



**HOME  
START**

Royston, Buntingford &  
South Cambridgeshire  
Registered Charity No. 1105385



**SUPPORTER  
NEWSLETTER**

As another year begins, the Home-Start staff, trustees and volunteers are looking forward to 2022. Regardless of these strange times that we continue to find ourselves living in, our Home Visiting Service and Family Support Groups have remained constant, providing support to local families.

We have had to conduct regular reviews and adjustments to the way we deliver our services over the last three months, but we are proud to have been able to continue reaching those that need us. Unsurprisingly we have seen an increase in the demand for our services as so many more families are experiencing mental health challenges, struggling with feeling isolated and trying to manage many other difficulties, often related to the last 2 years.

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to all our supporters for YOUR amazing and continued support. Without it, we would not be able to deliver our much-needed services.

## Johnson Matthey employees go that extra mile

It was so heart-warming to see the children of the families we support get excited when our staff and volunteers delivered their Christmas gifts.

Employees at Johnson Matthey pulled it out of the bag yet again to provide a gift for each and every child, ensuring no one missed out. [You can find out more about this wonderful act of generosity here.](#)

## So happy to host our family Christmas party

It's been a busy few months since our last newsletter. We've had so many things going on, but we were really pleased to be able to host our family Christmas party in December. This year's party was particularly special as last year, due to Covid, we had to cancel it for the first time in HSRBSC's history. But thankfully, with restrictions lifting and with a focus on safety, we were able to put smiles on the faces of little ones. We even had a visit from Santa! It was such a fun event and you can [read all about it here.](#)

## Family Support Groups - a lifeline to parents!

When you're a parent with pre-school children at home, having another adult to talk to can make such a difference to your day. Our family support groups in Royston and Buntingford have continued to offer parents time to have a cuppa and chat while their little ones get to play, hear stories and sing songs - all in a safe environment. [Read our latest family group update here.](#)

If you have pre-school children and live in the Royston or Buntingford area and are finding it difficult to get out to meet other mums/dads, [get in touch](#) to find out more about how our

Family Support Groups could help.

## Fantastic support from the community

Connecting with our community is a priority for Home-Start and we are delighted and proud to be able to work with many businesses and organisations in the local area. We were over the moon when The Original Factory Shop in Royston got in touch to let us know we were their chosen charity partner for the year. [Read all about it here.](#)

We were also pleased to have received a cheque through the Co-op Local Community Fund scheme, which funded our Family Support group in Royston for the Spring term. [Find out more about it here.](#)

And there are so many other organisations that we would like to extend our thanks to. Christmas is often a time that brings communities together and we have been humbled by the support, funding, time, gifts and general kindness we have experienced. Our latest blog reflects that and you can read it here.

## Navigating the Motherhood Maze

Our poet-in-residence, Jude, continues to delight us with her wonderfully honest parenting stories. How many of you can relate to the scenarios she shares? If you haven't already read them, here are links to the two latest ones:

- [Navigating the Motherhood Maze: Jumble Sale](#)
- [Navigating the Motherhood Maze: Peace at Christmas](#)

## #BehindTheMask campaign with The Masked Singer

We were delighted to have partnered with Bandicoot and ITV's The Masked Singer to launch its #BehindTheMask social media campaign when series 3 started.

[Click here to find out all you need to know and how you can get involved.](#)

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## 🌟 Upcoming Events 🌟

Our next Events Update will be sent out in mid-February, but here's a quick rundown of events we have planned over the coming months:

### Love Your Home-Start Day

Our annual LYHS celebration day is taking place on **Friday, 11th February**, where we encourage you to wear something in our signature colours (Purple and Orange), [download our Activity Pack](#) (full of fun things to do over the half-term holiday) and **make a donation** to our [Love Your Home-Start Fundraising page](#). If you want to find out more about this wonderful event, [click here](#).

And, as part of Love Your Home-Start day, we are excited to bring you a **Photography Skills Workshop**, with talented local photographer, [Peter Baker](#). Peter came 5th in a worldwide photography competition last year, and he's going to share with us his tips and tricks for taking the best photos. Tickets for this exclusive workshop cost £10 per household and [you can book yours here](#). **These sessions would normally cost £40-£50, so grab a bargain while you can!**

### Literary Lunch

Join us for the next in our series of popular lunchtime talks on **Thursday, 24th February**. We have author Ursula Buchan joining us to talk about her book "John Buchan: Beyond the ThirtyNine Steps." Don't miss out - [book your tickets here](#).

### Have you got what it takes to escape the Island?

Don't forget to have a go at our fun and entertaining online escape game - available until the end of March. A great way to spend an evening with family or friends. [Find out more here](#).

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