

# Grindelford Primary School PTFA (Parent Teacher and Friends Association) Meeting

**Monday 2nd December 2024, online**

**Present:** Ben Carter (Parent Governor), Kaori Carter (Treasurer), Kat Cartwright, Anna Crease (Class 3 Teacher), Liz Dew (Secretary), Emily Erskine, Helen Fulson, Jamie Fulson, Jenny Garamszegi (Chair), Emma Walker.

## Agenda Items

- Grindleford Gallop
- Sustainability - Green Schools
- Christmas crafts
- Community outreach.

## Key Takeaways

- Grindleford Gallop needs volunteers for various roles; flexible time commitments welcome
- School exploring sustainability initiatives; PTA considering funding eco-friendly upgrades (e.g. heat pump)
- Christmas Crafts event planned for Dec 14th
- Community outreach efforts underway to boost school enrollment and engagement

## Topics

### Grindleford Gallop

- The Gallop is a 34km trail race with 630 entries, it's very popular and this year it sold out by 10am on the morning the tickets went on sale! It raises over £10k for the school.
- It is run by volunteers from the school and local community, so please do help out if you can, even an hour is brilliant!
- Volunteer needs:
  - Marshalling (family-friendly activity - involves the kids high fiving runners and encouraging them as they dib through the checkpoint)

- Baking for runners in the week before the race (or bake earlier and put in freezer!)
  - Various tasks on the day - full training provided!
- Flexible time commitments are welcome (even 1 hour if helpful)

## **Sustainability Initiatives**

- Current practices: uniform recycling, composting, reusable water bottles
- Potential improvements:
  - Zero waste goal at school events
  - "No plastic" policy for single-use items
  - Sustainable craft materials (e.g., drawn vs. plastic googly eyes)
  - Heating/energy upgrades (solar panels, heat pump)
  - Check whether the school use environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Action items:
  - Jenny to meet with Mrs. Gemmel (sustainability lead) in new year
  - Explore costs/benefits of heat pump vs. solar panels
  - Canvas parent ideas via Dojo

## **Christmas Crafts Event (Dec 14th)**

- Activities: Christmas-colored shortbread, lantern making, giant light-up balloons
- Volunteers secured for child supervision
- Strict no-glitter policy enforced

## **Community Outreach**

- Addressing concerns about falling enrollment and the impact that might have on the school community
- Current initiatives:
  - Free toddler drop-in sessions
  - Nativity play performances at external venues
  - Playground use by local playgroup
- Proposed ideas:
  - Playgroup to come and use the trim trail periodically
  - Talent show - done in the right way could get local press
  - Revive pre-school playground gatherings
  - Strengthen carnival connection
  - Maypole dancing by the school for the carnival

## **PTA Finances & Projects**

- Current balance: £25,000
- Potential allocations:

- Eco-friendly upgrades (if feasible)
- Trim trail improvements
- Outdoor area refurbishment

## **Action Items**

- Emily to connect Jenny with Alex re: sustainability upgrades expertise
  - Research solar panels/heat pump options, costs, benefits for school; prep for future mtg
- Jenny to draft sustainability ideas request for Dojo
- Kaori to renew ParentKind membership/insurance ASAP
- Continue developing community outreach initiatives
- Emma to find and send link/info about Great Big Plastic Count to Jenny