



BRADLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL
ASHBOURNE, DERBYSHIRE

Case Study

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

The PTFA of Bradley School – which has just 37 pupils – knows that you don't need a roll in the hundreds to engage the parent body and your local community.

In February 2014 the school asked the parents to restart the PTFA. The first request was for funds to buy new books. The parents could see these were well needed so they could really get behind this project and quickly reached their target figure, eventually raising a total of £4,600 in the first two years.

The PTFA went on to successfully apply for a £6,300 grant from the Lottery "Awards for all" and following that, they worked with the head teacher and the local authority to apply for a further £30,000 grant. These awards paid for a new playground, equipment and after school activities. "It was a lot of work," says PTFA Chair Helen Archer, "but it was worth it in the end."



Communication

While the small community makes face-to-face contact easy, a good website, regularly updated with PTFA successes, is vital to the school's survival, as Helen explains: "... we have to pull children from outside our village to ensure there are enough children at the school to keep it open."

Community

Another important aspect of the PTFA's work is to support and engage parents socially to develop the wider community.

Two initiatives they run for parents are the summer holiday weekly meet-up and the toddler group. "It's a great way for parents to feel part of the community before their children start school," says Helen.

The PTFA also involves the village's residents. "Many are retired but they come along to events we hold with them in mind like Bingo and Beetle drives."

In your hands

Head Teacher Nicola Foulds says "I really wanted parents to develop the PTA and invite us, the teaching staff, to the events... It is more successful than any other PTA I have been involved in. And fundamentally it is the children that benefit."



FACTS

BRADLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL is a rural village school near the market town of Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

HEAD TEACHER: Nicola Foulds

NUMBER OF PUPILS: 37 from 22 families living in surrounding villages and farms.

Bradley School Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) started in February 2014 and very successfully engages the community on a regular basis with a variety of activities.