



# Romsey Opportunity Group

## NEWSLETTER

### FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Parents, Carers, Volunteers, Staff and Friends

#### Dates for the Diary

March 2024

Tues 5th and Thurs 7th March - World Book Day

Fri 29th March to Fri 12th April - Easter Holidays

May 2024

Mon 27th May to Friday 31st May - Half Term

July 2024

Sun 7th July (TBC) - Mayors Picnic and Duck Race

Weds 24th July to Friday 30th August - Summer Holidays

November 2024

Sat 16th November - Christmas Charities Fair at Crossfield Hall



# ROG Welcomes new Patron



Romsey Opportunity Group have great pleasure in announcing Jon Whettingsteel as a new Patron.

Jon is a Solicitor, Partner and Head of the family department at Dutton Gregory Solicitors.

After being awarded an LLB Honours degree in law and studying at Guildford College of Law, Jon qualified as a solicitor in 2011, gained initial experience in Family and Criminal Law and then chose to specialise in matters involving families and relationships. He has obtained advanced accreditation with the Law Society, been named Hampshire Law Society's 'Lawyer of the Year' in 2019, and accepted the invitation to write his first professional book, 'A Practical Guide to Internal and External Child Relocation'. which was published in 2021. In 2023 he was awarded an honorary fellowship from the University of Winchester for his support and mentoring of law students and the department.

Jon has a son who attends the Romsey Opportunity Group, and has arranged a number of fundraising events to support ROG, including the now legendary Dutton Gregory Charity Quiz and Curry night, which sees over 100 professionals from across Hampshire attend every year.

Jon also supports raising awareness for ROG by preparing articles to go in local and national newspapers and magazines.

After being invited to become a patron Jon said, 'it is a huge privilege, and I'm so grateful to be able to give something back to such a fantastic cause. I know what a massive positive impact ROG has had for my family, and all of the other children and families who have attended. I look forward to helping ROG continue to go from strength to strength and achieve even greater things!'

# Pantomime fun

Our Children and their Families were treated to a most wonderful experience at the Plaza Theatre thanks to the fund raising efforts of the team at Dutton Gregory Solicitors. They were able to watch this years Pantomime, Dick Whittington at a very special relaxed performance.





# Stroud School bumper Christmas kindness

A huge Thank You to everyone at Stroud School for their amazing donations from the "tree of wishes" they did at Christmas for Romsey Opportunity Group!

The Stroud School Christmas Trees contained "wishes" requested by several charities: items that will help over the festive period and beyond. Children and Stroud families generously chose a "wish" and bought the gift written upon it for the selected charity.

We at Romsey Opportunity Group were totally blown away by the amount of craft materials and other gifts that were donated by the children and families of Stroud School.



THANK  
YOU

# Ampfield Riding Stables



Romsey Opportunity Group would like to extend their thanks to Ampfield Riding Stables for looking after our Children and their Families and giving them the most wonderful experience at Christmas meeting all the animals.

Everyone had an amazing time.

To find out more about them:

<https://ampfieldridingstables.uk/>



**THANK  
YOU!**

# Light up Hilliers at Christmas

Award winning producers, Light Up Trails returned to Hilliers with a host of NEW glittering installations for a sensational, sensory experience!

This included spellbinding lasers in Himalayan Valley, a multi-sensory, spectacular light show around the pond and a mirrored world to enliven the senses.

Our children and their families were given the opportunity to attend thanks to the fund raising by Dutton Gregory Solicitors.



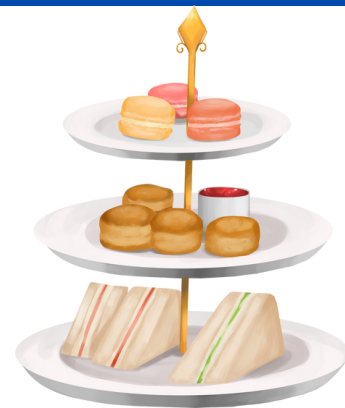








# Carol West Leaving Party



**Our lovely Carol left Rog in February 2024 after an amazing 12 years with us. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for everything she has done and we look forward to staying in touch.**

**We recently held a farewell afternoon cream tea and invited her family as well as Patrons, Trustees and Volunteers of ROG.**



**BEST  
OF LUCK**



# Housekeeping Notes

Can we politely ask all parents the following:

- Please label all children's items and snacks
- Please ensure you slice up grapes and blueberries
- No nuts in snacks
- Please ensure you sign everyone in and out of the Centre (including siblings)



## **And Finally....**

Spring is upon us and we are looking forward to lots of outdoor play and enjoying the new season.

We have plenty of fun activities planned for the next half term and we will keep you posted with this.

Until then, as always if you have any questions or concerns please speak to Janine Hollands or Caroline Wheatley in the first instance.

Many thanks

The Romsey Opportunity Group Team