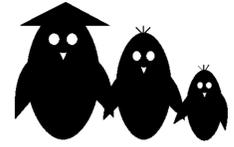


# PTFA on behalf of Iford & Kingston CE Primary School



## Kingston Parish Council Free Resource Proposal

18/02/2022



LEARN TOGETHER, PLAY TOGETHER, LIVE TOGETHER.

## School Vision

*Iford and Kingston CE Primary School's vision is to provide a broad and balanced education, founded on Christian values, in which all children achieve and enjoy. Our education is based around our core values of respect, co-operation, resilience, responsibility and aspiration. Through these Christian values we can learn together, play together and live together.*

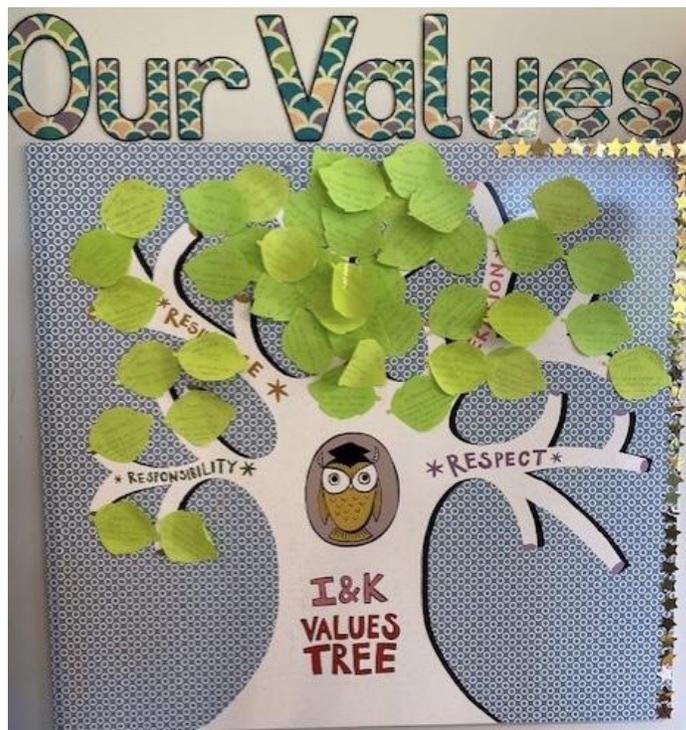
## About our school

At Iford and Kingston CE Primary School we are committed to offering a high quality grounding in the core skills of numeracy and literacy, alongside a much broader variety of activities and experiences.

Children have strengths in many different areas and learn in many different ways and we are keen to ensure that each child fulfils their individual potential. We believe in offering a caring environment, where every member of the school community feels valued and can develop to the very best of their ability.

This means that children learn not only to expect a high quality learning experience but also to behave in ways that ensure they themselves contribute to their own experience and to that of others.

Mutual respect and the ability to work collaboratively are key to everything that we do. We work hard to make sure that the opportunities we offer to the children in our care are the very best that we can make them and we regularly review what we do to try and improve it.





## The Case For Support

Sourcing and raising funds is crucial to helping the school realise its vision, principles, learning objectives and the Ofsted areas of improvement. Over the last decade less and less money and staff capacity has been available to schools through the Local Authority. This coupled with grant funding becoming more community focused, and schools not being eligible for many public and private grant streams means it has been increasingly hard to secure funds to improve and broaden our children's learning opportunities.

The PTFA works very closely with the school supporting it to meet its short and long term fundraising goals. Through running annual events, both large and small we continue to raise modest, but useful amounts of money. In recent years the school has been lucky to have had council support with the renovation of its building and landscaping to accommodate its larger intake of pupils since 2014. However since Covid-19 the PTFA have not been able to run as many events to raise this money.

To respond to this the PTFA are planning to create a Fundraising Strategy, which will help identify and consolidate our long term fundraising goals for the school, and ensure they are sustainable. This will help future proof the children's access to things like high quality:

learning and play resources; external support staff in areas like sports, SEN and subject specialisms; career professional development for teachers and teaching assistants.

