



## **Chair End of Year Report 2022-23**

### **Harriet Thaneja**

Good evening everyone,

Firstly I would like to congratulate my fellow Friends of Neston Team past and present, who have put a tremendous amount of effort and hard work into making and keeping FoNs a running active charity for Neston Primary School.

Without these people's continual enthusiasm and influence especially during and after covid, I do not think FoNs would have been able to climb the mountain to get it where it is today. So to my fellow Fons, from the bottom of my heart, I say "Thank you" You are an amazing group of people who have given up huge amounts of their own time to ensure that events are fun, run smoothly, safely and successfully. In fact People often have the misconception that to be a part of FoNs you have to attend meetings, help out at an event. But actually, some of us are already a part of Fons. I know that because most of you, even before having children, have probably attended Neston firework displays. So as a community we are all a part of this wonderful charity, which brings the community closer together.

What money you put in goes straight back to the school; I'm proud to say that over the past 6 years we have been apart of a team that has raised over £80,000 for this primary school. £80,000, This has paid for iPads for teachers and pupils with charging station, resources for interactive learning, green boxes, library licensing and software, professional pantomimes coming into school, first aid training for year 6, bikes and ride on toys for early learning, musical instruments, history timeline and we have set up this school with fabulous programme of Maths No Problem which has excelled the school in their maths.

So for those who are new here or who are interested in giving some of your time, we like to meet up termly and discuss objectives and come up with idea on how to fundraise for the school, we put together dates at the start of each year to hold our meetings where we ideally need a member from each class and a teacher who represents the school. We also like to hear from the children and we attend their council meetings where we can have a one to one with them and they can discuss their wants and needs. For example, recently from feedback from pupils, we found that they were sharing musical instruments, so we wanted to help out with this, which, from the photos we achieved.

We have had some fabulous people this year who have outshined themselves with their involvement with the school, firstly, to Tristan, Mr Money bags, who has been our treasurer for 4 years now, I was so pleased that he joined FoNs with his expertise not only on finance but also great shoe fashion sense.

Secondly to my own class rep Jo Aldred and Jen Pillinger who have been selling raffle tickets outside classroom doors and promoting their own cafe JJ's way before I arrived. Jo and Mike have always been on hand to help with fireworks too and I liked to thank them for their hard work and to say "hello" to Helen Mitchell who has agreed to take on their role. Speaking of fireworks, even though for YEARS I have begged her to come onto the FoNs I finally got her last year and that is Sharon Peale who alongside the most logistic, spreadsheeted man I have ever met, Paul Bott who have taken the lead on Neston Fireworks to ensure that it is safe environment for everyone who attends.. Lastly, on a personal note, I'd like to thank Kate Chipperfield, Laura Holdship and Steph Mitchell whom without their enthusiasm and their get go attuned, I feel we have managed to do all these events. You can see their work through the Facebook posts, Secondly Steph outside the school gates and with posters. As I said before, without these core people FoNS wouldn't be where it is today.

As Tristan said in his report, we have done Uniform sales, two Corsham 10k, bike ride, quiz night, fireworks, tea towels, disco, hampers all which has raised just over £21k. It's thanks to the people who put these on and the parents who support us through them.

I know next year will be just as good if not better, and I am so proud of everything you have achieved and what you taught me in my time at Neston School.

May the legacy that we have planted in the grounds of this school continue to flourish into a garden full of wonder.

Thank you.