

# TrinityLearning Volunteer Newsletter

September 2020

As the schools go back and we all continue to adjust to a 'new normal', we thought now would be a good time to share some of the things TrinityLearning have been doing to help support Abingdon's schools over the last few months and also to share some of our plans for the future.



**TrinityLearning Wildlife Safari walks:** Our Wildlife Safari walks aim to give children and parents the opportunity to investigate nature in their local areas. Our first walk featured Albert Park, and we know from positive feedback that many families and volunteers have really enjoyed this walk and are looking forward to future ones. [Click here to view and download the Albert Park Wildlife Safari Walk.](#) We are currently working on an Ock Valley Wildlife Safari walk, which we look forward to sharing soon.

**Advice and support for School Staff:** As the new term gets underway we have updated our [Advice and Support for School Staff](#) leaflet. This includes some useful mental health links as well as details of two local, trusted and experienced Pilates teachers who run regular online classes which can be done from home.



**The Kingfisher School Garden:** Rosemary's vision has sustained and driven this project over the last year and the garden now looks beautiful and is fully accessible to the children. Over the last 18 months, around 70 volunteers from eight different volunteer groups including Explorer Scouts, Beavers, local businesses, Radley School 5th form volunteers and TrinityLearning volunteers have collectively put in over 800 hour's work to totally transform the garden.

This wonderful sensory garden is hugely appreciated by the pupils and staff of Kingfisher school. The lovely pergola seating, provided by fundraising from a team of students from Radley College, is now up and looking great! Children returning to school can also enjoy a huge coloured butterfly, gazebo and an area for older students to tend edible plants, using equipment funded by a grant from Tesco.



The garden will continue to be maintained by two TrinityLearning volunteers going forward, and we are sure that the garden will be a beautiful, peaceful resource for Kingfisher School for many years to come.

[Click here for more about the Kingfisher School Garden story.](#)



**TrinityLearning Peaceful Activity Packs:** In June we sent out packs designed to provide peaceful, calming activities which children could do independently or with their families. The activities were aimed at reducing anxiety and stress when lots of parents were working from home and children were off school. We wanted to provide something which could brighten the lives of children and maybe provide a few minutes peace and quiet for parents. [Click here to find out more about the packs.](#)

**Facebook:** We relaunched the TrinityLearning Facebook page in June and have been adding new posts regularly, so it's a great place to keep up to date with news in between our volunteer newsletters. Please do like and follow the new page and share the link with friends and colleagues: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLearning-108933674177652/>

### **What's coming up?**

**We're going virtual!** Whilst we are unable to go into schools, we will be working on 'Virtual Experience Advent Packs' for schools, which will include videos and activities, including the Christmas story and advent themed activities promoting values such as patience, preparation and giving.

After Christmas we will start working towards a 'Virtual Experience Easter' on a similar basis. If you have any ideas, or would like to be involved please email Nicola at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com)

**Volunteer training and meet-up sessions.** After a long break, we're looking forward to safely getting together with you all again!

- **Thursday 17th September at 10am** – Zoom meet-up of the **Kingfisher Singers group**.
- **Monday 28th September at 10am or Thursday 1st October at 2pm** - Zoom meet-ups for the **Thinking Books Volunteer**.

We are also planning online training on **Volunteering in Schools** and **Volunteering with Early Readers** in October as well as **Safeguarding** in November and **Prevent Training** (any time). We can offer a Monday at 10 am or 6pm or a Thursday at 10am or 2pm Please email Nicola at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com) with your preferred days and times if you are interested in joining any Training or meet-up sessions.

**Meet the volunteers:** You may have noticed our new website blog where volunteers talk about their work with TrinityLearning. In our first blog we catch up with volunteer Katie Doney and hear about her work with us and her advice for others thinking about volunteering. [Click here to catch up with Katie's blog if you missed it.](#)

We would love to hear from other volunteers who want to share their experiences of volunteering for TrinityLearning, so if you are interested or just want to find out more, please contact Nicola [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com) or Taz [taz.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:taz.trinitylearning@gmail.com)

Thank you for your continued support. Best wishes, Nicola W, Taz, and Nicola S