

# FUNDRAISING IDEAS



## Looking for some fresh ideas? Here are some that we have seen around the country.

In Bóthar we will be delighted to support your fundraiser in any way we can - by providing posters, presentation cheques, literature, sponsorship cards or merchandising items, for example.

We are also very happy to send a speaker either for the event or afterwards, whether you want just a few words along with a photo of the handover, or something longer. Many teachers avail of our offer to give a slide-show to their students of our work in providing livestock and training to resource-poor families. It is important for us to tell our story and discuss development issues with people who enable Bóthar to work in some 35 countries worldwide.



### ICE-CREAM MORNING

Blocks of ice-cream and wafers, or individual ice-creams on sticks. Buy at cost from a Cash and Carry. Always very popular - a quick and easy fundraiser.

### EASTER EGG RAFFLE

Parents are usually happy to donate an egg. The display is impressive! Children buy raffle tickets in the couple of weeks before the draw, which often takes place on the day of the Easter Holidays. Ensure that there is at least one winner in every class.



### A THIRD WORLD MORNING

The children bring a small contribution and prepare and serve rice and water to parents, staff or other classes for elevenses. Alternatively they can ask to prepare a small quantity at home and bring it in a container. Serve in cup-cake cases. A good way of highlighting how half the world lives.

### NOVELTY COSTUME DAY

Variations on the Non-Uniform Day, e.g. Stripy Socks Day, Funny Hat Day, Dress as a Farmer Day, Welly Day, Team Colours Day, etc.



### READATHON

For obvious reasons, this is not a competition, but a read-for-all on a given day. Optimum time is one hour. More junior classes might do two or three reading-related activities at intervals instead. Other classes are sponsored to read their favourite books for this period, and a magical silence permeates the school! Ask the sponsors to give their contribution in advance, as a single sum, rather than attempting to multiply up numbers of pages or books read, which can become both complicated and competitive. The spirit should be one of encouragement and enjoyment. Raffling a book token in each class afterwards makes a nice addition.

### CLASS OR SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Collect material and photos from early in the year and design the paper on the computer. Sell hard copies, or on disc, etc.

### SPONSORED SKIPATHON

There are many ways to organise this. It is probably best to confine it to an hour on a given day. Devise a number of different events in which the skippers can compete, e.g. most skips in a minute; skipping forwards/backwards; skipping races; group skipping, etc. The children will not be slow with suggestions!



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## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Profit margins can be small for printed items. If you are thinking of producing a school calendar it might be advisable to use a single-sheet A4 card format with the calendar on one side, highlighting relevant school dates, and small images of each class on the reverse side. Selling some local advertising spaces will help to offset printing costs.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

A nice idea for smaller schools is to design a card that incorporates a photo of every child in the school. Up to 100 or more can easily be fitted in. Wider family and relations may be interested in purchasing a set. Send out a printed sample with each child to assist in advertising.



## HAMPER RAFFLE

Make up a hamper at Christmas or Easter and sell raffle tickets.

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Pick a few different themes. Display the entries and have some prizes for the winners in each category.

## COFFEE MORNING OR AFTERNOON TEA

Parents' Associations are sometimes happy to organise this. Proceeds might be shared with a local charity. Time it to allow for parents collecting children from school.

## BASKETBALL SHOOT-A-THON

If you have basketball hoops this is a nice activity. Divide a class into teams of four or five and give each team a ten-minute slot to shoot as many hoops as possible. Use a league system or simply play off any teams that are tied until a winner emerges.

## FILL A BOOT!



Children bring in small denomination coins to fill a decorated wellington boot over a number of weeks. Alternatively, any vessel can be used, such as a large glass jar, a bucket, or even a wheelbarrow!

## BAKE SALE

Some schools do a simple cookery lesson if they have the facilities. Funds have been raised in the past by a couple of classes making batches of chocolate rice krispie cakes and selling them to other classes.

## FIELD DAY OR BAZAAR



Lots of stalls and novelty events, races such as egg-and-spoon, three-legged race, sack race, relay races, obstacle races, face-painting, wet sponge, wellie-throwing, shots at goal, etc. Further revenue can be raised if you have a mini-café, with tea, coffee and cakes for parents and grandparents and a bucket for voluntary contributions.

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## GOLDEN MILE/ SILVER MILE

Variations on the idea of children bringing in small-denomination coin and laying it out in the yard in a line or a pattern. An alternative is to design a template, e.g. a clown's face, which can be printed off and used in a smaller version of this in the classroom.

## SPONSORED SILENCE

It sounds challenging but children in Primary School will often take this seriously and will diligently maintain silence for the given time.

## ART AND CRAFT ACTIVITIES

There are many ways of fundraising using art and craft, e.g. a sale of work of paintings or craft items. Lollipop or peg craft is popular, as are items made of clay and allowed to set. These can be painted or decorated. Food items such as pasta or rice can be the basis of pictures. Seashell craft is also decorative and economical. If knitting or needlework is strong in the school, simple headbands or wrist bands are popular. Bracelets can also be made with plastic beads. Decorated bookmarks can be made using coloured card.

## GUESS THE TEDDY'S BIRTHDAY

A variation on a raffle for an attractive teddy bear. Have a calendar with a line for each day. Children pay a small sum to write their name on the line they think is the teddy's birthday. You need to have a few contingency dates picked in case not every line is filled.



## SPONSORED WALK

An old reliable, but one that obviously needs thorough preparation from a safety perspective. Usually takes place at a weekend and is for parents as well as children. The course should be short enough to allow children to complete it. Liaise with the Garda Síochána.

**Why not send us your fundraising idea  
so that we can add it to the list?**

**Email: [info@bothar.ie](mailto:info@bothar.ie)**