



Bliss. Age 7

## Welcome to the Tenth Anniversary edition of our annual newsletter...

This has been a very important year for *Springboard for children* as we have sought to celebrate reaching a significant milestone and everything that has been achieved in our first decade, reflect on all that has been learned and gained through our experiences across that time and see the way ahead into the next decade and all the possibilities it presents.

As with every year that preceded it, this year has had its share of exciting new developments, some of which are covered in more detail in this newsletter, including commencing work in a seventh school, launching a new website, running poetry workshops, hosting a birthday party for the children and being the subject of a feature in the *Telegraph Magazine* which stimulated a lot of interest from a wide variety of people. The team has continued to grow, particularly as a result of increased publicity about our work, and we now have a complement of 36 staff including 26 teaching volunteers enabling us to reach significantly more children than ever before.

Of course, we have also continued to do all the normal teaching and run the usual events such as trips for the children. All the team have worked very hard throughout the year to maintain the quality and consistency of our work with the children who remain the core and focus of everything we plan and do. Huge thanks and congratulations are due to every member of the team for their ongoing commitment, for meeting all the new challenges the year presented and for the results we have seen in children's progress and development.

Our anniversary year still has some months to run and we plan to round it off in November with events to launch of our own book of children's poetry, containing the results of the workshops, which is in production through the summer.

So, we hope you enjoy this update on what's been going on and we look forward to sharing the coming year with you.

Janet Bristow, Education Director



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the trip I got covered in mud fall in the river

We took the juniors to Halls Green Adventure Centre for a special day out. A good day was had by all!

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY BIRTHDAY PARTY

We could not let this special year go by without a celebration for the Springboard children. All the children were invited to a birthday party at Oliver Goldsmith's school on Saturday 25th May, to mark this special occasion. There were various fun activities, races and games. Upstairs in the Springboard classrooms, Esther helped the children to make a special birthday banner with drawings of all the children. It is a lovely reminder of such a fun day and all the children that attended. But without a doubt, the bouncy castle was the hi-light of the afternoon and much energy was expended with bouncing and jumping!



After all the excitement outside, the teams congregated in the top hall for more fun and games hosted by Carol and her guests the puppets, Oscar and Lenny. They put on a show for the children and helped Carol judge a funny face competition and a spelling contest for the team leaders. Custard pies were needed to remind the leaders to brush up on their spelling much to the children's delight!




We rounded off the afternoon by sharing a magnificent birthday cake and handing out goodie bags and books to all the children that had been part of the wonderful afternoon. Many of the children have been talking about it for weeks after the event and we have seen some lovely work describing how they enjoyed the day, even new friendships have continued across the schools. Many thanks to all who made the day such a brilliant success.


(Left: Alison and Sam still smiling despite receiving custard pies for their spellings!!)

### A Day in the Life of a Full Time Volunteer . . . .


Rita and Rebecca have been this year's Careforce volunteers. Both work in three schools so their days are varied and, usually, very busy! Here is a typical Tuesday for Rita ...

The first school Rita goes to is on the Old Kent Road, so this means an earlier start than usual — "Seven thirty is not THAT early... really!" she says. Rita appreciates  the quiet of the early morning but that changes by the time she gets to school!

She meets Claire, a colleague, at the library and the two of them take a stroll along the canal path, dodging the cyclists, to the Old Kent Road. "But," says Rita, "conversation is limited, as I'm still asleep!"

Rita arrives at Eveline Lowe and prepares for the first child of the morning. The morning passes quickly here and at 12:30 the Springboard team leaves. On the way out of the school Rita is often hugged by one of the children she teaches. Virginia chauffeurs Rita to her next school — Brunswick Park, where she has a break and catches some lunch. Sylvia  joins her and they chat while preparing lessons. Rita finds the atmosphere very calming and peaceful.

For the next hour and a half Rita's time is spent in a "blur of sounds, Bangers and Mash and various worksheets". At 3:15 Rita leaves the school, this time chauffeured by Sylvia to Oliver Goldsmith, which is quiet now that teaching is over for the day. Time to reflect, plan lessons and do little jobs for the coordinators.

The walk home for Rita is an arduous one — just across the road! She says, "My favourite way to unwind is to watch Neighbours". Rita chats to the family she lives with and then thinks about dinner (and then what?). After a busy teaching day Rita likes to let off steam and she does this  at the local fitness centre. The workout she does is quite intense — "I'm not sure why I put myself through the pain," she wonders!

And then home again to bed. Roll on Wednesday...

(By Claire Tripp)

Some Reflections 1995-2002 by Mary Ecclestone

I joined Springboard in 1995, so was not one of the pioneers of '92. I was first a trustee, and then later became a volunteer.

Springboard as it was then would be recognisable now, although of course it was smaller. The basic workforce was already in place when I joined. There were 4 part-time volunteers, 2 full-time volunteers and 2 full-time paid teachers. The work was established in Oliver Goldsmith School and had just started in Peckham Park School.

Children who were struggling with literacy were referred to Springboard by the Special Needs Co-ordinator. The qualified teachers followed appropriate teaching programmes, and volunteers closely supervised by Jane Hastings, used other suitable material and some of us had just started to pilot the Soundworks Programme. As is the practice now there are reviews at the end of every term and the children were tested at the end of the year. Teachers also took children on outings at the weekends and there was an annual summer trip to a farm in Hampshire.

So what has changed? Springboard has grown! There are more staff and we now operate in seven schools. The management then was in the hands of one person, Jane Hastings founder of Springboard. She was administrator, fundraiser, education director, schools co-ordinator, public relations and personnel officer, development officer as well as being hands on IT consultant. From a little study at her home, Jane managed the work force. As we expanded Jane delegated these responsibilities and now we have a Management Team.

