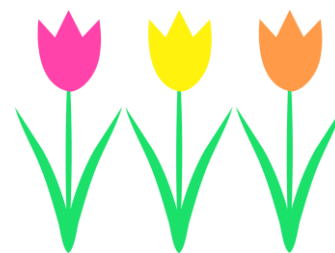




March 2016



Dear All
Welcome to our Spring update

Coaches and Learners

Things have been very quiet lately on the learner referral front, but seem to be picking up again. There are 15 learners currently working with coaches.

Training

There was a good turnout for the additional training session on 22nd February which was held at the Forest Community Church. The session focused on:

- phonic activities to support the Yes We Can Read book, including online activities
- additional reading skills activities
- sharing ideas and networking with other reading coaches

The feedback was very positive and there were some good suggestions for further training sessions.

On the News/Events page of the website forestreadeasydeal.org.uk there are a couple of photos and links to some of the handouts.

Website

Our website is updated on a regular basis so, if you haven't had a look lately, please check it out. If you are fairly new to FRED, then the newsletters page may also be of interest to you.

We have had a couple of articles in the local papers recently which are now on the News/Events page. It's fortunate that we have one or two learners who are happy to be interviewed and photographed. Personal stories are always interesting and can be used to inspire other learners so if you work with someone who would like to tell their story, please let me know.

Community Fun Day

Last month I went along with Chris Morgan, from the Forest Road Centre, to a community fun day at Cinderford Rugby Club. It was organised by Green Square's Housing Support team who spoke to visitors about their New Friends Network, which supports people who are socially isolated, or who would just like to meet new people and make new friends. Families and local people had the opportunity to find out more about support services available in their local area.

Amongst others, there were representatives from Two Rivers Housing, Citizens Advice, Gloucestershire County Council, and Learn Direct. Chris and I had a small display so it was a good opportunity to chat to people, to hand out FRED leaflets and generally spread the word. We also distributed flyers about a Drop-In session at the Forest Road Centre on Tuesday mornings from 10 - 1pm offering help with basic literacy and IT. One of our FRED learners has started dropping in to do his Job Search amongst other things and we would really like to encourage more people to come along. If you think your learner (or anyone else you know) could benefit from some extra support, please email me.

Audio Books Project and Funding

There was another recording session last weekend and we have now recorded over 100 books. Another session is planned in a couple of weeks. Our ultimate aim is to put together Reading Book Bags which will contain the reading material, the mini MP3 player and related activity packs but we will need extra funding to achieve this. Unfortunately we weren't successful with a bid we recently submitted to the

County Council's Community Chest Fund so will now be investigating other sources of funding, e.g. the Big Lottery Fund.

Kris did have some success recently at a Forest Traders event where FRED was the nominated charity. She gave a small presentation and asked everyone to spread the word. The evening's raffle and attendance (£1 from each person) raised £120.80. Not a bad evening's work!

Contacts Team

For those of you who are new to FRED, Megan Jenkins and her small (but perfectly formed!) team run a very successful Contacts Team. The team raises awareness by distributing leaflets, attending local events and generally helping to promote FRED. Last year, with the help of several other willing volunteers, they set up the FRED stall at a range of events throughout the Forest. The new season of events will be starting shortly (a list will be on our website), so if anyone can spare an hour or two to help out at an event or has any ideas for further promoting the FRED cause, please contact Megan on: meganjenkins@btinternet.com

Happy Easter to you all and thanks as always for your invaluable support!

