

Friends of Newlands Spring Newsletter

JAN 2022

Happy New Year to you all!

We've just put this newsletter together to keep you all up to date with what FONS are doing to help raise vital funds for the school.

In September, many of you will know, Helen Huntley, who had been Chair of FONS for 5 years, stepped down and two Co-Chairs, Sophie Newton-Kingston and Laura Lane, were voted in. We want to thank Helen for all she has done for FONS over the last 5 years and are pleased to say she agreed to stay on the committee.

The past two years have been difficult for us all and we, the Friends of Newlands Spring, have been unable to raise as much money for the school as in previous years. This academic year, we are trying to raise as much as we can through 'Covid safe' events such as the Winter Artwork, Non Uniform Day, Bag2School, Christmas Raffle, Online Bazaar, Elf Trail and more recently, Fund-Raisin. Combined with the Halloween Disco we were able to run in October, we estimate that we have raised over £3500 so far!

A huge thank you to you all for your donations and support so far this year and we hope you'll continue to help us in our mission to raise as much money as we can for the school.

*Best wishes for the New Year!
Your FONS Committee*



Thanks to My Little Drinks Van for providing refreshments during the Christmas Trail

Matched Funding

Do you know what Matched Funding is?

Matched Funding is where the company you work for, 'match' the funds you help to raise for a local charity. One of our Committee members, who helped with the Halloween Disco this year, was able to double the money we raised from the disco through Matched Funding.

We are asking you to find out if your company offer Matched Funding. If they do, please get in touch, help us raise some money and claim those funds to help us fund resources for the school.

Plans for the New Year

We are hoping to come up with some more 'Covid safe' fundraising ideas to continue raising much needed funds for the school.

We are also on the look out for new members too. We don't ask for much of your time, just attendance at meetings once a half term (currently online), help with events when we are able to run them and help spreading the word when needed. The more of us there are, the less there will be for us all to do!

We are having an online 'Ideas Meeting' on 18th January, if you'd like to join us, email for the link.

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What do FONS actually do?

That is a very good question!

Well, let us tell you a little more about who we are first.

We are a lovely group of ladies (men you are most welcome to join also!) who all have children at the school. Some of us work at the school too.

We try to meet at least once per half term, currently online, to plan for the half term ahead. We usually have an agenda which is shared prior to the meeting via our WhatsApp group, the meeting is led by one of the Co-Chairs and minutes are taken by the Secretary. We also have a fantastic Treasurer too who handles the accounts. We welcome ideas from members and ask for their help and support with events. For example, each member was in charge of the Winter Artwork for a class or two, sharing the artwork, taking the orders, recording and passing them on and distributing the orders once they arrived. You may have seen posts from members on the class WhatsApp groups asking for help or reminding you of deadlines. These

are the sorts of things our members are asked to do to help.

In person events take a lot more planning and support and we are always looking for more people to help us, as many hands make light work meaning we can have lots of fun at the same time! Please email us for more information if you're interested in helping us!

We don't only arrange events, we also hold a fairly large amount of 2nd hand uniform. We welcome donations of good quality uniform, logo items preferred, and sell it on for a small amount. The money raised goes straight into the fundraising pot. If you are in need of uniform, please do reach out to us either by the Facebook page or via email.

Dates for your diary!

Unfortunately we may not be able to hold some of the events we had planned for this year. We have had to cancel Skittleman again this year and we are having to wait and see regarding the Adult and Junior Bingo.

We do still have the Bag2School collection on 21st April, collection bags should be given out before the Easter Holidays but you can still collect items in bin liners or other plastic bags beforehand. So if you're having a clear out, please do keep the items for us ready to bring to school in April. In November we raised £120, we are aiming to beat this, so we need your help!

The Summer Fair is planned for 2nd July so fingers crossed we will be able to hold this event outside.



**YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY**

School Lottery

We are hoping to join Your School Lottery soon which is another way you can help us fundraise. For £1 a week, you'll have the chance to win cash prizes whilst helping raise money for the school. It is all run safely online and you can set up a monthly direct debit so you don't forget to enter or make a one-off payment with a debit card.

40% of ticket sales come right back to us so with 50 tickets purchased a week, we can raise over £1000s plus you could win one of the guaranteed cash prizes or even the £25,000 jackpot!

Keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon!

As they say, you've got to be in it, to win it!



Date for your diary!