



## What's going on this week?

The Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) has recently marked one year since the NHS Volunteer Responders scheme launched. More than 1 million volunteers signed up, when the public were encouraged to help the health services as it dealt with the increased demand due to the pandemic.

### Main question:

#### Should everyone volunteer in their spare time?

##### Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster. Explain that the people in the car are volunteers. What do we know about what a volunteer is? What do they do? Who can volunteer?
- Can we make a list of all the different types of volunteers we know of and the types of places they volunteer at?
- Do we know anyone who has volunteered, or have we ever volunteered ourselves?
- Talk about some of the differences between a volunteering role and a job.
- Watch this week's useful video (link found overleaf), which shows the Queen and the Duchess of Cornwall thanking volunteers who have helped others over the past year as part of the NHS Volunteer Responder scheme.
- Read the assembly resource, which provides information about the NHS Volunteer Responder scheme. Discuss if we think the scheme is a good idea and who benefits from the work of the volunteers.
- Discuss some of the reasons why you think some people may choose to volunteer (e.g. to help others or because they have spare time) and some of the reasons why people may not be able to (because they have very little free time or they choose to help people as and when they can and not take on a specific role).

### Reflection

People volunteer for many different reasons, they may want to support a cause that matters to them, they may want to feel part of a team or to gain experience in a place of work. Others may not have the time or the resources to volunteer. Helping others, even in small ways connects us to those around us and helps build stronger communities.



## KS1 Focus

### Question:

#### What is a volunteer?

##### Listen, think, share

- Write the sentence 'I volunteer at my local football club.' on the board. What do you think the word volunteer means in this sentence? Do you know what a volunteer is?
- Explain that a volunteer is somebody who works for an organisation or carries out a task without being paid. What do you think the volunteer working at the local football club might do in their role?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some examples of people volunteering. Have you ever volunteered to do something before e.g. helped at an after-school fair, joined a litter pick?
- Can you think of any other examples of people volunteering? Do you know any people that work in school who are volunteers e.g. adults that listen to us read, school governors, parents on your PTA.
- Explain that some people choose to volunteer on a regular basis, like the person working in the charity shop, whereas other people volunteer as a one-off or when they are free.
- Do you think you would enjoy being a volunteer? Why? If you could volunteer to do something in the future, what would you do?

### Reflection

A volunteer is someone who gives up their time to either work for an organisation or carry out a task without being paid. Some people volunteer regularly; others volunteer when they can.



## KS2 Focus

### Question:

#### Why do people decide to volunteer?

##### Listen, think, share

- Write 'volunteer' on the board. Create a list of ways people might volunteer e.g. work in a charity shop, listen to children reading at school, as a PCSO (Police Community Support Officer).
- Explain that there are many different ways people give up their time to volunteer. Voluntary roles are unpaid so why do you think people do them?
- Look at resource 2, where some people share their voluntary role and why they do it. Have you ever volunteered before? Why? Would you like to volunteer in the future?
- Focus on some of the reasons people have chosen to volunteer, such as giving back to their local community, it makes them feel happy, they can gain experience or learn a new skill, it is something they enjoy or are passionate about. Can you think of any other reasons why someone might volunteer?
- Think about some of the clubs, organisations or events in your local area. Do any of them rely on volunteers? Why do you think volunteers are needed in order for some organisations to function?
- Not everyone volunteers. Can you think of any reasons why people may not be able to or may not want to volunteer?

### Reflection

There are many reasons why somebody may choose to volunteer, and many different ways people can volunteer. We are all different, so we can choose to do what works for us!



## Picture News

### KS2 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Ask the children to think about someone who volunteers in their community e.g. someone who runs a club they attend, someone who helps at school. Explain that they are going to write a letter to them to thank them for volunteering. Use the following to help plan their letter:

- Address, date
- Paragraph 1 - introduction – why you are writing?
- Paragraph 2 – what do they do and what impact does their volunteering have?
- Paragraph 3 – what else would you like to know about their role?
- Paragraph 4 – conclusion – share something you admire about them and a final thank you.

Write the letters and send them to your volunteer!

**Option 2:** Lady Stella Reading, who founded the Women's Voluntary Service (now RVS), said, *'Too many people think of volunteers as a means to an end, as cheap labour. True voluntary service is nothing of the kind. It is, in fact, the gift of a thoughtful person of their skill, their energy and their time.'*

- What do you think about this?
- What skills do you have?

Ask the children to reflect on their own life, what skills they have and the time and energy they could give.

- Is there a way you might be able to volunteer now or in the future?



## Picture News

### KS1 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Explain that some people, who give up a huge amount of their time to volunteer and help others, sometimes receive awards or certificates. This is a way for others to show they recognise the hard work and effort volunteers give without being paid.

- Who do you know who volunteers?
- What do they do to help others?
- Why do they deserve a trophy or a medal.

Ask the children to design a trophy or a medal they could give to their volunteer. Think about:

- What shape will your trophy/medal be?
- What colour will it be?
- What materials will you use to make it?
- What will it say on it?

If possible, make your trophy/medal and send them to your fabulous volunteers!

**Option 2:** Discuss that many schools have a team of adults who volunteer to run events and activities that raise funds for school.

- What do you call this team at your school?
- Do you know who is part of it?
- Can you think of any events they have organised that have helped to raise money for school?

Use this opportunity to look at money. Ask the children to name the coins and notes.

- Which coin is 5 pence?
- Can you order the coins? How have you chosen to order them?
- Which coins would I need to buy something costing 6 pence?



## Picture News

### This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-56459882](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-56459882)

### This Week's Useful Videos

The Queen and the Duchess of Cornwall  
thank volunteers

<https://yhoo.it/3d3ufBP>

### This Week's Virtual Assembly

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

### This Week's Useful Vocabulary

**Benefit** – the advantage or profit from something.  
Discuss if we think the scheme is a good idea and who **benefits** from the work of the volunteers.

**Connect** – provide a link or relationship.

Helping others, even in small ways **connects** us to those around us.

**Demand** – a need or pressing requirement.

The public were encouraged to help the health services as it dealt with the increased **demand** due to the pandemic.

**Launch** – start or introduce something.

The Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) has recently marked one year since the NHS Volunteer Responders scheme **launched**.

**Scheme** – a plan or arrangement.

The Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) has recently marked one year since the NHS Volunteer Responders **scheme** launched.

**Volunteer** – someone who works for an organisation or completes a task without being paid.

The people in the car are **volunteers**.