular and well known schemes below:

Matched Giving

Matched giving is a simple way of maximising funds raised. Matched giving is a corporate arrangement where companies pledge to donate [to a voluntary or charitable organisation] a sum relating to the amount their employee donates to/or raises for the organisation. For example, a parent, who works for a company that offers matched giving, volunteers to work on the refreshment stall at the PTA summer fair. The profit made by the stall is £100. The parent's employer will then match this amount with a further £100 (assuming they offer a £ for £ match). The amount offered will vary from company to company and conditions may apply such as the requirement for the organisation to be a registered charity. Well-known companies who run such a scheme include: Barclays, BP, BAA, Cable & Wireless, RBS, Vodafone, First Bus & Firstgroup plc, Halifax, Nat West and Tesco plc. Alternatively, a parent may opt to make a cash donation to the PTA, which again could be matched by their organisation.

Those companies that don't participate in the matched giving scheme may still donate to charity through other methods. For example, HSBC pay an agreed amount to the employees charity, all they have to do is provide evidence that they work/help out for that charity (this could be as a committee member or helping at fundraising events). If you are unsure whether your company participates in the scheme please take the time to enquire. It doesn't take much time to set up and will ensure that the FOLGS will have additional money to spend on the school, to the benefit of all our children!

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a simple way to increase the value of donations made to FOLGS. If the person making the donation is a UK taxpayer, as they are now registered with HMRC and recognised as a charity FOLGS can reclaim the tax already paid on your donations and increase its income by an additional 25%. For example, a £10.00 donation can be turned into £12.50 for FOLGS without costing the donor any more. All the donor needs to do is complete a Gift Aid declaration form agreeing to Gift Aid being claimed (this normally means you tick the Gift-Aid box on the sponsorship form!).

If you have any queries regarding the above please don't hesitate to contact me via the school or FOLGS.

Ken Major Treasurer, FOLGS