

# Happy Christmas



# REINSPIRED

every child, every school, every year

## NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2020

Dear friends

Waiting — our theme for Advent — feels like, in many respects, we have been living with this in a wider sense since March. But if I may, let's fix our gaze on the glass half full, as is my disposition.

We started the term wondering if our schools would have the appetite or headspace for REinspired sessions, and if they did, we wondered how on earth would we deliver it. Like the rest of the world, we moved online. The response from our schools, after a tentative start, has been overwhelmingly positive. Our schools love the pre-recorded sessions we have created and the accompanying craft packs. Staff have been hugely appreciative of our efforts, more than I have ever experienced, and the children have been excited to see us, even though it's virtually on the whiteboard. Years of being on the schools' landscape, the trust and relationships that have been built along the way has really helped this to happen. We truly are, all in this together.

The uptake here in Earley and East Reading has exceeded our expectations meaning we have a full diary for next term with 44 primary and 3 secondary sessions (21 classes) booked in already. Mostly pre-recorded with a few hoping to be able to invite the Team Leader in to teach from the front.

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and financial support. Knowing you are with us in spirit has kept us going.

Thank you to our Team for bravely stepping way out of their comfort zone, take the IT 'bull by the horns' and getting it done. There has been a certain amount of 'grinding and gnashing of teeth', not going to lie; we are more 'in the room' type of people as opposed to IT/media specialists. But, we have stepped out in faith and have grown in the process. We long (and wait) for when we can return in person.

So much has changed, but this Christmas, as Christians, we are reminded of that which has stayed the same. The hope and promises from ancient times. The invitation to come and see, it doesn't matter who you are, shepherd or Magi. Love came down to Earth that first Christmas. Our job, wherever we find ourselves, is to pass it on.

Love and peace this Christmas.

Julia, *Julia Jones, Project Director*



Daisy the sheep saying hello in the Christmas Assembly this week



Fiona and Sue share their pre-recorded story of Christmas with Foundation pupils

## REinspired is back in class

What is it like being in schools now? First of all, the children and I don't have the benefit of our lovely volunteers – it is a big loss to the children not to have that close contact with a real live Christian – it is so often in the groups where the children have the courage to ask big questions and to receive a personal answer. I really miss that interaction. It is also hard to see a child asking for help and not be able to go to them!



So far I have delivered one session in the classroom, but the second lockdown has meant we have had to move it online instead. However, the teachers have been brilliant, and need all of our encouragement and prayers just now. I am finding the technical side of things challenging as I grapple with all sorts of new things, but as a team we are overcoming any issues and supporting each other. As we can't do the dramas live, Hollywood has come to Earley (sort of) and we've made some great videos whilst keeping 2m apart!! And, I've managed to use toy actors. In "the woman at the well" recorded session I've used 'Action Man' and 'Barbie' and the children

loved it! Creating new ways of reaching the children, although challenging, is certainly bringing joy and laughter into the classroom!

Sue A



Carrie and Julia bringing laughter into their filming and discussions for Yr6 Christmas



Harvest assembly telling the story of God's abundance in His creation and that He intends us to share this abundance with each other. Did you know, a seed from an apple holds all the information it needs to grow into an apple tree – amazing!

## Light in the darkness

Christmas is coming. A reminder that God sent light into a world facing dark and difficult times. This season has been full of challenges for REinspired. It has been amazing to see the team develop new ways of working. As a result, children in our local schools have still been able to encounter sessions and discover more about what it is that Christians believe. I have been so encouraged by the quality of the videos and other materials being used.

There have also been changes behind the scenes. We welcome the Revd David Shaw to our Trustees. REinspired continues to need your prayers and practical support. Thank you for all that you do.

May God bless you this Christmas and into 2021.

*Keith, Chair of REinspired Trustees*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light, from Isaiah 9:2



Alison tells Yr2 pupils the good news of being Jesus' hands when giving food to the poor in their 'What is the Good news that Jesus brings' pre-recorded session



## REinspired is back! Watch our 'comeback' video

Hello! Just a taster of what we are doing to reimagine our school sessions, all within the current restrictions of course. Initial feedback has been really encouraging and we are now working full steam ahead. Stay safe.

Love and prayers to you all, *Julia*



If you want to know more please get in touch with us:  
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