There have been big changes too in our premises. At Oliver Goldsmith we now have a suite of rooms whereas we used to have just one small, dark room situated beneath the girls' cloakroom. At the time pupils had a craze for leaving the taps running with the plugs in. This resulted in frequent floods which gradually seeped through our ceiling, teachers had to seize their papers and run!!

The size of the room limited the number of pupils we could teach, and Springboard was given a second teaching room on the first floor. Springboard staff have always worked hard, often beyond the call of duty. One volunteer worked so late on a Friday night that she managed to get herself locked in the school and had to escape by breaking a window!

Much has changed as Springboard has grown but one thing remains constant, there are always prayers on Wednesday lunchtime at Oliver Goldsmith, and we have seen many answers to these prayers.



## Special Thanks to the Funders of Springboard

Two of the funders of Springboard for Children were asked to comment on the aspects of Springboard which they consider to be the most important in meeting the needs of children from inner cities...

*"The aspects of Springboard which we consider most important for meeting needs of children include your focus on providing a valuable 'life skill' of literacy which can be the cornerstone for breaking out of the vicious circle of deprivation." Accenture*

*"Springboard offers an alternative to underachievement and a means to breaking the cycle of disadvantage experienced by so many local children... We see the Springboard project as presenting the children with the opportunity to bridge the gap in their literacy levels and help provide them with the necessary levels of confidence and self-esteem which they need in order to succeed in the classroom alongside their peers." SHINE*

*"We feel that Springboard is an effective intervention against an experience of school which could lead to disaffection, offending behaviour, low employability and even the horrors of homelessness and custody... We hope that one day all children in their early years will have the same opportunities that the children who experience the work of Springboard have in Southwark at present." JJ Charitable Trust*

And how Springboard has fulfilled the aims of each grant making body...

*"Our priorities include supporting organisations which provide young people with skills which will help these people to break out of the cycle of deprivation which traps and demoralises children too often." Accenture*

*"Springboard provides an enjoyable learning atmosphere in which children who really need it are taught on a one-to-one basis, building their concentration levels and giving them the basic skills... Springboard's results are impressive. They are helping the children they teach to move closer to reaching their academic potential and they help raise the children's confidence levels so that they can meet their learning challenges." SHINE*

*"We feel that Springboard for children is an effective programme for helping children from the outset, before [these] disadvantages take their toll and lead to such terrible effects as we experience with older generations." JJ Charitable Trust*



## NEWSBOARD



### Welcome!

We would like to say a very warm welcome to all new volunteers which have joined the Springboard new faces. We hope that you feel at home with Springboard already and enjoy working with us to serve the needs of more Springboard children.

Reem Barreto	Rachel Jordan
Lorna Brockett	Tricia Kiely
Andrea Croly	Sarah-Jane O'Duffy
Angela Denniss	Heather Tarbuck
Pam Gilbert	Wiebke Thompson
Kate Hadley	Helen Webster

### Goodbye!

Unfortunately, we also have people leaving us at the end of this term.

Anna Guyer (on maternity leave - look forward to seeing you back soon...!)

Karine Holroyd  
Rebecca Magowan  
Rebecca Sloane  
Rita Tam

We will miss them all greatly and are so thankful for all the time they have given to Springboard. We wish them the best as they move on to more new and exciting things.

We also have to say farewell to a number of our children as they leave to go to secondary school...

Albie Cullen	Anne Marie Tomisin
Hoda Ahmed	Moses Omoruyi
Antonio Neto	Niketa Ward
Nathan Quintyre	Trevor McHenry
Ricky Tinpeloo	Stacey Ann Jackson
Julietta V Machado	Danni Eddicott

We wish them every success in their future studies.

Draw someone and write about them

Esther

She is my Spring board teacher. She is clever and to learn she has nice hair and beautiful eyes. She has lots of friends. She is kind to me, very Tuesday and Thursday. She is good and nice to play with. She likes Ice-cream and burger and chips and McDonalds.



### The Children's Poetry Book

We are all very excited about the book which will be launched in November featuring poems and artwork by the Springboard children. The performance poet Adisa, inspired children at Peckham Park and Oliver Goldsmith to write creatively about 'their world'. Some wonderful and thought provoking poems were produced along with creative and colourful illustrations. We look forward to seeing the final working copy which is in the hands of designers, Contrapositive, and then seeing it in print by the Autumn. Springboard are very proud to produce such a wonderful memento for the anniversary year and to celebrate the talents and abilities of the children at Springboard. Keep your diaries free for the official Book Launch Event in late November. (venue TBC)

### Our New Website

[www.springboard.org.uk](http://www.springboard.org.uk)

If you have not already done so, please go and visit our new website. With many thanks to the locally based design company 'Contrapositive', we have updated the website, with a fresh look and more interactive features. Also, find out how you could become a new volunteer, or a 'Friend' of Springboard plus lots more. It is well worth a surf!

### THANK YOU

As always we are extremely grateful to all those who have helped to make the year such a success.

Thanks go to:

The Accenture Foundation  
The SHINE Trust  
The JJ Charitable Trust (Sainsbury)  
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation  
St John Cass's Foundation  
Southwark Childrens Fund  
The Tudor Trust  
Lloyds TSB  
Help a London child  
Laing PLC Charitable Trust  
The Paul Hamlyn Foundation  
The Equitable Charitable Trust  
The Peter Moores Charitable Trust  
Kingdom Charitable Trust

Adisa  
Autograph Design  
Contrapositive  
Penguin Books  
Kelloggs  
Sarah Elizabeth Ryley  
All Saint's Church  
St Michael's Church

Plus all the 'Friends of Springboard for children' who give regularly to our work, and thanks also to all our staff and volunteers.

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Springboard

for children

Springboard for children is a registered charity.  
Registered Charity number 1034446

