

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire
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Teresa Tye
Town Clerk
Didcot Town Council
Britwell Road, Didcot
OX11 7HN

8 March 2021

Dear Teresa,

Didcot Town Council Grant Aid Award November 2020

I am writing as requested with an update for the Town Council following the grant of £1,000 awarded to Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire.

Thanks to the funding we have been able to continue supporting families in Didcot who have young children and are struggling with the challenges of family life. Though our usual in-home support is not possible due to COVID-19, our team of dedicated staff and trained volunteers have been supporting families via weekly phone/video calls, text and emails and providing them with connections to the help they need.

We were also able to purchase a year's subscription to Zoom, so we could hold our baby group virtually. Our *Time for Tots* group for parents and their pre-school children is held every Monday and includes story time, rhymes and a song. Since then we have also developed a Zoom support group for our volunteers too, to help them learn how to support families remotely and the next session will have a guest speaker from the Community Dental Service, so they can pass on key oral health information to families. We also held our AGM via Zoom.

Before Christmas we organised door-step drops of Christmas sacks to the children, the sacks included Toys (donated by Play2Give) as well as activity sets, books and Christmas treats.

We are very grateful for the Town Council's continued support, as without help from councils such as yours we would not be able to continue supporting the families that need it most. We're especially grateful for this particular donation during these difficult times.

Thank you once again and please pass on our thanks to all the councillors.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'FGKing'.

Faye Golding-King
Development Manager
Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire