



## **FRIENDS OF POVEREST**

Poverest Primary School  
Tillingbourne Green  
Orpington, Kent, BR5 2JD

Chair      Alex Kviat      07598 938198  
Headteacher      Paul Haylock      01689 816060

Registered Charity No: 1163062

# **Annual Report 2023-2024**

## **The Role of Friends of Poverest**

The Friends of Poverest exist to support Poverest Primary School by raising funds and running events for the pupils. Funds raised are used to pay for agreed items/services throughout the school year, including but not limited to: Athletics, Y6 coaches, book gifts for children moving from Reception to Y1, Teddy Bear's Picnic packs, crackers, and Christmas decorations for the Christmas lunch, and more.

We are a registered charity, dispensing 100% of funds raised for the benefit of the school. Funds are raised throughout the school year through events, donations, and employee fundraising matching schemes.

The charity is governed by a constitution registered with the Charities Commission and taken from Parentkind of which we are a member.

All parents and carers with children at the school are automatically members of the Friends of Poverest and we invite you to join us for our regular meetings.

## **Spending Funds Raised**

When a funding request is received it is discussed with the committee, either in a regular committee meeting or if more urgent the committee's WhatsApp thread. Decisions on what to fund are made by simple majority after which the treasurer will pay the agreed amount. Funding decisions are minuted in the meeting minutes or captured in the WhatsApp history. We operate with full transparency and invite anyone interested to inspect our financials.

## **Highlights of the Year**

Highlights of the past year were undoubtedly the events we put on, especially the Summer Fair that raised a fantastic £2,089 (after all deductions and payments). Other notable events were the Santa's Grotto and the movie nights.

This year gone has also seen an increase in our volunteer numbers, with more joining to support our work and events. We have also gained regular attendees from the teaching staff, which helps drive better engagement with the school, their enthusiasm and willingness to help has been of great value and importance to the continued success of FoP.

We have continued working to bring structure to how the FoP works and operates, which we started last year. While progress has been slower, we are still improving both our fundraising and our events management.

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### **Areas for Improvement**

As ever, there are things that we can do better, and will work to improve on, they are:

- **Class representatives**  
One of the targets for the year gone was to ensure that each class had a representative in FoP, to act as liaison and coordinator between us and the classes, and ensure that communications were promptly shared, and, where appropriate, followed up. That never really worked. We had some initial interest, but it never really worked. We want to carry this objective into the next year, recognising that it takes time to change how things work.
- **Free events**  
Until recently we have tried to make a profit, as is right for a charity, from each event to help fund our activities, however, we have perhaps overlooked that that makes some events unaffordable for some of our families. We are working for the benefit of all the school's children, so have decided to put on more free events, the first of which will be a bouncy castle day.
- **Fundraising**  
This year we had a very successful external fundraising campaign, and we want to invite others to nominate us as their charity when undertaking sponsored events. It is a great opportunity to raise funds from beyond the school's families.

### **What Have We Done for the Pupils?**

In the last year we have:

- Made sure that Santa came to visit
- Arranged Mother's and Father's days' sales
- Hosted a bouncy castle event
- Hosted the summer fair
- Held Easter raffles
- Held an Easter egg hunt
- Had a school disco
- Agreed to fund Reading Eggs for the school

And more.

### **Thank You**

The Friends of Poverest would not function without the continued support of Gemma Dennard-Marshall, Amba Golding, Sarah Wardle, Sabera Bham, Tatiana Karpilina, Clare Beddow, Tanya White, Jude Williams-Simpson, Tracey Gunn, Paul Haylock, and our volunteers, supporters, and sponsors.

We would like to thank the teachers, staff, and leadership team at the school for supporting and recognising the work done by the Friends of Poverest.

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We also want to thank Aaron and Yesim who raised over £1,000 in sponsorship for FoP running the Brighton Marathon. It was an incredible achievement!

Finally, a thank you to you, our parents, carers, families, and pupils. Without your generous donations and support we would not be able to raise the funds to do what we do.

### Financial Report

Throughout the school year 2023-2024 we raised a total of £10,793.05 and spent £7,883.86, leaving the closing balance £2,909.19 down compared to the opening balance.

Funds Raised	£10,793.05
Funds Spent	£7,883.86
Opening Balance	£10,903.63
Closing Balance	£13,812.82
<b>P&amp;L</b>	<b>£2,909.19</b>

The table below shows the larger expenditures of the year, excluding any funds spent in preparation for the hosting or running of events (e.g., purchasing gift or food items).

Large Expenditures		
Month	Item	Cost
Aug-23	Accelerated Readers subscription	£1,000.00
May-23	School PE Uniform	£820.45
Oct-23	Y6 Coach	£963.00
May-23	Y4 Coach	£220.00
Jun-23	Reception class gifts	£185.96
Nov-23	Christmas Tree for school	£175.00
Jul-23	Y6 DJ	£150.00

The full financial report has been submitted to the Charities Commission in accordance with the law. Any member wishing to inspect it in detail can send a request to [hello@friendsofpoverest.co.uk](mailto:hello@friendsofpoverest.co.uk).

### What Next?

We will shortly start looking ahead to 2024-2025 and have a list of events that we want to host. Outside of that we want to focus on improving our volunteer engagement by becoming more visible and making it simpler and easier to help by creating structured, bounded tasks that volunteers can complete in support of the charity and the school.

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We will continue sending out reminders for all regular meetings and expect class representatives for each class to join us. There is no requirement to attend every meeting or be a member of the committee, but each class must be represented to help make Friends of Poverest work, and we always need volunteers! We need all skills and experiences to make the Friends of Poverest work, but if you have project management, event management, risk assessment writing, or volunteering experience we would like to hear from you.

We welcome ideas for events or fundraising!

On behalf of Friends of Poverest,

Alex Kviat  
Chair