

JANUARY 2024



SPONSORSTARS  
Creating a brighter future

WINTER 2024 \_\_\_\_\_  
**N E W S L E T T E R**





## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

And a huge **thank you** to all of you for your continuing support which allows Sponsorstars to keep helping children whose families are struggling to find enough spare money to give their children everything they need to enhance their educational opportunities.

And if you haven't donated to Sponsorstars yet, please think about how a modest monthly or one-off donation can make a huge difference.

Email: [admin@sponsorstars](mailto:admin@sponsorstars) if you would like contribute to a young person's school experience.

*It has been brilliant to be warm at  
breaktime so I can enjoy playing  
with my friends*

*Year 7, jacket, hat and gloves*



## 3 NEW TRUSTEES ON BOARD

This school year we welcome 3 new trustees onto our board – two of whom, **Sian Thompson** and **Johanna George** are teachers and have direct experience of working in schools and knowing what each child needs to maximise their learning.



### SIAN THOMPSON

Sian worked in a variety of teaching and educational roles in Inner City London schools before retiring in 2022. With nearly forty years teaching experience, she has a deep understanding of the importance of education in the early years and at all subsequent levels and how opportunities impact the life chances of children. Sian is passionate about using her wide and relevant experience to enhance the life chances of the children supported by Sponsorstars.

### JOHANNA GEORGE

Johanna is a passionate and dedicated Assistant Headteacher at a London Primary School, with decades of experience. She is committed to ensuring all children receive opportunities to enable them to reach their potential. As a working teacher, Johanna understands the importance and positive impact of basic requirements such as access to healthy food and school uniform, on a child's life and future opportunities.



### FIONA THOMPSON

Fiona enjoyed a working life in television, as a writer, BBC producer and director, though volunteering in her children's primary school gave her just as much enjoyment and satisfaction.

She is thankful for an education that gave her choice and opportunity and wants to work towards making that true for every child.



## Q & A WITH FIONA THOMPSON, NEW TRUSTEE

“



### **Why did you want to get involved?**

It's a new challenge and nice to give a little bit back. I am so grateful for my education and the opportunities it gave me. The thought that individual donations to children living in poverty could make such a difference is shocking, especially when you read the impact statements.

### **Christmas Wish?**

That the New Year brings secure homes to those children and families don't have one. And, of course, that many more individuals and corporations come forward and donate to Sponsorstars.

### **What did you like best about your school days?**

I was so lucky and had some great teachers, many of whom became friends, and I still go to the theatre with them 40 years after leaving. But I still struggle to call them by their first names and often call them Mrs Brown, or Mr Smith. Or even worse, "Sir". Without the encouragement from them I would never have done so well at school.

”





## WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR

This Christmas we organised a fund-raising idea whereby we placed Christmas trees in classrooms, and for a donation children can make a Christmas wish and hang a star on the tree.

Those “good wishes” added up to big wishes for children whose stockings might not be very full this season.

“ Christmas 2023 may not be very merry for many living in poverty as the number of people experiencing destitution has increased 148% from 2017-2022\*



• Statistic from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation



# WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR



Why not get involved and get your classroom, office, or place of work to do a DIY "When You Wish Upon A Star" for Sponsorstars next year?





## CHRISTMAS SPECIAL DELIVERY!

This year, we once again coordinated a special Christmas delivery for all the schools that have enrolled with us. Take a look at our volunteers in action, diligently packing warm socks and gloves to be distributed to every student in our program.





**Follow us on social media!**



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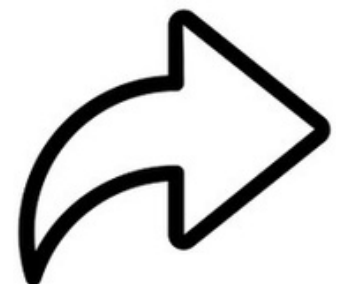
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# GET INVOLVED!

**Volunteer with us and use your valuable skills for a meaningful cause!**

ONE OF THE  
GREATEST GIFTS  
YOU CAN GIVE IS  
YOUR TIME

#VOLUNTEER



**PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH IF YOU THINK YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP**

CALL US ON: 0203 745 2475

EMAIL US AT: [ADMIN@SPONSORSTARS.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@SPONSORSTARS.ORG)