

New arrivals

We have just welcomed this year's first new family to the Horsham District. We are also expecting another family mid-March.

Our decorating team are hard at work preparing the property – **please contact us if you'd like to help.**

This will take us up to 10 families, and we'll be supporting **20** adults and **24** children! If you'd like to join the volunteer team to befriend or teach English, please **contact us.**



An update from Safe Passage



MPs voted to scrap legal protections for child refugees. But the fight doesn't end here.

We're developing an ambitious campaign and legal strategy to influence the negotiations and protect refugee rights, but we need you to make it happen.

Join the campaign: <http://safepassage.org.uk>

Christmas party

We had our Christmas party for all volunteers and families. The families cook Syrian food for all, while the volunteers bring desserts! Plenty of crafts, games, fun and laughter.



Thank-you to local Schools



Thanks to All Saints Primary School for raising a cheque for over £200 as part of their "Awesome Horsham" project where they found out about local charities. They also did a clothing drive and gave us many bags of children's clothes!

Thanks to Year 5 at Heron Way Primary School who beautifully decorated shoeboxes filled with nice things which we gave to the families as Christmas presents.



Christmas presents

We were also able to give each of the 8 families a Christmas present of £50, thanks to the generous donations of all our supporters so thank you!

The Syrian Kitchen

Try this tasty food every Saturday from the *Syrian Kitchen* stall in Horsham market. Dad Najat is also taking event bookings.



Items needed

Please find below the list of items we are currently looking for.

If you can help, please contact us.

Household items

Thank you for all the items that have been donated since the last newsletter: 2 blenders, a microwave, 2 freezers, huge amounts of clothes and several bicycles – all things that our families could not afford to buy for themselves.

Televisions, DVD players, TV stands

The Home Office does not provide these items on the VPR Scheme and we like to supply them for families as we think there are huge benefits when learning English. We are looking for a television, DVD player and tv stand for the new arrivals. We have also discovered that WSCC does not have the usual mobile phones with £10 credit to give each new arrival, as these have been donated in the past but have run out.

Perhaps you have items to donate or would like to make a financial contribution so that we can buy these?

Mobile phones and/or SIM cards

Do you have items such as an old mobile phone to donate?

Microwave

Another family has requested a microwave if someone has a spare that they would like to donate.

Children's items

Toys

We would love to provide toys and art supplies for the February new arrivals:

1. One boy, age 5
2. One girl, age 3

Details of our March arrivals will be available soon.

Books

We like to provide new families with Arabic/English dual language picture books to read with their children. These are readily available on Amazon and we have a list of suggestions if needed.

Bicycles

Thank-you to everyone for their donations, we are managing to provide all families with bikes for their children and often the adults too which is something they can't otherwise afford. We also now provide a lock from our funds to help look after them and avoid thefts (sadly this has happened). We still have 2 children in 2 different families waiting for a bike

- girl age 6
- boy age 6

And one more adult:

- male adult bike

We could be on the lookout for more bikes for our two newest families in February and March, if they ask for them.