**NEWDIGATE FONS**

WHAT, WHY, WHO and HOW?

**WHAT do the FONS do?**

The Friends of Newdigate School (FONS) is a group of parents who, in liaison with the head teacher, get together to arrange events throughout the year for both children and parents. We provide a range of entertaining activities outside of school hours as well as supporting in-school events. Whilst some events are just for fun and an opportunity to meet other parents, many have the added benefit of raising additional money to equip the school with facilities that the Department of Education doesn’t cover.

**WHY is it needed?**

You have chosen a wonderful village school for your child/children, but in the current financial climate we will need to supplement the school’s budget to buy non-core equipment. Over the last few years the equipment funded by the FONS’s activities include

* the interactive whiteboards in each classroom
* all of the equipment in the playground including the trim trail
* maintaining the pool
* and most recently, the new library: seating and books.

You will have noticed the fence around the pool wall in the playground. Raising sufficient funds to fix this wall, to enable the pool to open next year, will be our focus this year.

**WHO are the FONS?**

There are many parents who get involved in various different ways from being class reps, running the second hand uniform sales, making teas and coffees or organising specific events. The following pages contain more detail as to who the FONS committee currently are as well as a range of additional roles.

**HOW can I get involved?**

We have provided a list of the varied roles for you to see what is involved with each and which appeal to you. Come and talk to us about what is involved. We appreciate all levels of assistance, big or small, regular or ad-hoc. Not only are the events fun but organising them can be too!

**The FONS Committee 2015/16**

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| Chair: | Suzanne Atfield |
| 20150921_194913.jpg | Hi, I have been involved with the FONS since my eldest started at Newdigate. My first year was just as a extra pair of hands at events and attending meetings, I then spent a year as Deputy Chair and have been Chair for the past year. My younger son is in Maple class and my elder has moved on. I work from home so am at school for drop off and pick up, often with my daughter asleep on my shoulder. |
| Deputy Chair: | Kitty Whitehead |
| IMG_20150731_111117.jpg | Hi. I have been involved with the FONS in various ways since my son was in reception (he’s now moved on as in Year 4). My daughter, Sienna, is in Year 1. We live in Capel. One of the factors for choosing Newdigate over our local school was being impressed by the active parent community who fund the fabulous pool. I work 3 days a week in London which, combined with doing a lift share to coordinate 2 school pick ups, means I am usually only at Newdigate on Fridays. |
| Treasurer: | Martin Bramhill |
| IMAG0080.jpg | Hi, I've been the Treasurer of the FONS for a year. My son, Chris, is now in Year 1 in Maple class and is really enjoying being at this lovely school. We live in North Holmwood but chose Newdigate over more local schools because of the happy atmosphere and great teaching here. Chris' younger brother Aidan is already looking forward to joining him next year! I work in London, except on Fridays when I work from home and get to do the drop off and pick up, which I really enjoy. |
| Secretary: | Pippa Bennett |
| C:\Users\Pippa\Dropbox\Photos\2015-01 Centreparcs\Pip edits low res for email\2015-01-05 14.55.22-1-1.jpg | Hi, I have been FONS Secretary for one year and have also been involved in organising various FONS events. My daughter, Amellie, is in Year 1 in Maple Class. I live in Capel. I'm a stay-at-home mum and so I'm almost always at the school for drop off and pick ups. I can usually be seen running after my very active two year old, Isabelle! |

**Other FONS Roles:**

In addition to the core committee roles above, we are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

