

Volunteers Newsletter—Issue 5

July 25th 2019

Dear volunteers,

I'm writing this newsletter on what is expected to be the hottest day of the year. It's the end of term and I'm wading through the list of things to finish off ...

Thankyou— The end of year leads to lots of goodbyes and thank yous. A recent note from a parent reads 'A heartfelt thank you for all the happy days you have given us at Daniel's Den over the last 2 years. We have been so fortunate to find such an inspirational and wonderful group'. I know that this covers all our groups and without our wonderful team of volunteers we wouldn't be able to do what we do. Thank you!

Goodbye to Gladstone Park Primary School and hello Willesden High Road—On Tuesday July 9th we held our last group there after 12 years. Bina and Jo cut the cake—significant as Bina was there at the very first session in the school and has never left—coming as a parent then becoming a volunteer and subsequently a member of staff at the school and also the after-school club. Stories were shared and pictures too—thank you to Emma, Yvonne, Bina, Gina, Alison, Alecia and past volunteers. Plans are afoot to open a new centre on Willesden High Road, possible at the Lewinson centre on Monday mornings. This all has to be confirmed but just letting you know

Heart of Wembley Festival and Willows Farm—Both these events enjoyed glorious sunny weather. We had an amazing day at the farm. Total contrast to last time as we baked in the heat and didn't have to dodge the heavy downpours. 2 coachloads of families went from all 6 venues—juggling seats was a challenge. We painted almost 100 faces at the festival and have received positive feedback about the contribution we made to the success of this day. We did some market research and 30% of people who had their faces painted had heard of DD! This is good news but reminds us 70% hadn't heard of us! Let's get those cards out there....!



Growth—2018-2019 was a year of growth for Daniel's Den—especially in our volunteering. The Vital Volunteers project has been incredibly successful with 30+ people undergoing our induction training. We met with the funders of the Vital Volunteers project and they were so impressed with our new resources (Volunteers Handbook and Training Manual) that they want to use these as a positive example of effective funding outcomes.



Work experience—Shauna spent a week volunteering in the office as part of her year 10 work experience. She designed a poster, created spreadsheets, manned the welcome desk plus so much more. We will now have this as a regular feature in our volunteering programme

Recruiting new volunteers—We will be at the Freshers fair for new students as well as recruiting past parents whose children may be going to nursery or school next year. Please do pass this message on.

DBS Checks—**EVERYONE must have an up to date DBS check.** It is quite easy to do and Linda is happy to help. When your number comes through, please register for the update service—this is free of charge and means that you don't need to renew it every three years.



We have such a diverse team and varied range of volunteering opportunities and we aim to be much more efficient in matching people with opportunities in 2019-2020.

Please do let us know regarding your availability so we can match you up —we know lots of you work full time but there are various ways you can volunteer at weekends!

Dates for your diary and volunteering opportunities

Saturday August 10th—Picnic at Elvin Gardens, next to The Yellow 11am-5pm. Bring and share picnic food—we will be providing sensory play, facepainting and balls/tunnels to play with on this green area. There will be music with Alex (Fantastic), circus skills and a poetry performance. We need a team of volunteers to make this event a success—face painters, picnic hosts to keep an eye on the food/serving cold drinks, playdough/sand table helpers, poepel to set up and tidy up etc

Monday September 9th—sessions re-open. Each centre needs a team of volunteers who can carry out all the various tasks. We are recruiting more volunteers to fill gaps and also help us open new groups. Please do spread the word.

Sunday September 22nd—Brent Car Free Funday event 11am-3pm in Wembley. We need people to help set up/take down a stall, face painters and general helpers

Tuesday October 1st—Vital Volunteers training 11.30am-2.30pm. This will take place straight after DD—lunch provided. Venue TBC

Saturday October 12th—Rhythms of Grace training day for toddler group teams across London. 9.30-4pm. Do let us know if you would like to go

A final note

We were delighted that lots of you were able to attend the reception for toddler group volunteers on June 4th. It truly was a wonderful celebration evening for all the various groups across the borough and the mayor was so inspired by all the stories people told.



Any questions/suggestions?

Please don't hesitate to contact our volunteer coordinator Linda. Her contact number is: 07854087972

Please let us know if you change your email address or mobile number. Thank you!