

Infosheet

Literacy Volunteers 1996-2012



Over a decade of service to the children of Nottinghamshire

January 2012

Hello Everyone

By the time you receive this Infosheet Christmas will be over and we will have just crossed the threshold of the New Year. I hope you and yours had a very happy festive period and from all at Literacy Volunteers a very happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

The first thing I have to mention to you is our new telephone number. As you will all be aware, through the generosity of Nottingham City Council, our office is located in the Denewood Centre which has recently had its telephone system updated. Our new number is as printed at the bottom of the page and we have a dedicated team of people rapidly sticking stickers on our letterheads and related stationery!

What will the New Year bring to Literacy Volunteers? We all know about the economic challenges that face us and the Voluntary Sector is in a very vulnerable position. We have been lucky enough to gain funding again from Nottinghamshire County Council ACLS to run a series of training courses in the north of the County and we have applied to them for finance to run a series of Confidence Building Courses for parents/carers.

We have also been advised by the County Council that they will continue to fund us until the end of June 2012 and that they will inform us, on 31st March, of the results of our Grant Aid Funding Application, submitted in November 2011. Other applications are in the pipeline including one to the Lloyds TSB Foundation, ongoing discussions with the National Lottery and we have received a very welcome continuation of funding from Grant Making Trusts and individual City and County Councillors.

By far the largest item in the income side of our budget is, of course, School Subscriptions and, once again, you will be aware of the many challenges, financially and otherwise, that Schools are continuing to face. For the financial year starting on 1st April 2012 your Executive Committee have, for the second year running, decided to hold the subscription for each Volunteer at £247.50 per year. When you actually cost this out it comes to some

£2.06 per hour for a fully trained, supported and resourced Volunteer!

In order to continue and further develop our mission we hope that all our Member Schools are able to continue to show their faith in what you, our Volunteers, are able to achieve with their children who have communication and literacy problems. We are all committed to the belief that helping children to overcome problems in their early years so that they may engage with and benefit from their education is absolutely imperative.

Finally we have yet another Staff Milestone to celebrate; Richard Wray our Service Director, has completed 10 years of service having joined us in December 2001. Over this time he has used the skills acquired during his previous working life to further the interests of and promote Literacy Volunteers throughout the City and County. His dedication to Literacy Volunteers and determination that we will continue in our work, especially in the current economic climate, is second to none.

I am sure our founder, Julie O'Neill, would have agreed that "we made the right choice".

Thank you Richard from all at Literacy Volunteers.

Ann Sanderson, Chairman



Richard Wray, Service Director

Volunteers' Satisfaction Survey

As is usual at this time of year, a questionnaire regarding the service provided to Volunteers by Literacy Volunteers is enclosed with this Infosheet. We look forward to receiving your replies and any suggestions/ideas you may have regarding the way you are supported and the way the Charity is conducted.

The feedback that we receive from you is invaluable and enables us to target resources and focus attention on any specific points you raise.

Websites of interest

www.puzzle-club.com

www.colouringbookpages.co.uk

www.primaryworksheets.co.uk

www.activityvillage.co.uk

Our new telephone number is
0115 876 5474



The Queen's Award for
Voluntary Service 2006

Dates for your diary

Term Dates 2012/13

Winter/Spring

County: 4th January to 30th March

City: 9th January to 30th March

With half term week beginning 13th February

Summer

16th April to 20th July

With half term week beginning 4th June

All dates are inclusive. These are the term dates generally for both City and County schools but some make different arrangements. Please check with your school.

Also ask about any INSET (In-service Training) days/outings planned for the year when the school will be closed or your children not available.

It's a good idea to sort out your start dates before the end of each term.

Volunteer Network Meetings

Nottingham Area – Monday 6th February at 10.30 a.m. in "Sycamore" at the Denewood Centre, Denewood Crescent, Bilborough, Nottingham NG8 3DH

Beeston Area – Tuesday 21st February at 10.30 a.m. at The Pearson Centre for Young People, 2 Nuart Rd, Beeston NG9 2NH

Ashfield Area – Thursday 8th March at 10.30 a.m. at Community CentrePoint, Trinity Methodist Church, Diamond Avenue, Kirkby-in-Ashfield NG17 7GN

Mansfield Area – Wednesday 21st March at 10.30 a.m. at the Quaker Friends' Meeting House, Rosemary St., Mansfield NG19 6AB

Workshop Area – Wednesday 28th March at 10.30 a.m. at BCVS, The Priory, The Old Abbey School, Priorswell Rd, Workshop S80 2BU

Hucknall/Eastwood Area – Thursday 29th March at 10.30 a.m. at The John Godber Centre, Ogle Street, Hucknall NG15 7FQ

Newark Area – Friday 27th April at 10.30 a.m. at Newark & Sherwood CVS, 67 North Gate, Newark NG24 1HD

Arnold Area – Friday 11th May at 10.30 a.m. at Arnold Library, Front Street, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 7EE

Retford Area – Friday 25th May at 10.30 a.m. at Carr Hill Primary, Tilt Lane, Retford DN22 6SW

What do "your" children think?

As you know we ask each Member School and Volunteer what they think about our Service each year and we would also like to know how "your" children feel about the invaluable help you give them.

From this year we will be introducing a very simple form designed around smiley faces and with three to four boxes to tick, which we will request **some** of you to ask your children to complete anonymously.

Training in how to complete the forms will be given on all training courses from 2012 and gone through with Volunteers at Network meetings. You will appreciate we can't ask over 1000 children what they think as the collation of the replies would be just too much, so we will establish control groups in specific areas in both City and County.

Your Area Co-ordinator will let you know if you will be requested to help in this new initiative and they will also seek permission from the school. The data gained will ensure we are providing the best service possible and will be of great interest to possible funders. The feedback forms will be circulated with the Spring Infosheet for information.

Competition time!

Our competition is now an annual event and this year's topic is for the children to create a poster on A4 paper advertising the **Olympic Games 2012**. Everyone who enters will receive a pen and the four best entries will receive book tokens.

In addition, we now have the **Julie O'Neill Memorial Prize** for the two entries that the Judges deem have tried the hardest and these winners will also receive a book token and pen.

It is **essential** that each entry has the child's name, age (not school year) and school clearly written on the back. Please make sure you put "Literacy Volunteers" on the envelope. Entries can be submitted at any time up to **14th June, 2012**. Letters and pens for entries received through the year will be available for collection from Network Meetings or the Denewood Centre. Area Co-ordinators will also be able to deliver these when visiting Volunteers. The 6 prize winners will be announced at the AGM as usual.

Travel Expense Claims

Expenses can be claimed for travelling from home to School (and return), any other Literacy Volunteers meetings and to a resource base to change books and games. The rates are **36p** per mile for car journeys, **12p** per mile by bike and actual bus fares supported by tickets. Claims must be on our

travel expenses form and can be sent in half-termly or termly within the financial year.

Please remember that travel claims can only be paid for the current financial year between 1st April, 2011 and 31st March 2012. These should reach the office by **26th March 2012 latest**, claims after that date may not be paid.

Infosheet via Email

We would like to send future issues of the Infosheet to as many of you as possible via the internet. If you are agreeable to this, please email your permission to contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk and we will do the rest.

Contact us:

Literacy Volunteers

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Tel: 0115 876 5474 Email: contact@literacyvolunteers.org.uk

www.literacyvolunteers.org.uk

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Area Co-ordinator (City): Emma Collis

Area Co-ordinator & Trainer (Newark and NE Notts): Toni Edwards

CA & Area Co-ordinator (City): Emma Trowbridge

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