



CREATIVITY

FREEDOM

TRANSFORMATION



Expressions Academy update 2020-21

2020 has been an interesting year for us all bringing both new opportunities and challenges.

The start of the year started off at top speed with our chunky knits Art Social, our bible journaling workshops, creative prayer spaces in primary schools, creative after school clubs, Fitsteps dance classes and Daniella had started teaching dance lessons in Chaulden Junior School as part of their curriculum. We also started packing up our office to officially move into the Adeyfield Free Church Centre and collaborate more with them moving forward.

Come March 2020, Daniella our founder and creative director was furloughed due to government guidance on pregnancy and later went on maternity leave in July 2020. As the first country lockdown was announced we used the time to reflect on what we hoped to do during the pandemic via online means which we had never tried before!

In the autumn of 2020, our Bible journaling workshops and Art Socials continued via zoom where we saw new attendees from all over the world! We have really enjoyed connecting with individuals in this way and hope to continue providing similar workshops alongside our 'in person' workshops that will be starting back this summer.

We have received two lots of funding from the Dacorum Borough Council recently, one to support the running of our Art Socials and the other for a new class we wanted to provide- Rock-A-Bye babies. This is a sling dance class for mothers suffering with symptoms of postnatal depression. We're very excited to start running these classes at the end of June and to connect with more of the local community through dance.

We're pleased to share that we're working with AFC, St Barnabas and Holy Trinity Leverstock green to provide a holiday club for 5-12 years this summer. This will be our second holiday club in partnership with AFC and ST B's and we are very excited for it. The holiday club will run from the 16-18th August from 9am-12pm and is called SEA LEGENDS based on epic nautical adventures in the bible.

Prayers moving forward:

- **We're desperately in need of more storage space!**
 - Our creative endeavors require a lot of materials which we haven't been able to find a home for. Please pray that we can resolve this by finding the finance to source a storage facility or have free/low-cost alternative options provided.
- **Rock-A-Bye Babies**
 - To have a successful start in June and that we can connect with and support local parents.
- **Schools**
 - That we can reconnect with the local primary schools we had a relationship with.
- **Summer Holiday club**
 - For good attendance and an opportunity to share stories from the bible in a new way.
- **Support**
 - The pandemic has drained most of the financial resources we had. Please pray for financial support whether that be through donations, funding opportunities or successful attendance in our classes and events.
 - We're always looking for team members to join us, whether that be in a voluntary or paid capacity. Please pray for the right people to join us who are passionate about our vision.
- **Prayer Spaces**
 - We would love the opportunity to visit more schools in 2021 to provide creative prayer spaces. Please pray for open doors into local primary and secondary schools and that social distancing will not make this unachievable.

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