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| --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Responsibility** |
| Class reps (2 per class) | A point of contact for the class on certain occasions. Responsibility for certain tasks including arranging and gathering donations for teachers’ end of year gifts, coordinating Christmas Fayre volunteers and organising mums’ nights out. |
| Tea and coffee coordinator | There are certain events throughout the year when the FONS offer tea & coffee to the parents and visitors at the school. The T&C co-ordinator will be made aware of these events and request help from other parents to provide this service. The co-ordinators will ensure that stock levels are sufficient beforehand, will arrange the additional nibbles, and will ensure that a team of helpers is in place for setting up, serving and clearing away. |
| Second hand clothes sale coordinator | To manage 2 afternoon sales per term |
| Cake Raffle (x2) | On Friday mornings the school runs a cake raffle for 50p a ticket. A rota is prepared and parents sign up to make a cake on a given week. Each Friday morning (from 8.35am) a team of two/three are at the steps to the playground selling raffle tickets. |
| End of Term Children’s Parties & Magic Shows (x2) | Arrange parties at Easter and at the end of the summer term, agree dates and book the entertainer, produce and sell tickets, welcome the entertainer on the day, arrange for some parent helpers to attend, organise drinks/snacks for children. |
| Supermarket Vouchers (x1) | Collection of the Tesco and Sainsburys school vouchers. The coordinator will empty the box and count up all vouchers at the end of the collection period. Discuss with the Head what items would like to be bought with the vouchers and complete the necessary paperwork and submit the order. |

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| Christmas Cards (x2) | Arrange date for the children to do their artwork at school, obtain paperwork from the company, leave in school office, collect and send artwork to company, distribute proofs and collate orders, distribute orders to book bags upon arrival. |
| Northbrook Wrapping (x1) | Distribute catalogues via book bags, collate orders for gift wrap, distribute orders on arrival. |
| Christmas Fayre – Lead co-ordinators (x2) | Two people are required to be lead co-ordinators. They will organise a sub-team of helpers for each of the following roles: booking trade stalls, collection of items for stalls during November, collection of items for hampers via class reps, making up the hampers, selling raffle tickets, arranging cake bakers, creating and running Santa’s grotto, booking Santa, buying Santa gifts, organising mulled wine, organising the programme, setting up the hall and clearing away. |
| Social Events – lead coordinators (x2) | We are planning a number of social events this year for the children and parents and which need diary management and coordination. |
| Individual event organisers | We are looking for organisers for a range of events over the year, both larger events and smaller workshops. We've had some ideas (see the survey on the last page) so if any of these are things that you would be interested in running, or if you have any other ideas, then please let us know. |
| Newsletter writer | To put together the monthly newsletter and email to the office for release. |
| Swimming pool coordinator | To arrange the rotas for first aiding and lifesaving duties and arrange ticket sales |

We need to fill many of these roles at the AGM on 14th October. So please come along to this or if you are unable to attend please let us know what you are interested in.

**Survey**

And finally, we have a number of events on the drawing board for the next year. Our first planned event is a pub quiz in the village hall on ***Saturday 14th November***. Save the date! As for our other ideas, to help us understand where to focus our efforts, please complete this survey to advise if you would be interested in attending these events:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Events | Would you be interested in this? | | |
| Yes | Maybe | No |
| **Adult workshops:** |  |  |  |
| Wine tasting |  |  |  |
| Flower arranging |  |  |  |
| Jewellery making |  |  |  |
| Christmas wreaths and garlands |  |  |  |
| Cake decorating |  |  |  |
| Photography |  |  |  |
| **Children’s workshops or intro session** |  |  |  |
| language lesson |  |  |  |
| Junk modelling |  |  |  |
| Cake decorating |  |  |  |
| Jewellery making |  |  |  |
| Circus skills |  |  |  |
| Door/name plaque making |  |  |  |
| **Other adult or family events** |  |  |  |
| Pampering evening |  |  |  |
| Bingo night |  |  |  |
| Countdown evening |  |  |  |
| Family portrait session |  |  |  |
| Scalextric night |  |  |  |
| Pub quiz |  |  |  |
| BBQ & pool party! |  |  |  |
| Family camp out |  |  |  |
| Outdoor cinema evening (adults) |  |  |  |
| Road bike event (adult) |  |  |  |
| Mountain bike event (adult) |  |  |  |
| Family fun run/ triathlon |  |  |  |
| Monthly film club for kids |  |  |  |

If you would like to run any other courses or have new ideas please come and speak to us or come along to the AGM