## Ofsted

The schools' last Ofsted inspection was on the 13th & 14th February 2019, where it was rated as a 'good school'. Below are the following areas of improvement that were listed in the Ofsted report which we feel this proposal of funds with help meet:

- Sustain the current focus on improving writing so that pupils make the best possible progress, and more most-able pupils reach higher standards.
- Ensure that the curriculum develops pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding consistently well across the school in science and the foundation subjects.
- Ensure that children in the early years get off to the strongest possible start by: 1) raising expectations of how much young children can learn, particularly the most able 2) making better use of the outdoor area.

## Kingston Parish Council Free Resource Proposal

As a precursor to its strategy work the PTFA have brainstormed a long list of fundraising ideas to be developed, and consolidated the schools immediate short list of requirements which ideally need funding this year. As a result of this local opportunity the PTFA would like to apply to the Parish Council for consideration for funding from the Free Resource to make these purchases.

The school is looking for funding to enhance its outdoor learning opportunities both in play areas and on its allotment/nature areas. Item 1 on the wish list includes small role play or experimental play structures like a mud kitchen or water run, sets of child sized gardening equipment, outdoor wear, tools, wheelbarrows and consideration for storing the new equipment. It will also buy some things to plant and grow, and seek outside subject specialist teaching support to improve the quality of the nature exploration/gardening lessons outside.

In addition the PTFA are in exploratory talks with the school to see how it can help it raise funds to refurbish and create a new pond area with outdoor classroom seating. This is likely to be the PTFA's focus for a big funding campaign for Sept 2022- Aug 2023, but there is still a lot of specialist knowledge and services that we need to tap in to in order to prepare the school to commission the work. Item 2 will provide fees for expert advice, evidence, due diligence in both health & safety and biodiversity concerns in changing the existing pond.

Below is an itemised short list with costs, followed by more information describing the benefits of the items and how they will be used. The PTFA and the school would be very happy if either item 1 or 2 is funded - or a combination of sub items to the Council's liking.

We are happy to talk further about these funding options or answer any questions to clarify what we are proposing.

## **Iford and Kingston CE Primary School purchase wish list:**

### **ITEM 1:**

Play equipment for Reception Class outdoor area	£1,000
Children's Gardening Tools & equipment	£1,500
Saplings, Bulbs & Seeds	£300
Outdoor Learning Session Leader & Teacher Support	£700

### **Sub Total:**

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£3,500

### **ITEM 2:**

Specialist Advisor Support & Consultation Fees For the Research & Development Phase of the 2022-23 academic year Pond Project including; Pond & Community Garden Specialists Biodiversity and Conservation Specialists; Land Preparation, Groundworks, Health & Safety Specialists.	£2,000
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### **Sub Total:**

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£2,000

### **Total if both items funded:**

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£5,500

## More Information on proposed purchases:

### Benefits of Outdoor Play Equipment for School Children

The benefits of learning outside the classroom are endless. Being outside allows children to express themselves freely and unlike an indoor classroom, there aren't any space constraints meaning children can jump, shout and explore to their heart's content.

The sense of freedom playing outdoors brings is fantastic for a child's development, both physically and mentally. The importance of outside play in early years can't be underestimated and below are just some of the many benefits it offers to children:

#### ★ Encourages an Active Lifestyle

Given the number of gadgets and new technology available to us all, outdoor play is an extremely important factor in combating an increasingly sedentary lifestyle.

#### ★ Appreciation of Nature and the Environment

Learning in an outdoor environment allows children to interact with the elements around us.

#### ★ Develops Social Skills

Indoor spaces can often feel overcrowded to children and naturally, they may feel intimidated in this type of environment.

#### ★ Encourages Independence

The extra space offered by being outdoors will give children the sense of freedom to make discoveries by themselves. They can develop their own ideas or create games and activities to take part in with their friends without feeling like they're being directly supervised.

#### ★ Understanding Risk

Being outdoors provides children with more opportunities to experience risk-taking.



The school would like to purchase small outdoor furniture items for Reception Class.

### Online suppliers for Examples of prices:

Examples of small outdoor play structures:

<https://kbsdepot.com/online-shop/Playground-fun-c82905277?offset=60>

## Benefits of Gardening for School Children

In the school context, natural spaces on school grounds provide a personal encounter with nature and living organisms such as plants, animals, and fungi. These interactions with nature and the possibility to become active in the garden are combined with social and emotional skills. This is connected with the development of pupils' attitudes, values, beliefs, and self-perceptions.



