

SCHEMENEWS

Newsletter for volunteers, families, funders, and friends of Home-Start
Warrington

Winter 2020

*Celebrating 20 years supporting families
in Warrington*

Charity Number 1116515

Company Number 5563277



Buggy Walks



During October 2020, we had a few nice buggy walks with a few families. Here are a few snaps from our Co-ordinators!

Some lovely feedback too about the (socially distant) social aspect of the events! Well done team Home-Start.



Activity Day for Families

Also, in October, we had a lovely day of messy play activities with our more isolated families. Delighted to have received funding from the Government's £750m support package for charities to help facilitate these family activity days.

#LetsTalkLoneliness #CommunitiesCan
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and
Sport Home-Start UK
#AtHomeWithHomeStart #reallifeparenting

Farewell to Jadeena

On Thursday, 19th November we said a farewell to Jadeena, Social Work Student who joined us on placement in June 2020. Jadeena has been a great help to the team. She has helped us risk assess all our activities during Covid-19 and she has facilitated a lot of our activities and events for the families. She has also supported some families too. We wish her well in her career! Jadeena said that her time with us had been “her pleasure”. She feels that she has really learned a lot from all the team.



Partnerships & New Friends

Ian Kay, Motion Finance – Great big thanks to Ian Kay and team at Motion Finance. We received a very generous donation of £4,000 from them!

John Lewis & Waitrose – As part of the John Lewis #GiveALittleLove Christmas Campaign, we have been linked with Waitrose in Northwich. The campaign will provide funds for local Home-Start's and for Fareshare.

The Storybarn– We have been offered Zoom sessions for our Volunteers to access to share reading sessions with the families that we support. But also, our families have been able to access group reading sessions too, with their children. It is aimed at improving the parents reading confidence.

ETC Tax – Lucy took a recent delivery of some reconditioned laptops. This will enable a few of our families to access digital platforms for schoolwork.

Papyrus – Prevention of Young Suicide – The team recently attended a zoom session facilitated by Papyrus. The session highlighted the annual suicide statistics of the under 35's. It informed us how to spot signs. For more information, watch here, <https://youtu.be/QF0dqHtxQvM>, or their website, papyrus-uk.org

Christmas Quiz Fundraiser

We recently hosted a Christmas Quiz fundraiser over Zoom. The Quiz was prepared and delivered by Leanne, our Finance Admin and her partner DJ, Matthew. Thanks to all who attended, we hope that you had fun! Here's hoping that we can get together properly in 2021

This fabulous hamper was won by Gwen Lightfoot! Enjoy!



Christmas at Home-Start Warrington

Thanks to the very generous donations from, Sellafield, Katie Holt at Elmwood Church, Duncan Banks and BT Team, Warrington, St Thomas's Church Stockton Heath, we have been able to purchase Christmas Eve boxes for the children that we support and also a small gift for the parents. The monetary donations have been a big change for us, necessary due to covid-19 restrictions, but the team felt that this has worked very well, as we have been able to buy age appropriate gifts for each family.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support.



The Big Give 2020

This year, we joined the Big Give Christmas Challenge. The campaign ran between the 1st and the 8th December, and all donations to us in that time, was doubled with their matched funding. We raised a whopping **£6,800!!!!** Thanks to everyone who contributed during this period and a great big thanks to the companies who made pledges ahead of the campaign, Lane End New Beginnings, Kids Planet Nurseries and NP, Widnes. Your continued support is very much appreciated!

#CrackingChristmas

In a bid to deliver a calmer Christmas this year, we've teamed up with Warrington Voluntary Action to deliver [#crackingchristmaswarrington](#). It's all about planning. Making lists etc to help empty your head and feel that little bit less stressed. Also, the use of a food list to help your Christmas Day run smoothly. To see clips of some of our advice, watch here, to see what Lucy had to say - <https://fb.watch/2hl7d3cfA1/> and here to see what Bryan, Warrington Voluntary Action had to say, https://fb.watch/2hld8UzT_3/

Christmas Activity Day at the Old School

On 8th December, we held a Christmas Activity Day at the Old School, Fairfield Street. All very well organised and risk assessed, each staff member had their own activities room and each family had a one hour slot with their children to do craft sessions and activities. Each child also took away a craft bag, provided by Lynn Radcliffe, Cultural Partnerships Development Manager, Warrington Borough Council.



We're recruiting!

Exciting times ahead! We have secured funding from Cheshire Community Foundation to recruit for a Dad's Matter co-ordinator. The post is a 1 day, 8-hour post and will be to develop local, universal, and targeted interventions for dads in the perinatal period. The successful candidate will work closely with colleagues from Maternity, Health Visiting and Children's Services and with a wide range of Dads and Dads-to-be. They will develop our Dad Matters volunteering opportunities, will facilitate, and co-facilitate sessions with dads and will develop links with other voluntary and community groups.

For more details and how to apply visit - <https://homestart-warrington.org.uk/careers/>

Thanks for your support

Thanks to all our volunteers, trustees, referrers, supporters, and friends during this very difficult year. We really appreciate your support. We couldn't do it without you! See you for much more in 2021!



Christmas Fundraiser

Lucy's daughter's, and friend (Emma B's sister) recently had a charity stall at Ravenbank School, Lymm. A grand total of £260 was raised, including a very generous donation from Emma B Makes, of Christmas masks, scrunchies and magic Santa keys! Emma makes home-sewn made to order gifts and always donates at least 10% to charity. You can find her here, <https://www.facebook.com/EmmaBMakes/>
Thank you to all that supported the girls.

St Thomas's Church Stockton Heath book donations

A generous donation of books from the congregation of St Thomas's church in Stockton Heath. These will be added to our expanding pile of Christmas Eve Boxes for delivery to the children and families that we support.



Special doorstep visits to thank our Volunteers!

What an exceptional year it has been. We give a great big thanks to our home visit volunteers, who have continued to support families. When restrictions have lifted, they have been able to offer risk assessed socially distanced visits in their gardens, in a park, or on a buggy walk. Or, they have offered telephone support to "check in" with the family and stay in touch.



As a special thank you, Ellie & Lucy, hand delivered gifts and certificates at the doors of our volunteers.

Keep up the great work you are amazing.

