



Romsey Opportunity Group

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

Dear Parents, Carers, Volunteers, Staff and Friends

Dates for the Diary

Tues 12th & Thurs 14th December - Children's Christmas parties. 11.30am Music, 11.45am Santa

Thurs 14th December - Last ROG Session before Christmas

Thurs 14th December - Volunteer/Staff/Trustees - End of Term lunch @ The Luzborough, Romsey @ 1pm

Mon 18th December 2023 to Monday 1st January 2024 - Christmas Holidays

January 2024

Tues 2nd January & Thurs 4th January - Volunteers & Staff return

Tues 9th & Thurs 11th January - Children and Families return

February 2024

Tues 6th & Thurs 8th - Chinese New Year - Try new food

Mon 12th to Fri 16th - Half Term



NEWS

Dutton Gregory Solicitors

A massive thank you to Jonathan Whettingsteel and the team at Dutton Gregory Solicitors for organising yet another hugely successful Quiz and Curry night. The night raised an incredible £3,728.15 for Romsey Opportunity Group.

Thank you to everyone who helped make a fantastic night, the event was completely sold out and Dutton Gregory think next year could be even bigger!

This year thanks to the amazing support from Dutton Gregory we have been able to make huge improvements and repairs to our outside play area as well as our sensory room.

You are all BRILLIANT!!!



Dutton Gregory
SOLICITORS



QUIZ ATTENDEES

Huge thanks to all of the Quiz attendees who included teams from:

Barrett Homes

Winchester University Law Lecturers

Southampton Solent University Law Society Students

Rathbones

Partners&

Hampshire Business Networks

Shentons Solicitors

Southampton Property Association

Simpson Hilder

College Chambers

Allied Office Machinery

New Forest Wealth Management

No18 Chambers

Asset Management Financial Advisors - AMFA

Thanks to those who donated prizes:

Brasserie Blanc Winchester

Beaufort Financial

Southampton Football Club

4 Brick Court Chambers

Pallant Chambers

Village Hotels

I wanna be role play village

Party Man World Eastleigh

*Thank
you!*

Romsey Men's Shed

The wonderful Romsey Men's Shed are fixing our climbing castle. They are giving us their time & skills and we pay for the materials.

They have been absolutely brilliant this year helping us with various projects.

From all the Staff, Volunteers, Trustees and Families, thanks to them for their kindness & support.



ROMSEY
MEN'S SHED



Original Factory Shop

We are so grateful to The Original Factory Shop in Romsey for their ongoing support of Romsey Opportunity Group.

They have raised considerable funds for us over the past few years and this has been invaluable.

The most recent cheque we received from them in November 2023 was for a whopping £210.22!!

From all the Staff, Volunteers, Trustees and Families, a big thank you to you and your customers for your continued support!

the original factory shop

UP TO 70% OFF BIG BRANDS

Walk the Test Way

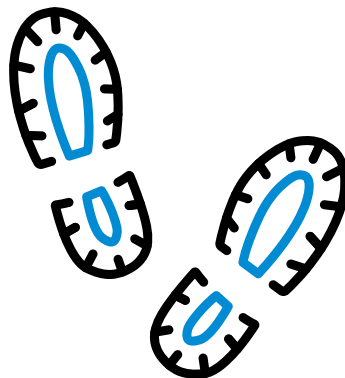
September saw the annual Walk the Test Way event where individuals and teams are invited to walk to raise money for Charity. This year we were thrilled to have Abbotswood Pre-School and Day Nursery and Will Hollands walking for ROG!

It was a tough course with recent heavy rain making it difficult under foot but everyone did so amazingly well and raised a HUGE amount for Romsey Opportunity Group and we are so grateful!

Team Abbotswood raised £1642 plus gift aid

Team Will raised £325 plus gift aid

Abbotswood
Pre-School & Day Nursery
Cupernham Lane, Romsey



AGM

The ROG AGM was held recently with Patrons, Trustees, staff and volunteers present. All vacant posts were re-elected unchallenged.

If anyone would like a copy of the minutes then please email rog@romseyopgroup.org.uk

Christmas Charities Fair

We were given the opportunity to have a table at the recent Charities Fair. ROG drew the raffle and decided to have a hamper raffle which was very well received. We raised a staggering £446.50! This included a very kind one off donation from a very lovely lady.



Mayoral Visit

Romsey Opportunity Group we very fortunate to receive a visit recently from the Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Philip Lashbrook and his wife the Mayoress, Councillor Linda Lashbrook.

The Mayor went on a tour of the Appletree Centre and saw the facilities provided by ROG for the children and their families that attend the Charity.

The Mayor said of his visit “Thank you for our visit which we found to be most informative and heart warming. The Romsey Opportunity Group provide a vital and desperately needed service. To everyone involved, my sincerest gratitude and appreciation”.



Our Session Routine

We would like to update you all on our Session Routine. Some things may change from day to day but we always try to keep the things we do roughly the same.

10.30 Snack time.

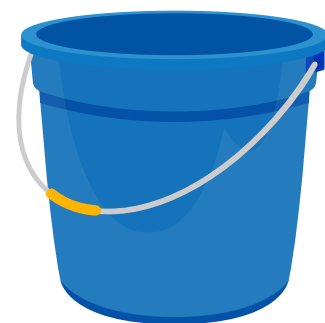
The children are encouraged to wash their hands and sit down at the table. We sing a morning song as well as a hello song to each child. We use Makaton signing throughout. The children may or may not have a picture prompt and some friends enjoy the role of helping to tidy up after snack and clean the table.

11.15 Bucket time.

This activity builds upon a child's attention span and develops concentration. It develops their ability to be able to attend an activity for extended periods of time, and prompts shared attention.

A now and next board will be used as well as simple language. The activities are visually motivating and stimulating. The children will be asked if they would like 'more' or if they would like the activity to 'finish', and they are encouraged to sign their response.

Bucket time will only go on for 5 minutes as a maximum.



11.50 Choosing songs

At the end of end session we sing our favourite nursery rhymes. Each child has a turn to pick a song from our choices board, either by using eye contact, pointing or handing us the picture card. Just before parent/guardians return to the room we sing our Teddy bear song which indicates that the session has now finished.

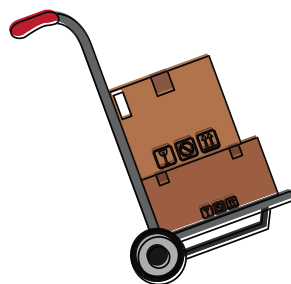
In between the children may free play with various activities we have available both inside and outside.



STAFF & VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Our team has been hard at work and gaining some valuable qualifications and ongoing best practice training such as:

- Safeguarding
- Manual Handling
- Fire Safety & Marshalling
- First Aid



And Finally....

To end the newsletter we just wanted to say what a wonderful year we have had at Romsey Opportunity Group. We have welcomed new families, had more fantastic people volunteer and have been extremely lucky with all of the amazing donations we have received. It is extremely humbling to know there are so many kind hearted people that want to support our cause.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Volunteers, Staff and Trustees and Patrons, without whom we would not be able to function. Your dedication to the Charity is phenomenal!

Finally we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and happy & healthy New Year!

