Grenoside Community Primary School



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Parent – Teacher Association

“A Friend to School”

Registered Charity Number 1016461

**Grenoside PTA – Chairs report for the year**

 **March 2014 – February 2015**

**Introduction**

As you are all aware the aim of the PTA is to “advance the education of pupils of the school by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education at the school” (stated in our constitution) This means we raise funds to support and enhance the children’s school experience by paying for equipment and events that the school cannot afford itself.

We also work to support relationships between staff, parents and our communities and promote activities which support the school to provide an even better learning experience for our children.

All parents / carers of pupils of the school, school staff; Governors are automatically members of the association and are welcome to any of the meetings.

We are a registered charity with the charities commission and we follow all its rules and regulations.

**What has happened this year?**

We have had a rollercoaster of a year where we have had two Chairs; two Vice-chairs; two secretaries and one treasurer. All the current committee members have all been voted in within this year as the existing committee members stood down (their time was up).

We have changed our name, created a new logo, amended the constitution and ensured all paperwork to the charities commission is up to date.

We have updated the processes we use for meetings and requests for funding, creating process notes to help run events more efficiently and cost effective and looking at ways to improve communication with all members ie we have created a new newsletter and event notifications.

It has been a steep learning curve for everyone but the team has risen to the challenge and won!

Back in January 2014 the school requested that we plan minimum events to allow the school to concentrate on improving teaching and learning which we duly supported. Therefore the fund-raising hasn’t been as successful as previous years. Listed below are the activities that we carried out:

* **Logo competition** (April 2014) this was the first event we carried out which was not very successful raising funds but we did get a new name and logo.
* **Spring Disco** (May 2014) very successful, we did have the support of the previous committee members
* **Cinema Night** (November 2014) How to train your dragon 2 – great film and great night. Helen Hale and Liz Mansell led on this, researching from other school PTAs the best way of carrying out the event and with helpers on the night made it a great success.
* **Christmas Fair** (December 2014) Kate Allen Jo Wright and Catherine Hughes led on this successful fair. The children enjoyed spending their tokens and the elder children supported the younger ones. The things we have learnt will be changed when we did it again.
* **Tour De France** (T-shirt day) a big event for Yorkshire and it was nice for the school to be involved. Lead by Bhu, the children enjoyed designing their t-shirts.
* **Valentine’s Bun Sale** (February 2015) this was led by Jo Wright and Emma Bostwick. We are grateful to all who brought buns in for us to sell. All the children enjoyed buying a bun.
* **Donations from refreshments** we were asked to provide refreshments to the school shows and sports day. Thank you for all who donated.
* **Bags for school**  Emma Bostwick contacted the company and arranged for the smooth turnaround from Parents dropping off unwanted clothes to the lorry coming to put them up. This will be a regular event each year.
* **Morrisons’ Let’s grow vouchers** Liana Deighton led on this and we had enough vouchers to get 14 wellingtons.

**What we have planned for the coming year?**

* New website
* Easier ways for everyone to contact the association (e-mail addresses)
* Regular newsletters and event notifications
* A survey on what members would like the association to be involved in. – new fund-raising ideas
* Have meetings and events agreed with school at the end of the previous school year. ie dates and times.
* Looking into not only events for the children but members too

**Donations to school**

Donations have to be requested by the school and at the committee meetings we will agree if it meets the criteria set out in our constitution. There are two events we always donate too: Y6 Disco and Kingswood.

This year we donated to events of:

* World Cup sweepstake – Winners prizes for all the school
* Pantomime Coaches (Heaton’s) – for all the school to got to the pantomime
* Santa’s Grotto – especially for Key stage 1

**Thank You**

I would personally like to thank to all those who have helped me in my first year in this challenging and demanding but extremely rewarding role as PTA Chair. I have really enjoyed it and I can see how the team has developed and worked together.

I would like to thank the officers of the committee – Bhu (Treasurer); Claire (Vice Chair) and Emma (Secretary) who do a lot of work behind the scenes to keep the PTA running smoothly.

I would also like to thank the event leads – Liz; Helen; Bhu; Kate; Jo; Emma; Catherine and Liana who took responsibility of the task in hand (something they have never done before) and successfully made things happen for all to enjoy.

The events wouldn’t be successful without the rest of the committee, Claire; Lisa; Elizabeth; and Matt; and also the volunteers whom just turn up on the day to help. So I would like to thank them also.

We are aware of the balance between school priorities, teaching schedules and PTA requests can be difficult to achieve, but I feel that we have come a long way, working together to ensure the children will get the best experience possible. I would like to thank Mrs Burton for her patience and her knowledge of what will work and what won’t!

All the school staff have been great, especially the office staff who support us in so many ways ie photocopying, distributing information, collecting our post to name but a few.

The caretaking staff, Carl and Bev, they are always around and help to clear up afterwards, we cannot thank them enough.

Last but not least, all this wouldn’t be possible without the parents / carers and their generosity of time and cash to support all the fund raising we have done this year. Thank you

Let’s hope the PTA can now build on the foundation of this year to have a more successful and rewarding future years.

Julie Justice

Grenoside PTA Chair (2015)