

SCHEMENEWS

Newsletter for Families and Volunteers October 2018



Looking back to the summer, it was lovely to see so many families at our summer trip to Peak Wildlife Park in August. We hope that those families who came had an enjoyable day out. If you came along, you'll find an evaluation form enclosed with this newsletter - please fill this in and send it back to us if you get the chance because your responses will help us feed back to funders and also help us when we're applying for funding for events in the future.

It's been quite a while since our last newsletter (sorry!) because things have been very busy at the office recently. The situation is unlikely to change for the foreseeable future and we are having to make some cut backs. We have, therefore, made the decision to reduce the size of the family newsletter and to start sending newsletters out on a quarterly basis, instead of bi-monthly. We hope that this is frequent enough to be able to continue to keep everybody informed and up-to-date with what's going on.

Donations needed:

Child Safety Gate

**Girls' Winter Clothes
(for girls aged 2 - 4 years)**

If anyone has the following items that they no longer need and would be happy to donate to the scheme, we'd be very grateful.

- A child safety gate to use in the office when children visit.
- Girls' winter clothes (2 - 4 years in good, clean condition) to top up our clothing store.

Queen's Award

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award that can be made to UK volunteer groups, being equivalent to the MBE. Home-Start Staffordshire Moorlands is delighted to accept this award, on behalf of our volunteer team, in recognition of their outstanding commitment to our work, supporting families with young children across the Staffordshire Moorlands' district.

The award will be presented at an event on 12th November in the Churnet Room at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council offices in Leek between 1.00 pm and 2.45 pm, followed by tea, coffee and cake.

This will be a formal presentation of the Queen's Award by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire (on behalf of the Queen) and won't, therefore, be a child-friendly event. We have reserved a number of places for any families who'd like to join us for the celebration.

If you'd like to come along, please contact the office as soon as possible (no later than 26th October), as there is limited space available - phone us on 01538 387231 or email Info@homestartsm.org.uk.

Christmas Cards

Please help us raise money for the scheme if you can by buying your Christmas cards from us this year. Cards will be on sale at the Home-Start office (the office is generally open Monday to Thursday between 9.30 am and 2.30 pm).

**Support and friendship
for families**

Home-Start
Staffordshire Moorlands

Diary

**Queen's Award Event
Monday 12th November**

1.00 pm - 3.30 pm in the Churnet Room at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Stockwell Street, Leek, ST13 6HQ

PLACES LIMITED, SO PLEASE LET US KNOW BEFORE 26TH OCTOBER IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND

Annual General Meeting

**Monday 10th December
12.00 noon at the Home-Start Office**

Leaving Messages on the Office Answer Phone

To enable us to deal with messages quickly and efficiently, if you leave a message on the office answer phone, please speak slowly and clearly and make sure that you leave your **full name** and a **contact telephone number** so that we can get back to you.

Many thanks.

Next newsletter: January 2019

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Home-Start
Staffordshire Moorlands

Home-Start Staffordshire Moorlands
(Registered Charity Number 1135201)
A Company Limited by Guarantee
(Company Number 7167797)
School Yard, Earl Street, Leek, ST13 6JT
T / F : 01538 387231

E-mail: Info@homestartsm.org.uk
Website: www.homestartsm.org.uk



Staffordshire
County Council



Fundraising

All fundraising ideas and offers of help are very much welcome - please get in touch by giving us a call (01538 387231) or emailing us at Info@homestartsm.org.uk. We are heavily reliant on donations and fundraising income.

On-line Donations & Fundraising

We have an on-line facility for people wishing to make on-line donations to the scheme at **MyDonate**. Anyone wishing to organise a sponsored event to raise money for the scheme can set up their own fundraising page. We can help you set this up if you wish - just get in touch.

On-line Shopping Easyfundraising.org.uk

If you shop on-line, please consider visiting your retailers via the easyfundraising.org.uk website and raise funds for **Home-Start Staffordshire Moorlands** at the same time - it doesn't take long and if lots of people do it, this can be a really good fundraiser for us. It doesn't cost you a penny. Again, if you need any help with this, just get in touch.

Fundraising & Donations

We are extremely fortunate to have received the following donations and payments this financial year:

A payment of **£26.50** from the sale of excess donated clothing, a **£2,000.00** donation from the Rotary Club of Leek, a **£1,000.00** donation from the High Sheriff's Fund, **£694.95** from a local Health Visitor who raised funds for us as part of her birthday celebrations, **£167.25** in gift aid, **£250.00** from RSM's dress down days, **£100.00** from the Inner Wheel Club of Leek, **£60.00** in regular monthly donations, **£21.00** from easyfundraising.org, **£5.00** from an ex-volunteer and **£613.75** from volunteers donating back their expenses.

Thank you all so very much for your generosity and support - it's very much appreciated.

Clothing and Equipment Store

The Clothing & Equipment Store (at the Home-Start offices in Earl Street, Leek) is full of items of donated baby equipment, children's clothing & footwear and maternity clothing, including school uniform.

Clothing and equipment is in good, second-hand condition and is available **FREE OF CHARGE** to all families supported by Home-Start Staffordshire Moorlands (there is no other eligibility criteria).

Families can take *at least* one large carrier bag of clothing away with them, plus equipment. Phone the Home-Start office for more information or to arrange a visit on 01538 387231.

Help at Christmas

In previous years we have been very fortunate in being able to help those families struggling financially with a bit of extra food and / or a little present for each child in the family, thanks to help from other organisations.

The situation this year is currently unclear and, unfortunately, it is possible that we may not be able to provide any help this year.

We will get in touch with families by text when the situation is clearer and if we are able to offer help this year.

Did you know ...

Home-Start Staffordshire Moorlands accepts self-referrals, so families can contact us directly if they would like to find out about getting support from one of our home-visiting volunteers. As long as funding and suitable volunteers / staff are available, we offer flexible support to **any** parent living in the Staffordshire Moorlands' District with at least one child under the age of five.

We are also able to direct families with children aged between 5 and 19 for early intervention family support through our partners at Visyon (as long as the family is not currently 'open' to social care or the Local Support Team).

Visits during BAD WEATHER

Although we're only just into autumn and the weather is still relatively warm, things can go downhill very quickly as we head into winter. If we experience a particularly bad spell of wintery weather in the months ahead, some appointments may need to be cancelled and re-arranged. If this is the case, we will do our best to give you as much notice as possible. Staff and volunteers always do their best to stick to appointments but we can't put people's safety at risk by asking them to travel when the roads are treacherous.

This winter, if you're expecting a visit and are aware that the condition of the roads where you live is very poor, please give us a quick call to warn us.

Half Term Children's Matinee Early Man (PG)

Foxlowe Arts Centre in Leek
Tuesday 30th October at 2.00 pm



The film is an animation comedy-adventure directed by Nick Park, the creator of Wallace and Gromit. It is a story about the origins of "football", as most of the world calls it.

Tickets are £2.00 for children and accompanying adults - available from the Foxlowe Arts Centre or www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk/event/early-man-pg/

Children's Workshop

On the morning before the film there will be a children's workshop at Haregate Community Centre, making models of the characters in the film. Tickets for the workshop are £1.00 per child*, available from Haregate Community Workshop.

* *Refunded with purchase of Early Man film ticket.*