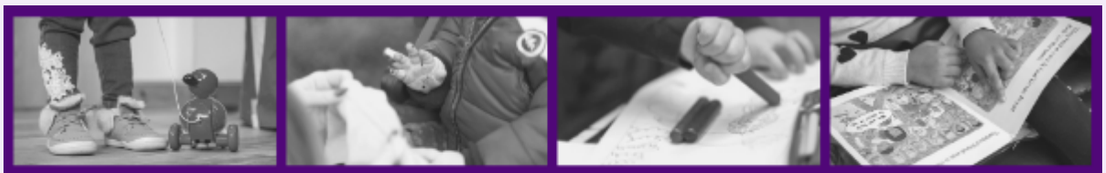


HOME START
Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire
Registered Charity No. 1105385

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

A big welcome and hello...

Welcome to the new Home-Start newsletter! We'll be sending this to you once a month, to let you know what we're doing during the lockdown and beyond.

Firstly, let's get the official stuff out of the way – if you would no longer like to receive these newsletters, please let us know (admin@hsrsc.org.uk).

Also, we would like to apologise if you've already been in touch with us about this – owing to the COVID-19 outbreak, we are revamping some of our systems and processes. Getting our GDPR compliance updated is one of those all-important activities. If you would like to be removed from our contact list, please let us know and we'll take you off straight away.

Now, let's move on to the fun things shall we? There's a lot to get through, but we promise future newsletters will be shorter 😉

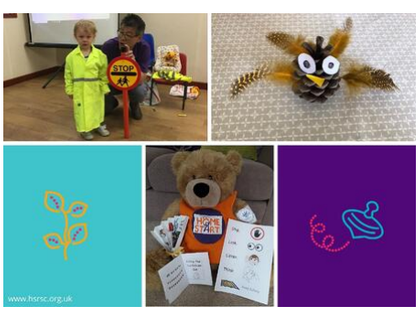
Changes all around

Here at Home-Start we've seen some real changes during the last few months.

We took on two new members of staff in February and March. Cathy and Paula will be handling our events and social media activity, so give them a friendly message if you happen to be on our Facebook or Twitter pages.

We've also said a temporary goodbye to Tracy, our Office & Events Support Manager. Tracy has been furloughed during the pandemic; we're looking forward to seeing her back in the office soon.

Family Groups



Our Family Groups, which offer social support to parents in Royston and Buntingford, have moved online.

We're holding weekly Zoom meetings, where the mums and dads can talk to each other and our volunteers, and the children can take part in virtual activities. You can read all about these online sessions here.

Our Family Group volunteers have demonstrated an astonishing level of creativity throughout the lockdown, and we'll be featuring some of their ideas and activities via our newsletters and social media platforms over the summer.

Why not take this opportunity to follow us (see our social media links at the bottom of the newsletter).

Our amazing volunteers have also been providing one-to-one support via video and telephone calling. Described by one parent as a *"little lifeline of reality"*, the Home-Start volunteers are keeping our families enveloped in a virtual hug, providing much-needed contact with the outside world during the lockdown.

Fundraising & Events

On 7th April we launched our Giving Tuesdays campaign, which is part of a global movement of thankfulness and charity giving. Every week we're posting new activities on our website for you to take part in.

We launched our new, virtual versions of our popular "literary lunch" events as part of Giving Tuesday. We're calling them "Creative Conversations," and the first one saw our lovely poet-in-residence, Jude, in conversation with author Sophie Hannah.

The Conversation is still available to watch on the Giving Tuesday page on our website, and we have more in the pipeline. We also have a Goodreads group set up for those that wish to review, recommend or simply talk about a book they have read recently. You can join the group by clicking here.

Over the past few weeks, we've featured drawing classes, harp relaxation therapy, and sign language for babies - a little bit of something for everyone!

The campaign ends on 1st December, so there's plenty of time for you to get involved in our activities. Click here for more information.

We also recently launched our new Strava Fitness Club. If you're interested in fitness, or use the Strava app, please come along and join our Club "HSRBSC Giving Tuesdays" - we'll be posting challenges for our club members to take part in, and you might find some new friends there too.

On 26th June we ran our first virtual event: a gin tasting evening in partnership with Pinkster Gin. Stephen, who created Pinkster (a local company), took us through the various gins that they produce and gave excellent advice on the best way to mix the perfect G&T. Just right for a summer's evening!

If you took part, we hope you enjoyed yourselves! If you missed out, don't worry: we're planning a cocktail making event soon – watch our social media and website posts for more details.

Thank You

Finally, we would like to say a massive "Thank You" to everyone who has contacted us over the last few months, whether it's with messages of support, donations towards our ongoing activities, or just letting us know that we are still in people's thoughts during these strange times.

Being part of the community is so important to us at Home-Start. Although we are sorry to be missing so many events this summer, we are looking forward to coming out of the lockdown ready and raring to do more and go further.

Because tomorrow starts today.

Why not follow us on Social Media to keep up-to-date with what's going on...

This message was sent to you. To ensure that you'll receive our emails, please add paula@hsrsc.org.uk to your address book.

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