Bridgewater Primary

Together rain or shine

Bridgewater Primary School
Bridle Way
Berkhamsted
Herts. HP4 1ES
T 01442 871 231
E admin@bridgewater.herts.sch.uk

Voluntary Contributions 2026-27



Dear Parents & Carers,

During each academic year, we ask parents to consider contributing, if they are able, a small regular amount to the school to enrich the quality of their children's education. We appreciate that this year, some families may find themselves in a different financial situation, so would like to emphasise that this is a voluntary scheme.

Why are parents being asked to contribute money to a state funded school?

Voluntary contributions are now common across state primary and secondary schools, allowing us to maintain a high and varied standard of education for our children. As tightening budgets continue to make it challenging to provide the full range of educational experiences we want and expect, these contributions help us sustain Bridgewater Primary School's outstanding reputation for education, care, and support.

While we deeply value the many ways parents contribute their time, such as classroom help or working with the BSA we want to encourage as many families as possible to also give through a regular donation. This predictable income allows us to plan our expenditure with confidence and provide a broad, enriching experience for all pupils

What is the suggested donation amount?

We are asking parents to consider making either:

- A regular donation of £20 per term per family; or
- A one-off payment of £50 per family for the year.

You are, of course, welcome to give more if you feel able to, or if you have more than one child in the school and would like this to be reflected in your donation. Similarly, even if you are unable to give the suggested minimum amount, we would value any regular donation you can afford.

What is the money used for?

Funds raised through parental contributions are used to enrich or expand the educational activities provided for our children. They are allocated to provision of activities such as lunchtime clubs, music and physical activity. That provision often falls outside the core National Curriculum and therefore doesn't attract the funding it deserves.

We use voluntary contributions to help fund a large number of activities to enrich the curriculum and the school environment, which previously has included;



- Resources to support the curriculum e.g. TT Rock Stars and Mathletics
- Subscriptions to Picture News and Match of the Day subscriptions
- Whole school events which give us an opportunity to celebrate as a community e.g. the Christmas light trail.
- Provision of PA systems and additional supplies to celebrate events such as the Leavers' Assembly, end of year assemblies or productions by Y2/6



Ofsted Good Provider · MODESHIFT STARS GOLD · GREEN TREE SCHOOL Platinum Award · Wellbeing Quality Mark · SCHOOL GAMES GOLD · MUSIC MARK SCHOOL MEMBER · Bronze Eco-Schools Bronze Award

- Materials and resources used in outside areas e.g. Big Dig, Forest School and updating outdoor learning areas e.g. the willow dome
- Resources for free of charge clubs
- Badges for Eco Council, Sports Ambassadors and House Captains
- Daffodils for Mothers' Day gifts in Early Years
- Duckling eggs that hatch to ducklings for Nursery





- Subsidising / fully funding WOW days
- Subsidising trips for families who have made a termly/annual voluntary contribution, where we can sometimes offer a reduced price for the donation, we ask parents to make to fund school trips

The way that the funds are spent will be decided upon by the Headteacher and teaching staff based on their professional judgement as to what would most benefit the development of Bridgewater pupils and the principle of "better education for all".

The Role of the BSA and Ongoing Fundraising

The Bridgewater School Association (BSA) plays a vital role in the school community by raising between £20,000 and £30,000 each year through various activities, the BSA does much more than raise money; its events cultivate a strong, connected community among parents, students, and staff.

These funds are dedicated to enriching school facilities and student experiences through special purchases, such as:

- OPAL and the replacement of the playground equipment and climbing frames.
- Books for the library and classrooms
- iPads and the refurbishment of the Blackbird room (former IT suite)
- Hall updates, including a new sound system and stage
- SEN equipment, including sensory items
- A maypole
- Astro turf refurbishment
- Transport for the Year 6 residential and pantomime trips
- A major contribution toward the school treehouse

Because the need for new equipment and facilities remains constant, voluntary financial contributions do not replace BSA fundraising. The BSA's vital work will continue, with upcoming efforts focused on purchasing new equipment to enhance children's experiences during break and lunchtimes.

What do I do now?

If you are in a position to do so, we would be extremely grateful for any voluntary financial contributions to support the school throughout the year.

- **How to Donate via Arbor:** Log into Arbor and select the **School Shop** option.
    - Choose **Termly Voluntary Contributions 2026–27** (£20) or **Yearly Voluntary Contributions 2026–27** (£50).
    - If you wish to donate a different amount, please access Arbor via a desktop computer (this option is not available in the mobile app), select **AD HOC Voluntary Contributions**, and use the quantity box to specify your desired amount.

Please note that this is entirely a **voluntary scheme**, and we fully understand that these are financially challenging times for many families. If your family is facing financial difficulty, please feel free to contact us in confidence for support.

Thank you very much.

Andrea Bettridge,

Heateacher