

# TrinityLearning Volunteer Newsletter

November 2021

We can't believe we're heading towards winter and already working on our sensory Christmas videos (more details later in the newsletter). As always, it's been another busy few months at TrinityLearning! Since our last newsletter, we have rolled out our Toolkit for Happiness project, carried out Thinking Books training, and restarted our Kingfisher Singing Group! We also have some new volunteering opportunities that can be done in person or from home. Read on to find out more.

## Volunteering opportunities—volunteer with us in school or from home!

**Kingfisher Singing Group** – our Kingfisher Singing Group started again this month. The last time we were able to sing with the children in person was in March 2020, just before the first lockdown, so it was wonderful to be back. We are now looking for volunteers to join this group. No singing or musical skills required just enthusiasm! The group meets once a week to sing nursery rhymes and action songs with children with a range of disabilities. It's a joyful, exciting and rewarding activity that takes just 1 hour per week!



**Calling all crocheters!** If going into school isn't for you, can you put your stitching skills to good use to make some pals for these lonely bears? One little bear is sent out with each TrinityLearning Bereavement Pack, a pack designed for adults who are working with bereaved children in schools, and we know they are a very welcome addition. We'll supply the pattern, wool, stuffing, buttons etc. we just need your crochet know-how!



If you're interested in finding out more about any of these volunteering opportunities, we would love to hear from you so please email [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com)

## Thinking Books update

Our Thinking Books training took place in October. Nine volunteers took part and feedback from the training was very positive. By the end of November, we hope to have seven volunteers working in three Abingdon schools with a further three volunteers starting in a fourth school, hopefully after Christmas.



**Rolling out the Toolkit for Happiness** - Just before the start of the summer holidays we shared our new Toolkit for Happiness project with year 12 pupils from Larkmead school as part of their careers week and were blown away by their enthusiasm and commitment to the project. The toolkit is designed to use simple strategies to promote and support children's wellbeing and good mental health. Each group of around 30 Year 12 students took part in a day's training on all the workshop activities culminating in them creating photograph or video instructions for one activity.

The students gave us helpful feedback throughout the day and many students were keen to help deliver the project both in Larkmead and in local primary schools over this next school year.

**Remembering Rosemary** - We were really happy to be invited to Kingfisher School in the



summer to finally be able to celebrate the opening of the Kingfisher Garden and to see their new plaque dedicated to our first Education Development Officer, the late Rosemary Perrow. Rosemary was key to bringing a number of reflective primary school gardens into being, and she planned and led 70 volunteers

from many local groups and businesses to complete the Kingfisher Garden. Students from the school popped in to share their favourite features of the garden with Rosemary's sister June and her husband David as well as other TrinityLearning volunteers. It was wonderful to see how much the garden is appreciated and used by all at the school.

**Coming up** – Building on from the Christmas story telling videos we produced last year, Taz is creating some very short mindfulness videos focussed on the sensory aspects of Christmas. These have been designed as short, easily prepared activities to be used in the classroom or at home to provide a calming break. These activities will be hosted on our website and we are aiming to share the link with schools in early December.

**Dates for your diary:**

**TrinityLearning AGM (via Zoom) Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 6pm**

**Thinking Books Meet-up (via Zoom) Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 10am- 11am or**

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2-3pm.**

**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/](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLearning-108933674177652/)

This will be our final Volunteer Newsletter of the year, but we look forward to being able to hopefully meet up more with you all in person in 2022! Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes, Nicola W, Taz, and Nicola S