

TrinityLearning Volunteer Newsletter

June 2021

It's been another busy few months at TrinityLearning! Since our last newsletter in March, children in schools across Abingdon have taken part in our 'virtual' Experience Easter, and we have put together and sent out our final batch of Peaceful Activity Packs. As one door closes though another one opens, and we are very much looking forward to (and planning for!) the possibility of returning to face-to-face volunteering in schools as lockdown restrictions slowly wind down.



Our upcoming volunteer projects and training – get involved!

We are thankful and delighted that volunteers, both old and new, have signed up to join us as we start to work towards TrinityLearning projects returning to schools in the autumn. Our two key regular volunteer opportunities will be through our Thinking Books project, and the Kingfisher Singing Group.

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.

These require a weekly 1-to-2-hour time 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.

Safeguarding Training - this is essential training for all TrinityLearning volunteers working directly with children and young people, and we are running **free Safeguarding Training sessions for volunteers in the Conduit Centre 28th June 9am or 8th July 12.30pm.**

For more information, an informal (no commitment) chat, or to book yourself a place on one of our Safeguarding Training sessions please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com



Positive feedback from Experience Easter: We were thrilled by the many positive responses we had from schools who took part in our 'virtual' Experience Easter. *"The children really enjoyed the workshops (especially the plasticine). The workshops were easy to run and the resources were very helpful."* Teachers have asked us to thank all those who recorded a video and helped with the

packs. One school even made us a giant Experience Easter book to share their thoughts and feelings! We'd like to say a very big thank you once again to all the TrinityLearning volunteers and friends who worked so hard to create the videos and crafts.

Peaceful Activity Packs Update: Our final two Peaceful Activity Packs - enabled by funding from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund – went out in May. One set



focused on caring and sharing and was developed using the brilliant feedback and ideas we got from children who had received earlier packs. The other pack had contents designed to

match the new finger-stretching songs and rhymes recorded for the children of Kingfisher school by our fantastic volunteer Kingfisher

Singing Group. It included soap and hand cream to improve hand dexterity, as well as toys to warm fingers up and



loosen muscles with simple hand moves. We are very grateful for this funding which enabled us to continue to work with and support local children and their families in new ways during the current pandemic.

Coming up – Toolkit for Happiness: Our Workshop Leader, Taz, is busy writing a TrinityLearning 'Toolkit for Happiness' – a collection of simple strategies to promote and support children's wellbeing and good mental health. Aimed at children aged 7 to 12, the toolkit is designed to be used by teachers working with children, or by children themselves. We will also offer training alongside the toolkit to ensure children are able to use the kit independently when they feel they need to. More in the next newsletter!

Dates for your diary

Thinking Books Training on 14th September 9-1am. This training is essential for all Thinking Books volunteers and we have limited places available. Please email us on nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com if you would like to book a place.

Safeguarding Training in the Conduit Centre 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/

This will be our final Volunteer Newsletter before the summer holidays, so we'd like to wish you a safe, warm and peaceful summer and we hope to be able to meet up in September! Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes, Nicola W, Taz, and Nicola S