



# SWHP Christmas Appeal Update!



South West Herts Partnership  
ISSUE 198 – DECEMBER

## How can we support those families struggling this Christmas?

In November, what started out as a mailshot to local businesses and an email to our local schools appealing for their help over Christmas resulted in an overwhelming response of kindness and generosity.

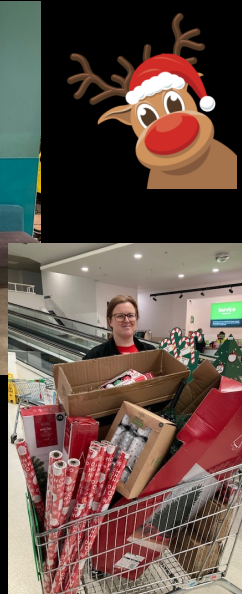
We were absolutely bowled over by the amount of donations collected from 10 schools - Arnett Hills, Bournehall Primary, Bushey Heath, Cassiobury Infants, Chorleywood, Christ Church, Croxley Danes, Kingswood Nursery, The Russell, St. Anthony's, 2 of our local supermarkets (Asda & Tesco) and Camelot.

This was a whole team approach with dropping off Christmas sacks to those donating, presentations on who we are and what the appeal was all about and taking donations to our main office to be logged.

Leading up to Christmas, our family workers are busily collecting / donating these items to families they have identified as needing that extra bit of support. This will make an enormous amount of difference and we can't thank you enough for all your help and support with this. We will share further feedback on how donations have helped in our next newsletter.

Items donated included; Christmas trees, decorations, toys, games, books, stationery, toiletries and selection packs.

*Carly Maddison, Business Manager*



## South West Herts Partnership—Year in Review

As we approach the end of another year, the team at SWHP would like to **thank all** our schools for their continuing and unwavering support. As you are all aware we have spent most of this year facing an uncertain future with threats to funding cuts for the Local School Partnership services.



While the future is still not set in stone, we are proud to have retained all our highly skilled workers and continue to offer a robust and quality service. We are pleased to let you know that currently we are looking to secure until **Autumn 25**. We thank you for your responses to the engagement survey.

The year has been as busy as ever; new schools have bought into the service, and we have continued to identify areas we can upskill in and offer to our communities. All the family workers are now **Drawing & Talking Practitioners**. This is being used widely across both primary and secondary schools. We are all trained in **Core Mediation Skills** and **First Aid at Work**. The service continues to run flexibly with coffee mornings, parent presentations and drop-in sessions being arranged to suit school needs.

Two of our team have become **EBSA Champions**; working on a triangulated support programme with DSPL9 and Nessie to support families and young people managing school absence/avoidance.

As the cost of living crisis continues to affect our communities the team all became **Warmth Champions**, and we remain dedicated to supporting families with essential goods and food parcels. Through support via Three Rivers and Watford Borough Councils we have been able to offer help to our most vulnerable families accessing the **Household Support Fund** and have successfully supported more than 65 families.

SWHP became a **White Ribbon Supporter Organisation** dedicated to ending violence against women. We continue to support victim of Domestic Abuse and remain passionate as a team that we must work with men and boys to prevent violence and change harmful attitudes.

As you will see from our first page, we had a wonderful response to our **Christmas Appeal** and have had the pleasure of playing Santa – delivering gifts to our families in need – thanks to the generosity of schools and community businesses we have been able to spread some festive cheer to many!

All that remains to be said is a **big thank** you to our team of Family workers and the Business team; they work tirelessly to make the lives of our young people better.

## Merry Christmas and see you in 2024!



*Ella, Carly and Dave* – SWHP Management







# "What's On?" IN THE AREA



## Why not have a Christmas Movie Night! -

make your own tickets, popcorn and bring a cozy blanket to keep warm whilst you watch Elf or another one of the movie greats.

### Christmas Challenge Trail

This festive season, why not bring the family to Leavesden Country Park for a truly magical experience as you take on the Christmas Challenge Trail!

Knock on 10 Christmas door artworks spread across the North & South of the park by scanning the QR codes as you walk.

Designed for visitors of all ages to enjoy, the Christmas Challenge Trail is a unique way of celebrating the festive season outdoors.

### Festive Centrepiece Workshop

Add a touch of homemade charm to your Christmas by joining us to create decorations perfect for the season.

Monday 18th December

10:00-11:30am

The HIVE, Leavesden Country Park



## See some Christmas lights -

If you don't fancy travelling to a Christmas light switch-on event, wrap up warm and go for a walk around your neighbourhood to spot some luminous displays.

### Festive Craft Event

Three Rivers District Council are hosting a festive craft event that blends cultural crafts representative of residents across the district.

The event will take place on the 21st December from 11am-3pm at South Oxhey Healthy Hub - Oxhey Library. The event is geared at children and will consist of ornament and card making to spread festive spirit

## Atria Watford | Santa's Flight School



Events

atria  
Watford



Santa's Flight School returns to Atria, Watford with a new story and adventure to entertain the little ones this festive season. Flight School is now fully booked online however cancellations may become available by checking <https://atriaflightschool.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Alternatively, there will be walk-in spaces available each day for every time slot but availability for these will be limited.**

This year Santa invites you to an enchanted **Forest Glade**, to meet his magical reindeer, play games with the Forest Flight elves and, of course, learn to fly in his famous sleigh!

From **Saturday 2nd December to Christmas eve** (opening days vary) children can interact and bring to life our beautiful, larger-than-life handmade reindeer marionette. He can be found in his favourite place: a gnome- and elf-inhabited Forest Glade which is the perfect place for a magical flying reindeer to pull up for a rest, or to play with friends. On this day in particular there's a buzz in the air, and the friends are gathered at Forest Glade because a very special someone has popped in to say hello. Can you guess who?

In this 20-minute **group experience**, you can expect to find festive fairy-tale creatures hanging-out and getting up to mischief before having the chance to step aboard Santa's Sleigh and take the reins!

Children will depart with their very own Driver's License for Santa's Sleigh.

## Charity Gift Wrap

Want to save yourself some precious time this Christmas then why not leave your gift-wrapping to the experts!



From 1st of December, the annual charity gift-wrapping service returns featuring a selection of local charities and volunteers.

Simply take your purchases to the charity gift-wrap station, which is open daily right up until Christmas Eve, and the ready-to-roll wrappers will happily do all your wrapping in return for a charity donation. Supporting a worthy cause, saving time and stress, it's a win win! And no one needs to know it wasn't your handy work!



**ALL THE SWHP TEAM  
WISH YOU  
A VERY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

