

Tyume Valley Schools Newsletter

Summer 2016

Registered Charity 1103909



www.tvschools.org.uk



Hobbiton Study Camp © Vicky Riley

TVS has a full programme of activities for 2016.

IT: Teachers Vuvu and Nontombi are teaching IT skills to almost 300 children from 7 primary and 3 secondary schools each week.

English: 71 children and 6 teachers from 4 primary schools are involved in TVS' English programme. This is currently delivered in Auckland village Primary School, one afternoon each week.

Study camps: We are planning two study camps this year. The first, for primary age children, will take place at Hobbiton Outdoor Activity Centre in Hogsback in September; three TVS Committee members, Steph Gallier, Liz Button and Jim Lewis, will be leading it. The second, to prepare school leavers for college, will take place in December, also at Hobbiton and with a second non-residential week at Fort Hare University, Alice.

TVS co-Chair Caroline Glendinning will support Vuvu, Nontombi and local volunteers in delivering this.

School partnerships: We're currently supporting two Tyume Valley schools to develop partnerships with English primary schools.

Evaluating TVS' English programme

TVS' English programme aims to make a longer-term difference by introducing teachers to innovative teaching methods and supporting them in putting these into practice back in their schools. We recently conducted a small survey of teachers involved in the programme and some of their school principals and colleagues, to see how far these goals are being met.

There was unanimous agreement that children taking part in the programme were learning English faster; were more confident in speaking

2 Old Blackfriars, Marley Lane, Battle, Sussex, TN33 0DQ Telephone 01424 773360

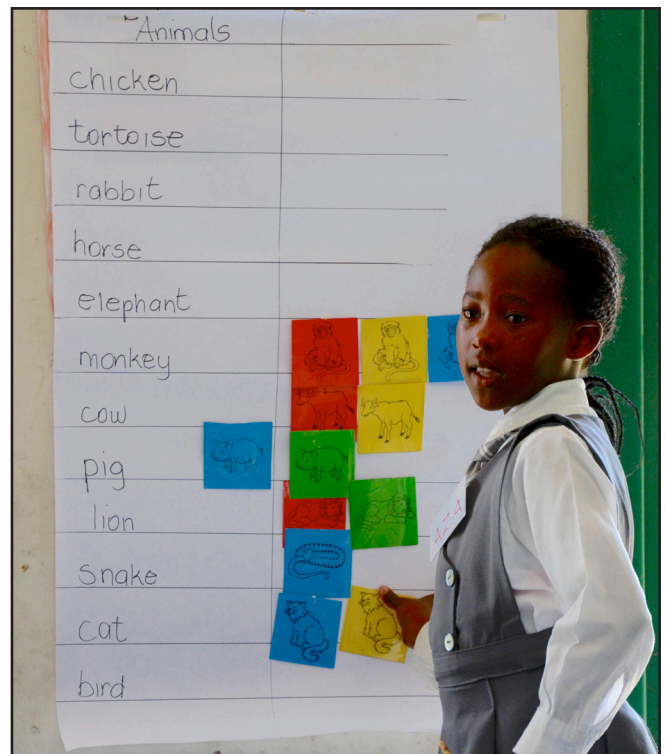
and writing English; and that both these outcomes were benefitting their learning in other subjects as well. The children's achievements are confirmed by regular formal testing which is integral to the programme.

The teachers themselves reported being more confident about teaching English and said they were adapting new teaching techniques from the English programme to the teaching of other subjects as well. Teachers and their colleagues also reported that experiences from the English programme were being shared with other teachers in their schools:

Educator has learned to be more patient with learners in their attempt to grasp the new language and her confidence is oozing (principal/colleague)

At school I am IT technician. Everything I've learned from the English programme helps me give or pass on computer skills to other staff members... The way I conduct the lessons is mostly influenced by skills I've acquired from the English programme (educator).

This feedback highlights the less tangible benefits of the English programme: improvements in both learners' and teachers' confidence and self-esteem; the influence of the English programme on learning and teaching in other subjects; and the sharing of new skills and techniques with other teacher colleagues.