### ★ Physical activity

Aside from being a fun learning experience that gets children out of the classroom and into the great outdoors, gardening boosts development and enhances key skills.

### ★ Responsibility and independence

Gardening is a lengthy process that requires patience and care. Most of the children will be excited to be responsible for something that they can call their own.

During the gardening process, the children will have to continuously care for their plants, even when they cannot yet see results. Similarly, the children will have to learn to be patient when waiting for their flowers, fruit or vegetables to flourish.

### ★ Teamwork and communication

Gardening is a valuable learning tool that can teach children of all ages a range of life skills. From communication to teamwork, children can learn skills that they will go on to use throughout their life.

Gardening is a very sociable activity and when carried out in schools, it encourages children to work side-by-side and communicate effectively.

### ★ Self-confidence

Similarly, the process of planting seeds and caring for them as they grow into flowers or plants, which has various steps, will also teach children organisation skills.

### ★ Literacy, numeracy and biology

Gardening is very much a hands-on activity that engages all of the senses. It will encourage children to explore their senses including touch, taste, sight and smell.

In addition, gardening and the use of gardening tools encourage children to use fine motor skills.

Gardening can also be linked to school subjects, such as literacy, numeracy and science.

### ★ Healthy lifestyles

Gardening can improve physical and mental health in school children. Studies have found that gardening is an effective way to boost mental and emotional wellbeing. Plus, spending time outside amongst nature will help relieve anxiety symptoms in children and will help children relax.

Children are far more likely to eat fruit and vegetables that they have grown themselves rather than shop-bought fruit and veg. Gardening also gives teachers the opportunity to teach children about preparing and cooking food.

### ★ Environmental awareness

Growing fruit and vegetables is an effective way to teach children about sustainable living. Children can gain an understanding of where their food comes from, learn about the importance of organic produce and make their own compost.

The school would like to purchase child size trowels, forks, wheelbarrows, gloves and any other useful equipment, including storage, as well as things to plant and grow.

#### **Online suppliers for Examples of prices:**

Examples of childrens gardening equipment: <https://www.tts-group.co.uk/primary/school-gardens/>

Examples of outdoor storage units:

<https://www.tts-group.co.uk/furniture/outdoor/?prefn1=ProductType&prefv1=1000502%7C1000734%7C1000454%7C1000007%7C1000457>

#### **Further Supportive Reading / Impact Report:**

<https://www.nfer.ac.uk/media/2135/rhs01.pdf>

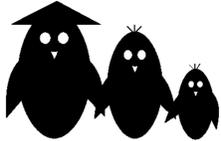
## **Background to the Pond Refurbishment Project**

After a successful funding campaign and Bonfire Night in 2021, the PTFA raised the £6,000 required for the purchase of this year's fundraising project for new school books. We are now looking towards what our big fundraiser will be for next academic year (Sept 2022 - Aug 2023). The school has suggested that

it would like to continue its focus on outdoor and environmental learning by exploring the refurbishment of the school pond, which has fallen into disrepair and is not very child friendly. In the last 3 weeks the PTFA have started to talk to stakeholders and source conservation specialists and landscapers etc to begin to understand the considerations for such a project. Through this we have already learned that we must continue to seek more in depth advice specific to the school's existing pond site and the nature area used by the after school Forest School club twice a week before we would be in any position to fundraise for the actualisation of a new pond and outdoor classroom. There are many answers we need to questions about the groundwork, landscape, flooding, health & safety, ongoing maintenance, sustainable conservation, existing wildlife considerations and teaching objectives in order to come up with a thorough project plan with evidence, quotes and a vision.

ITEM 2 proposes that we will use £2,000 towards professional fees for specialists and contractors to come and assess the area, provide quotes, plans and advice for us to build a sound project plan on. We would also use some money to hold stakeholder meetings to bring in all those people that regularly use the nature area, teachers, children, parents, specialists and community interest groups together in the hope that we can make the changes mindfully and take everyone invested in this area with us at the same pace.



Thank you for your consideration 

Please address any questions/replies to the Chair of the PTFA,

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