



Our last newsletter of the year is full of news about Footsteps children's achievements, our wonderful fundraisers and how you can support us. Wishing all of our supporters a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

## December Donations Doubled



**Would you like to do something for Footsteps Foundation this Christmas?**

For every single donation we get in December (up to £2000), a kind donor has agreed to match it – so your donation is doubled! £5 will become £10, £25 becomes £50 and so on. If you can Gift-Aid it, that's another 50% on top as the matching donation will be Gift-Aided too!

**HOW TO DONATE** at <https://www.justgiving.com/footstepsfoundation> send a cheque to: Footsteps Foundation LTD, 4 Queen Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7HR, or drop cash donations off in the office.

## Ronnie's Footsteps



Ronnie is nearly 11 and has cerebral palsy. He has been coming to Footsteps for 7 years. Ronnie walks with a K-walker and is quite independent at home.

**Foundation manager Maggie had a chat with Ronnie and his mum Katy, at the end of their final session of 2017:**

**Maggie:** Hi Ronnie. You are one of the original Footsteps kids! Can you tell us what you think about Footsteps?

**Ronnie:** I've got three words for you: I. Want. To. Walk. Oh - that's four words!

**Maggie:** Sounds great! So is that what you are going to work on in 2018?

**Ronnie:** I'm not going to work on it. I'm going to DO IT!

**Maggie:** Wow Ronnie you are so motivated! Good attitude!

**Katy:** This is music to my ears. Ronnie has been coming for seven years, but used to be quite anxious of falling. We have just had this breakthrough where he really wants to push himself – we have booked lots of sessions next year to make the most of this- we would live here if we could!

**Maggie:** Anything that has got stronger or better with your therapy Ronnie?

**Ronnie:** I definitely think I've got stronger over the years and the pain has got easier – if I fall over it doesn't hurt as much as it used to, so I'm not as scared of falling as before.

**Maggie:** Well done Ronnie, that's really brave. You must miss a lot of school coming to Footsteps?

**Ronnie:** I am not too bothered about that! I like school and have friends there, I'm in year 6, but it was better when I was in year 4 as my teacher was an SEN teacher and she really got it. There are no other children with CP at my school, apart from a little boy in year 1 but he's really shy – I'm going to a new school next year and there are 150 children with special needs.

**Katy:** But they will be all different kinds of special needs – you could have a kid who is deaf or someone with dyslexia. It would be nice for you to meet someone your age with CP wouldn't it? In fact that has been good at Footsteps. The other day Ronnie was having a race with a girl who is on session too, she's around the same age – it got quite competitive! Who won, Ronnie?

**Ronnie:** I will be a gentleman...

**Maggie:** Haha! What is your favourite activity at Footsteps Ronnie?

**Ronnie:** I like the new game that Mark has invented, when I'm in the Spider– he sticks a hoop to the mirror and I have to throw the ball to hit the middle of the hoop and catch it when it bounces back. (see our [facebook page](#) for a video of this)

**Maggie:** Fun! Hey, your hair looks really cool – who does it?

**Ronnie:** My mum is a hairdresser – she does the colour, but I style it throughout the day with water and soap in the mirror.

**Maggie:** Ah, that's why it looks so good – do you want to be a hairstylist like your mum when you grow up?

**Ronnie:** NO! – I'm going to be a delivery driver and a famous YouTuber – I'm getting a webcam and Blue Yeti microphone for Christmas!

**Maggie:** Good luck with that, it sounds great. I hope that you have a lovely Christmas, we are all really proud of your achievements and your determination Ronnie and look forward to seeing you lots in 2018.

## Christmas Shopping with Footsteps



Footsteps Foundation has a new online shop! We have some cute new items of charity merchandise, just in time for Christmas – could you do a bit of Christmas shopping at the same time as supporting your favourite children's charity? Adorable cuddly toys, bags and Christmas cards. This is just the start as new products will be added next year. See our shop here <https://www.footstepscentre.com/shop/>

## Charity Ambassador Susan Twitchett



We are very lucky to have Susan Twitchett as a Footsteps Foundation charity Ambassador. She has worked tirelessly on our behalf

this year, giving presentations, running events, securing raffle prizes and finding excellent fundraising opportunities. Susan has been a fantastic advocate for Footsteps Foundation for a number of years now, as she has family members that personally benefit from Footsteps therapy, giving her the passion and drive to support our work. Seeing first-hand how beneficial Footsteps therapy can be, Susan said she would like all disabled children to be able to access this life-changing therapy.

## Footsteps Fireworks



This November the 5th saw the third annual Footsteps Fireworks display. The event was very well attended and we are very grateful to the villagers in our lovely home of Dorchester-on-Thames for all the help they gave us in putting on this large event. With over 1500 attending, a bar, BBQ, band and games there was so much more than just the fabulous display! We raised over £4,000 towards therapy for disabled children as locals, therapists, footsteps children and visitors enjoyed the event together. Again we are reminded of how lucky we are to be situated in such a supportive community in Dorchester-on-Thames.

## Thanks to all of our lovely supporters...



**With special thanks to our regular donors – your commitment by direct debit is especially helpful and supports children like Ronnie & Evie, pictured:** Doug Tillman, Sarah McAdden, Christine Briggs, Violando Percival, Jane Mellor, Louise Van Heyningen,

**Huge thanks to:** Patricia Winter, Peter Ball, Isis Rotary Club, The Albert Hunt Trust, Jimmy Froud, Ipsen Bioinnovation, Phoebe Gibbons, Misty & Tim at Chunki Chilli, Christopher cox, Judith & Marcus Morris, Rose Noordujin, Mr Kearsely, The Grace Trust, Clare & David Maddison, Emily at The Horsebox Coffee co. The Dorchester Fireworks Volunteers, Didcot Baptist Church, The Wallingford Freemasons, The Peter Harrison Foundation, Susan & Peter Twitchett, Wallingford Castle Rose Croix, Sporting Bears.

**Would you like to make a regular or a one-off donation? (and see it doubled in December) <https://www.justgiving.com/footstepsfoundation>**

Thanks for your ongoing support,

The Footsteps Team.