



A smashing start to our fundraising target!

We would like to reiterate our thanks to one of our wonderful supporters, Keeley, who embarked on a personal challenge recently, and raised a whopping £1,672 for Home-Start. Keeley, we can't tell you enough how grateful we are for your support! Want to know what her challenge was? [Click here to find out!](#)

Support Home-Start with your own challenge?

This could be anything from running a marathon, walking 100km in a month, doing 100 hula-hoop rotations or 50 jumping jacks daily for 1 month, having a week of tech-free mornings, taking a selfie a day in unusual places, or you could take on something more challenging like the [Tough Mudder](#) event. Whatever you choose, we can help you set up your fundraising page, support your journey by sharing your story on our news feeds, and applaud your achievements when you succeed. [Please get touch with any challenge ideas you might have.](#)

Home-Start is here for local families when they need us most – and we need you to be there with us.

Create a Memory Butterfly

A common theme that comes up in conversation is how long it has been since people could see their extended families; for many, it has been over a year since they were able to get together. So, we have created a beautiful Garden of Happy Thoughts, in our new fundraiser, which we hope you will help us to fill with Memory Butterflies. All you need to do is make a donation, leave a message for your family, and fill the garden with bright colours and happy thoughts. [Click here for more](#) .

When you visit the garden page, click on the “donate” button on the left, then follow the easy, on-screen instructions to add your butterfly and your message to the page. ***Don't forget to let your family know that you've added a message for them, so they can come and view it!***

Love your Home-Start

Lockdown and restrictions meant we had to do things a little differently for our Love your Home-Start Day this year. We asked local schools and businesses to get involved by having a dress-up day, wearing the colours of Home-Start, with donations made through various platforms. We would like to say a huge Thank You to all those involved. [Click here to read more about this wonderful day!](#)

A 'little more love' for our mums on Mother's Day

We were so pleased to be able to 'give a little more love' and do something creative for our mums for Mother's Day this year. Thanks to the John Lewis Partnership for helping to make it possible.

One of our lovely volunteers wrote a post about it, and she shares how wonderful it was to see the families face-face (socially distanced, of course) to deliver the Mother's Day gifts to them. [You can read all about it here.](#)

Mother's Day raffle - winners

We had such a lovely response to our Mother's Day Raffle and were delighted to meet the winners in person when they came to pick up their prizes from the office. Congratulations to Mrs T (1st prize), Mrs S (2nd prize) and Mr B (3rd prize) and many thanks to everyone involved. [Read the winners lovely comments here.](#)

HOPE (poem) - a constant in these unsettling times

This year, for World Poetry Day, our wonderful poet-in-residence, Jude, penned something special to share with you all. And she also took the time out to record herself reading it aloud. [You can watch, listen or read the poem here.](#)



Aquathon Update

Due to the restrictions still in place, we've put this on hold for now. We will have more of an update in our June newsletter.

Easter Bake-along with Kelly's Kitchen

Who doesn't love a cookie... and even better when it's got chocolate in! While the kids are on a well-deserved break from school, we teamed up with Kelly from Kelly's Kitchen for a LIVE bake-along yesterday (30th March) and it was such fun!

But don't worry if you didn't get to purchase your pack and join in (or if you're not a Facebook user). The video will be available for you to enjoy baking in your own time and at your own pace. If you'd like to take part in the "offline" version of the bake-along, [drop us an email](#) and we'll arrange your pack and access for just £4.99.

Safeguarding Training

In January we ran our formal safeguarding refresher training for volunteers providing family support. The course was really well attended and, despite lockdown 3 meaning we

had to deliver it in an online way, it was well received by those who attended.

The training, which was delivered using the online platform Zoom, gave existing volunteers the opportunity to refresh their safeguarding knowledge in relation to their role as a Home-Start volunteer.

The course included reminders for volunteers about the definition of safeguarding and reaffirmed what action a volunteer should take, if they were concerned about a family they were working with. Staff and volunteers were able to explore in more detail, how adverse childhood experiences can impact on a child's development and considered how these experiences may affect a child as they grow up.

In order to fulfil our responsibility to support Home-Start volunteers to the best of our ability, we refresh their safeguarding knowledge annually. By providing ongoing relevant training opportunities along with regular support and supervision we hope that our volunteers feel well supported and valued, recognising the significance of what they bring to our charity and confident in their own ability to fulfil their roles in supporting local families.

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