English Learner ©Vicky Riley

TVS – making a difference

TVS Committee member Liz Hanks has been contacted by Siyamthanda Daniel, who recalls his experiences of TVS:

"I still remember as if it was yesterday when we had our first exciting English lesson at Ncerezantsi Primary School catered for by TVS. Visitors from the UK would always visit our school and have exciting and fun engagements with us which groomed me at a very young age to love education. When I was in Grade



English lesson ©Vicky Riley

5 TVS started offering computer literacy skills. This was (and still is) an amazing initiative that enabled me at a very young age to become aware of the ever-changing technologically advanced world. These amazing programmes continued even when I was at Amabhele High School.

From time to time we would also go Hobbiton, engage with different individuals, improve our English communication and computer skills. When I passed my Grade 12 in 2014 (the top student in my district!) I firmly believe such initiatives made a significant contribution in my academic life. When I started my first year at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University(NMMU) they made us do a Computing Literacy module. With the background knowledge I gathered from TVS, I enjoyed the module and did very well in it. I was also the 2nd Top student in BCom Accounting.

I just want to thank TVS for enabling my dreams and always going the extra mile to help kids from underprivileged areas like me. Do continue with the outstanding work you are doing and know that with every initiative or project, it is unlocking a child's potential to be great"



Siya (far left) with the Eastern Cape Premier and the Member of Executive Council for Education at a Gala dinner for top Matric students

Planning for the future

TVS is increasingly planning for the future. Our long-term goal is to hand over responsibility to local organisations; this is increasingly pressing as we exhaust sources of funding, particularly from UK charitable trusts. Our aims are to:

- Continue supporting TVS' volunteer Vicky Riley for as long as possible; so much of TVS' work would be impossible without Vicky's on-the-ground organisation and co-ordination.
- Set up a S African-based charity ('Non-Profit Organisation'/NPO); this means that we can submit funding bids to S African charities and corporations. Margaret Kiloh will be recruiting local trustees and working on the legal framework for an NPO during her visit to Tyume in June.
- We are working with Hobbiton on joint bids to S African and UK charities to support our study camps.



Climbing ©Vicky Riley

Forthcoming fundraising activities

We are extremely grateful to all our regular supporters. Having regular income from Standing Orders (plus Gift Aid) that's not restricted to a specific project is tremendously important. Without lots of administrative overheads and with a favourable exchange rate, your donations go a very long way in Tyume Valley.

As well as our bids to charities and trusts in UK and S Africa, we've two fundraising events coming up. Please could you ask your family and friends to support us?

Walk for TVS

We need to raise £2,000 to support this year's study camps. We're aiming to get 20 people to walk 20 miles – with donations in multiples of £20. A group of us will be doing a circular walk around Bishops Castle/Clun (Shropshire) on the 4th and 5th June – but you could do any 20 mile walk of your choice, at any time this summer.

To support the walk, type

www.mydonate.bt.com/events/tvshropshirewalk2016/268611

into your browser or go to

www.tvschools.org.uk/fundraising

Support our Great North Run competitor!

On On 11th September 2016, Diana Tottle will be competing in the Great North Run – 13.1 miles from Newcastle upon Tyne to South Shields – in aid of TVS. Diana says:

"The first half of my working life was as a teacher in Botswana and later managing different voluntary sector organisations in West Africa. This has given me valuable insights into both the need for good educational opportunities and the challenges involved in delivering these. Tyume Valley Schools (www.tvschools.org.uk) concentrates on improving children's fluency and confidence in English (with a focus on teaching the teachers) and introducing basic IT skills. TVS is a very small charity, reliant on extensive volunteer effort and has no overheads to suck up resources. So I am confident the pennies raised by my run will go a very long way."



English Word Wall © Vicky Riley

To sponsor Diana, type

www.mydonate.bt.com/events/tvsgreatnorthrun2016/303643

into your browser or go to

www.tvschools.org.uk/fundraising