**Welcome to Grewelthorpe School**

**Friends Of Grewelthorpe School**

**Fundraising Association**

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Friends of Grewelthorpe School

Charity no. 1050240

**Welcome to Grewelthorpe School!**

This information has been put together by **The Friends of Grewelthorpe School (FROGS)**especially for you, as a new family joining our school community. Starting school is an exciting time for the whole family. Studies show that there’s a direct link between parental involvement and how well children do, so why not get involved from the start! This booklet provides you with information about **FROGS** and lets you know how you can join in.

**What is FROGS?**

FROGS stands for The Friends of Grewelthorpe School: It is a charity which aims to raise funds to support the school in providing life-enriching experiences and opportunities to the children, which may not otherwise be covered by the primary school budget.

Over the last **4 years** we have raised **over £47 thousand pounds**, which has been spent on equipment, experiences, and resources to enhance our children’s educational experience and the school’s facilities.

This has included:

* Subsidy of school swimming lessons and trips
* Enrichment weeks and workshops
* Classroom resources, ipads and laptops
* A new shed for our forest school area.
* The Accelerated Reader programme.

We have also managed to raise over £36,000 towards the cost of building a new classroom for the class 4 children, so that they can move out of the ancient portacabin (which has been in situ for 40-years!) and into the main school building. This is an ongoing project that we hope we will be able to bring to completion within the next academic year!

However, our association is about much more than simply fundraising. **FROGS** is an integral part of our school community:providing closer links between home and school; and bringing staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. It’s fun too - just ask any of the Committee members or volunteers!

All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available. All families are automatically members of FROGSwhen their child join our school.

# Role of the Committee

The FROGS committee is responsible for ensuring the charity is managed in a responsible way which complies with the charity’s governing document and the law. They are also responsible for the day-to-day running of the charity.

Our current Committee consists of**:**

**Chair – Hannah Kitching**

**Treasurer – Rachel Bain**

**Secretary – Anna Emmerson**

In addition to the committee, the charity consists of **YOU**, who will automatically become a member of the association when your child joins our school community!

The committee and associated members (that’s **YOU**) meet on a regular basis to discuss our fundraising plans for the coming term, with smaller working group meetings as necessary when we are planning larger events. Any member can come along to these meetings to find out what the association are planning, share ideas and get involved.

Wewelcome any help from parents, teachers, and friends, and have a growing list of volunteers who commit some of their time to helping the association. Some members come regularly to meetings and come up with great fundraising ideas, others offer help for functions, or bake cakes and biscuits to sell. Others help through sourcing and applying for grants or by identifying match funding. Others may not have so much time to offer but make donations to appeals for raffle and tombola prizes, and attend & support FROGS events.

If every parent contributes to FROGS in their own way, we can really make a big difference.

All help is gratefully received and it is through this team effort that we have achieved amazing results, which greatly enhance every child’s experience at school.

If you would like to know how you can help then please speak to a committee member, come along to our next meeting, email us (hannahtagney@hotmail.com or admin@gfschools.co.uk), or message us via The FROGS Facebook page (see below)**.**

**Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Our Annual General Meeting is held in the first term of the academic year and provides an excellent opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about our work*,* the events we have run, the funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also when we elect our new committee members.

**How we raise money**

Like most PTAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

* The Fountains 10k race – run in conjunction with Friends of Fountains School in May, raising £7159.36 last year which was split between the schools.
* The Peter Rabbit Woodland Trail – A picturesque trail of Beatrix Potter themed art through The Hackfall Woods, which took families on a woodland adventure to solve the mystery and earn a prize! This raised over £2000 in 2019.
* Sponsored swimathons
* The Grewelthorpe school Young Enterprise project – Class 4 children selected and marketed plastic free products to sell in their “Greener Grewelthorpe Eco Shop” raising over £600 in 2019 and 2020!
* Summer fairs, Christmas fairs, and the big Christmas raffle!
* Movie nights, and school discos!
* Bake sales and ice cream Fridays!



In addition to fundraising events, we also earn income through donations generated whilst our members shop online when they sign up to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk).

You can sign up to get free donations to your selected charitable cause every time you shop via the Easy fundraising App or website. You can even set up reminders on your device to remind you whenever you visit a site which is signed up to provide donations via Easy fundraising. With over 4000 online retailers to chose from, you can earn donations when you book a holiday, buy clothes, gifts, and even when you renew your car or home insurance, or switch your energy suppliers!





Grewelthorpe school have a textile recycling bin located in the car park of The Crown Inn in Grewelthorpe, which raises funds for the school.

The Rag Bag collection bin accepts:

🟊 Wearable clothing (no stains or rips or school/business logos)

🟊 Paired shoes

🟊 Handbags

🟊 Belts

All items must be contained in a plastic bin bag (or similar).

We would be very grateful if you could send all of your pre-loved clothing to our textile recycling bin rather than donating it to another charity shop. We have seen a lot more of our community’s pre-loved clothing passing through our collection bin over the last 2 years, which has helped us to raise hundreds of pounds during the period of the pandemic! The clothes are all re-used and sent to other European countries, and therefore are saved from the dreaded landfill too, which is even more reason to donate your unwanted clothes to us!

**How we keep you up to date**

1. Facebook - There is a Facebook Page called “FROGS fundraising” which you can join. News of all upcoming events and meeting are posted on this page, so it is a useful way of keeping up-to-date with future plans and events.
2. The school website – There is a “Parent’s Association News and Events” page on the school website, under the “Parents” tab at the top of the page. This contains all of the emails and letters sent out about upcoming FROGs news & events.
3. Your email inbox – Announcements about upcoming meetings and events will also be made via email, which will be sent from the school office to all parents on the school email list.
4. Chat to us in the playground! – All of our current committee members are very approachable and are always happy to discuss any fundraising ideas you may have, or field any other general queries you may have related to the charity whilst in the school playground!

**We look forward to welcoming you to our school!**