

TrinityLearning Volunteer Newsletter

December 2022

We can't believe it's almost Christmas and the end of another busy term! Volunteers have been busy both in school and out, our Thinking Books project has been in full swing and (believe it or not) we're already beginning to think about Easter!



New Chair - TrinityLearning is delighted to welcome Katie Doney as our new Chair of Trustees. Katie has been a volunteer with us for many years - working on a range of projects and sharing our aim of helping to improve the quality of life in local schools and wider school communities. Find out more about Katie's appointment on our website at <https://bit.ly/3syQk39>.

We would also like to thank Eve Newton, our outgoing Chair for her ongoing help and support as well as Tom Kyffin for all his work as Treasurer. Our new Treasurer is Rev Pauline Main.

We now have more volunteers in schools than we did in pre-Covid February 2020!

Abingdon schools will benefit from around 110 TrinityLearning volunteer hours this half term, mainly through our Thinking Books and Kingfisher Singing projects.

Thinking Books - Nine volunteers completed training with us in September and all our Thinking Books volunteers are now back in school working with children this term. A recent online meeting proved a really useful opportunity for volunteers to provide us with feedback on how they feel the project is going, as well as share useful tips and advice with newer volunteers.



Kingfisher Singing group - The Group has continued to grow with two new members joining over the summer, meaning the group now has five regular members. The group meet once a week to sing nursery rhymes and action songs with children with a range of impairments and health conditions, an activity that is really valued by the children, their families and the school.

New ways of volunteering - we've been reflecting on how to provide more and varied volunteer roles and how to remove some of the barriers that might affect potential volunteers. We've put this into practice in a range of ways, such as offering more flexible opportunities – e.g., making knitted or crochet toys for some of our packs or one-off gardening. We've made sure we advertise volunteer opportunities in lots of different places and we also offer help with volunteer applications and volunteer mentoring.

We're now beginning to see volunteer applications from a wider range of backgrounds and interest in more non-school volunteering such as knitting or gardening, as well as a rise in those interested in child-facing roles.

Experience Easter - it might still be Advent but we are already beginning to plan for Experience Easter 2023. We're hoping to hold the event in Trinity Church after a three-year absence due to Covid, but with a new format. More information and a call for volunteers to follow in January.

‘Fun, mindful, calming and satisfying’ – Larkmead pupils ‘Make A Difference’ with the Toolkit for Happiness - in our summer newsletter we mentioned we’d just completed our new Toolkit for Happiness project working with Larkmead School. Our Workshop Coordinator, Taz shared an overview of the week and some of the feedback from the 170 or so students who took part in a blog on our website which you can find at <https://bit.ly/3VT9MnS>



Sharing Supper - Our Education Development Officer, Nicola, was delighted to be invited to All Saints Church in November for their joint autumn partnership supper. The evening was well attended and Nicola enjoyed sharing updates on our latest projects. It was lovely to see the strong links between the two churches, many of which have been built and strengthened through shared volunteering for TrinityLearning, and many volunteers joined us for the evening where over £250 was raised for TrinityLearning.



Join us at our online AGM - Trustees will present our Annual Report at our online (via Zoom) AGM at 6pm on Monday 16th January and we love to see you there. Please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com for a Zoom link if you would like to attend, or would like a copy of the Annual Report sent to you after the AGM.

Thank you - a huge end of year thank you to all our volunteers! From making teddies to rolling plasticine, gardening to singing and the work of all our in-school volunteers, we know we could not run TrinityLearning without your hard work, dedication and time given so generously and we are extremely grateful.

If you'd like to contact us about anything in this newsletter or are interested in finding out more about the range of volunteering opportunities we have please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com. TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support for volunteers through the application process and DBS checks.

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 last newsletter of 2022 and with Christmas just around the corner we thought it was a good time to re-share our Mindful Christmas Pauses videos, filled with tips and activities for all ages of how to use your senses for a calmer Christmas. You can watch them on our website at <https://bit.ly/3EHtOpM>

We wish all volunteers a relaxing Christmas and we thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes, Nicola W, Taz, and Nicola S