



Preston School Association



Reg. Charity No. 1155745



prestonpsa@gmail.com



07968 810126 (Katie Page, Chair)

Please join the Working Party on Saturday 23rd September!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to the posters and notifications about the **Working Party on Saturday 23rd September**, please see below for details...

The FUN and REWARDING part:

Please come to school ready to help with a range of odd jobs around the school site to help spruce up the school environment. With (hopefully!) lots of us mucking in, **Saturday will be social** as well as a great opportunity to make an **immediate positive impact on our school environment**. Even if you have just an hour to spare, please consider coming along – **every single minute of help is a very valuable donation towards enriching our school environment** to make it an enjoyable and fulfilling place in which to learn, work, and be part of the wider community of Preston.

We also will be providing endless cups of tea / coffee, cold soft drinks, biscuits, cakes, and sandwiches to keep everyone going. Although children can't really help with many of the jobs, they are very welcome to join us on site and play.

Come along at any time between **10am and 3pm**, there are lots of jobs for everyone to do!

The list of tasks school needs help with includes:

- Painting / staining wooden fences.
- Painting / staining wooden benches.
- Painting / staining other external woodwork.
- Weeding and tidying borders, raised beds, pots, and other planted areas, and adding a few new plants.
- Tidying up and repairing the path with the steppingstones, and making the area ready for new stepping stones to be added once children have made them.
- Helping to get rid of the trifid-like stinging nettles on the verges of the playing field.
- Cleaning and tidying up the pond and its margins.
- Cleaning / sprucing up signs, notice boards, and other features around the site.
- General cleaning and tidying up other outdoor areas – e.g., removing weeds from the playground, sweeping up leaves and debris.

What to bring with you on the day

School has budget to provide paint, wood stain, and paint cleaner for cleaning brushes, and general cleaning products. However, it would be extremely helpful if volunteers could please bring:

- **Paint brushes and paint trays**
- **Gardening equipment** (spades, forks, trowels etc. to help with weeding / planting)
- **Battery-powered gardening equipment** such as strimmers or leaf-blowers (*NB these must be charged up prior to being brought to school, as only electrical equipment that has been PAT tested or is under 12 months old may be plugged into school power sockets*).
- **Gardening gloves**



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- **Cleaning equipment**, such as cloths, brushes, sponges, litter pickers
- **Any spare paint / wood stain** you no longer need at home and would like to donate to school (*If you are going to donate paint or wood stain, or if you are going to bring any of your own cleaning fluids, please let us know. We need to know the exact brand so that we can make sure we have the relevant COSHH paperwork available, as stipulated in our risk assessment*).
- **Sensible, closed-toe shoes and long trousers / sleeves** if you are going to be helping with the weeding / nettles. Please also ensure long hair is tied back, and jewellery is removed or covered.
- Please also consider sun protection

RSVP!!

Please email the school office to let us know if you can help. A rough idea of how much time you are able to donate would be really helpful.

Please also specify any **specific dietary requirements** (including for any children who are coming to school with you) so that we can ensure that everyone is catered for.

Please also let us know what kind of tasks you will be able to do, and if you are bringing any of your own equipment, paint etc so that we can plan for the day.

I can't join in on the day, how else can I contribute?

We would love donations of plants which could be added to the garden areas. Or please help keep the volunteers fuelled up for the day by donating some cake, biscuits, or other refreshments! Please bring them to the school atrium on Friday 22nd September.

The serious bit

While Working Party Days are great fun and family participation is encouraged, we must advise all volunteers that they participate in the day entirely at their own risk, and school cannot be held responsible for any injuries that occur as a result of using gardening equipment or participating in the tasks. Volunteers are responsible for any children who accompany them on site, and they must be supervised at all times, as school cannot be held responsible for any injuries that occur during play. A full risk assessment has been carried out and will be circulated to parents by Mrs Luitingh, which all volunteers must read before attending the Working Party.

Questions?

Please direct any questions about the day to me via the contact details at the top of this letter, or to Mrs Groves when you RSVP.

Look forward to seeing you on Saturday!

Kind regards,

Katie Page, Chair, Preston School Association