

ROMSEY OPPORTUNITY GROUP

The Appletree Centre, Princes Road, Romsey SO51 8DS

01794 511927 (Tues & Thurs 9-1pm)

Registered Charity No. 266330



October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers, Volunteers and Staff

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Autumn term 2021! It certainly is lovely to be back.....

This term has goodbyes and new beginnings as detailed below so there are quite a few changes for the children and staff. We celebrate what is past and embrace the future! I would like to add a personal thank you to Mavis who has been such a wonderful colleague and friend since I became Family Coordinator in February 2006. Mavis has built a solid foundation over the past 43 years giving Romsey Opportunity Group it's great reputation. I know Janine myself and the team will continue to make her proud.

Lyn Bird



Half-term

Monday 25th - Friday
29th October 2021



Goodbye to Mavis

After 43 years it is an end of an era at Romsey Opportunity Group. Mavis has been at the heart of ROG and a dedicated & diligent member of the team, showing enthusiasm for the many children and their families who have attended the group over the years. There are so many ways that Mavis has enhanced the running of the group and she has made such a difference on the lives of everyone she works with. We would like to wish Mavis a very happy and long retirement.

Celebration Number One

The ROG Parents Committee arranged an afternoon tea for Mavis and all the volunteers! A special thank you to Alison for organising this and to Zoe and Jackie for helping on the day. Thank you to Jackie's daughter who made the wonderful cake. Thanks must also go to [Waitrose & Partners](#) for their contribution and with monetary donations from parents they were able to put on a lovely afternoon that was enjoyed by all!



Celebration Number Two

ROG Trustees provided a lovely 'thank you' lunch after our cleaning morning in July for all the volunteers and staff to have a chance to say farewell to Mavis as a staff member. Café Fresh supported our lunch with some beautiful sandwiches and Sue made a delicious fruit flan.

Mavis's last day

Mavis has officially retired!! On Thursday 16th September, we held a very special ROG session to enable us to say an enormous thank you to Mavis for all she has done over the past 43 years and how much she means to us. There were a couple of emotional speeches and some beautiful gifts. We are now giving her a few weeks off before she returns as a volunteer to present a weekly signed story. Isn't that amazing?!



Welcome to Janine

We would like to say a huge ROG welcome to Janine who will take up the mantle from Mavis as Playroom Co-ordinator. I am sure most of you will have met her already as she has been volunteering at ROG since July. We really look forward to working with Janine.



Makaton Training

Thank you so much to Emily (Lyn's daughter) for giving two full days Makaton Level 1 and Level 2 training for our volunteers & staff during the summer holidays. This was made possible with the help of a County Councillors Grant of £500 from Councillor Mark Cooper.



Update on the train



Thank you to Romsey Men's shed for offering to repair the train. On dismantling the train, it was found the wood rot & damage was beyond mending. They have kindly removed the train and left the platform. Romsey Men's Shed are working with the ROG management committee to find a replacement. At present we are looking at one using recycled milk cartons, but we will keep you posted. Lyn's husband Jim and friend Darren walked 16 miles and 11 miles respectively in order to help raise much needed funds for our new train, more information in our next newsletter.

ROG Parent's Committee

Alison writes "We have had a fantastic Summer. Whilst ROG has been closed the parents committee have enjoyed a range of outings including picnics at the park, Hilliers Arboretum and a group session at Sensory for All. Children and parents have enjoyed connecting and having fun together. Thank you to those who supported our on-line raffle and the tombola at Romsey Market. We raised a total of £435.00".



ROG Summer raffle

After another 2 donations the total raised was £305 which is a brilliant amount. Everyone at Romsey Opportunity Group is so grateful and excited to spend the money on some new resources! Thank you to Alison for organising and hosting the raffle and to our lovely volunteer and trustee Caroline for applying for a fundraising licence for ROG and covering the fee for this.



ROG Market Stall



A total of £130 was raised from a tombola stall at Romsey Market on Saturday 21st August 🥳

Once again Alison did an amazing job in organising this event. Alison was assisted with help on the day from a few ROG trustees and our lovely family co-ordinator Lyn. The support from the people of Romsey was wonderful, thank you!

A big thank you also to Nikki @

<https://www.facebook.com/Scenterbarks/>

for providing tables and a van to help set us up on this morning!

Please follow our page for more fundraising that will be going ahead over the next few months!

Children In Need Update



Our wonderful volunteer & trustee Sue has been extremely busy since the beginning of 2021, spending lockdown preparing a bid to be submitted at the end of February. Sue heard nothing until May when Sue & Dick were interviewed over the phone for over an hour and were told the ROG bid was being put forward. Finally, after an anxious wait on 2nd August 2021, Sue heard that our bid for £10,000 had been successful!! We have now been informed that the 1st instalment of money will be paid into the ROG bank account by the end of October! Thank you so much to Sue for all your hard work and many hours spent liaising with Children in Need.

Visit our website <http://www.romseyopgroup.org.uk>

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or **01794 511927 (Appletree)** Tuesday and Thursday 9.00 – 1 pm

Or Janine Hollands - Playroom Co-ordinator