

TrinityLearning Volunteer Newsletter

March 2021

We have had a busy few months at TrinityLearning preparing for Experience Easter, sending out Peaceful Activity Packs and starting to think about restarting our regular volunteer activities as lockdown hopefully comes to an end over the next few months. All this has been tinged with sadness due to the untimely death of the wonderful Rosemary Perrow. We have produced an additional Volunteer Newsletter looking back at Rosemary's many achievements for TrinityLearning.

Experience Easter: Experience Easter is a series of reflective workshops, specially developed by TrinityLearning to allow Key Stage 2 children (7 to 11-year-olds) to access the Easter Story in a meaningful way that relates to their lives. It is also an introduction to mindfulness, using stilling exercises and simple activities to allow the children to consider the emotions involved in Holy Week.

The workshops are usually hosted in Trinity Church, however, this year we have created a 'virtual' Experience Easter so children can take part in the workshops from their classrooms. Videos sharing the Easter story and related simple mindfulness activities have been created by volunteers from many different churches in Abingdon, and over 500 resource packs have been sent out to seven local schools to support children taking part in this year's virtual event, with volunteers also helping to create the resources in these packs. Extra resources and guides have been added to our website to enable children and families to take part in the workshops from home, even if they don't have a resource pack.



Visit the 2021 Experience Easter at <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/experience-easter-2021/> and if you take part, do share pictures of your models, pictures or crafts. We'd love to see them!



Peaceful Activity Packs: Our Peaceful Activity Pack project - enabled by funding from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund - has continued this year. Thanks to the Government for making this possible. The second set of packs were distributed to primary schools in January and were focussed around mindfulness. They included a child's guide to mindfulness and some simple activities to enable children to try it out. We have received some great feedback from those that received the

packs:

"I enjoyed that there was a book to keep me calm because I get angry and stressed easily." Child who received a pack

"It was great to have something to do as being stuck at home was difficult and I wanted him to be off screens." Parent of a child who received a pack

The final Peaceful Activity Packs are being developed now, ready for distribution in early April and we are investigating sources of funding to combine this approach with the regular volunteer projects we hope to restart as lockdown lifts.

Are you thinking of regular volunteering for TrinityLearning?

After a pause of over a year, we are hoping to re-launch our regular volunteer projects in schools. These require a weekly 1 to 2 hour commitment per week and full training and support will be given. All volunteer roles working with children require an enhanced DBS check, linked to the update service and TrinityLearning will support you in your application for this.

Regular volunteer opportunities with TrinityLearning in local schools

Thinking Books - involves volunteer mentors sharing a carefully chosen book with a child or small group of children over 10 sessions. The focus is on discussing characters' feelings to help children think about other's feelings and develop empathy. There are notes to accompany each of the books, and volunteers receive initial training and regular follow up sessions.

Kingfisher Singing Group - The Kingfisher Singing Group visits Kingfisher School weekly in term time to sing simple nursery rhymes and songs. No specific music skills are necessary, just enthusiasm and joy! We are now able to arrange Makaton training to teach you to sign as you sing if you would like to.

Gardening - TrinityLearning has helped to develop several local school gardens and would like to be able to continue to offer this service to schools going forward. If you have skills in garden design, planting or weeding please let us know.

If you are interested in any of the above roles or finding out about other volunteer opportunities at TrinityLearning please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

Thinking Books meet-up (on Zoom) 19th April 10 am or 22nd April 2pm.

Kingfisher Singing Group Meet Up (on Zoom) 27th April 10am

Safeguarding Training in the Conduit Center 28th June 9am or 8th July 12.30pm.

Stay in the know: Our TrinityLearning Facebook page has new posts added regularly, so it's a great place to keep up to date with news in between our volunteer newsletters. Join us at www.facebook.com/TrinityLearning-108933674177652/

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