

Funded by



Department
for Education


English Hub
Little Sutton English Hub
Learn, Read, Succeed in the Heart of England



NEWSLETTER No14—DECEMBER 2023

It has been a busy start to the academic year at Little Sutton English Hub. We are delighted by the numbers of schools who have engaged with the hub seeking support and funding to deliver high quality phonics in their school. If you, or schools you work with, would like to engage please visit the Hub website for further information.

The hub team have attended lots of meetings and events with headteachers this term. This has provided the opportunity to share more information about the support available at the hub as well as to outline key messages from the updated Reading Framework, published in July 2023, and strategies for delivery. This includes working with schools to teach children to become accurate and fluent readers and writers incorporating key skills including spoken language, oral composition and fluency. If your school is part of a MAT, consortium or headteachers' group the hub would welcome the opportunity to come and talk to you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch via englishhubs@littlesu.bham.sch.uk.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year, from the Little Sutton English Hub team.



Little Sutton English Hub Programme 2023-2024

We offer support to schools in Birmingham, Lichfield, Stafford, East Staffordshire, Staffordshire Moorlands, North Warwickshire, Tamworth, Solihull, Rugby, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Coventry and Stoke.

If your school is interested in receiving support or funding in the 2023/2024 academic year, please register by [following this link](#) or scan the QR code to complete the online expression of interest.

For further information, you can visit our website at www.lsenGLISHhub.org.uk, or telephone either Janet Conway or Kirstie Lynam on 0121 464 4494.

"The support has been vital ...and our Year 1 Phonics results and Year 2 retakes show this!"

— Oakhill Primary School

"Our organisation of teaching phonics and reading practice changed as a direct result of attending the training at Little Sutton and allowed us to see what changes we needed to make – High Meadow Community School"



OUR SHOWCASE EVENTS

**Free
of
charge**

“The showcase was fantastic. It helped us form our vision and teaching.

– William MacGregor
Primary School

Our DfE funded Showcase Events are in-school workshops designed to promote and share best practice in relation to the teaching of phonics and early reading, reading for pleasure, and early language.

“Our partnership with you has certainly bore fruit and has played a crucial part in our rapid improvement. We replicate the approach to teaching reading that we saw modelled at Little Sutton and it's having a huge impact.”

– Hodge Hill Primary School

Delegates will see the teaching of early language and reading, including phonics, in the EYFS and Key Stage 1 in practice and will have the opportunity to find out about:

- The importance of effective early literacy teaching, drawing on key DfE documents including the Challenge Checklist and Reading Framework;
- Best practice in phonics and early reading;
- How schools ensure that a love of reading is nurtured and developed;
- The whole Hub support offer;
- The advantages of adopting a DfE validated SSP programme and we will direct you to information that will help you select one that is right for your school;
- The requirements for becoming a Hub partner school, accessing intensive support.

Time will be taken to:

- Reflect on your own school's early reading and phonics provision and identify strategies and areas for improvement;
- Develop an action plan;
- Look at next steps in potentially accessing English Hub funding for resources, training and more in-depth support.

FORTHCOMING SHOWCASE DATES

1st February 2024

19th March 2024

**CLICK YOUR CHOSEN DATE
TO BOOK**

Any school can attend. There are two places available per school, one compulsory for the headteacher, the other recommended for the reading/phonics leader.

Some schools may be able to claim funding for supply cover. Please call Janet Conway on 0121 464 4494 to check your school's eligibility.



Bookmark



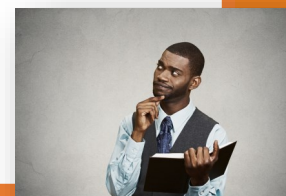
Bookmark is a volunteer-led registered charity providing in-school or online reading support to primary school children. Their six-week reading programme involves two 30-minute sessions each week with a child who needs extra support with their reading.

To find out more, to volunteer, or to purchase a programme, [please follow this link.](#)

CONSIDERING WHICH VALIDATED SYSTEMATIC SYNTHETIC PHONICS PROGRAMME TO ADOPT?

For a list of the validated SSPs available, and for further advice on how to [choose a validated SSP, click here.](#)

[And follow this link for the contact details](#) of every validated SSP provider.



On the following pages, Little Sutton English Hub is delighted to offer training courses aimed at primary school headteachers, English leads, reading leads and other primary school professionals, all of which are completely...

**Free
of
charge**

SCAN ME FOR LINKS



To see all of our events, just visit our online [box office](#), or our website at www.lsenGLISHhub.org.uk

RUTH BAKER-LEASK TRAINING SESSIONS



This year, English expert, Ruth Baker-Leask, will be working with Little Sutton English Hub to deliver a series of webinars focused on **how to teach reading well**, underpinned by the principles laid out in the **DfE's Reading Framework 2023**. The webinars will be adapted to target teaching in specific year groups throughout KS1 and KS2.

CLICK YOUR PREFERRED DATE TO BOOK ONLINE

Webinars

Teaching Reading Comprehension

Webinar 3:45-5:15pm

Thursday 18th January 2024 —Years 3/4

Teaching Reading Comprehension and Exploring Effective Pedagogies and Teaching Approaches for Reading

Webinar 3:45-5:15pm

Thursday 14th March 2024 - Year 2

Exploring Effective Pedagogies and Teaching Approaches for Reading

Webinar 3:45-5:15pm

Thursday 20th June 2024—Years 3/4

Full Day Training

We are also delighted to be able to offer the following in-school events which will take place at Little Sutton Primary School, Worcester Lane, Sutton Coldfield, B75 5NL. For more information about each event, or to book online, click on the dates below:

Teaching Challenging Texts in Years 5 and 6

Friday 2nd February 2024—9:15am-3:15pm

It is rare that teachers get the chance to work with others, exploring texts and getting to grips with the teaching opportunities they present - particularly fiction and poetry. Built on the work of Bob Cox and James Clements, Ruth will guide teachers in thinking about how challenging and archaic texts can sometimes be the right choice when teaching upper KS2 English. Though they may feel tricky, and even teachers have to work hard to unlock their secrets, a challenging text can act as the catalyst to children developing: the skills of interrogation, a love of words and curiosity and independence as a reader - vital qualities for dealing with the increased rigour of secondary school.

Choosing and Using a Broad Range of Children's Literature and Developing Progressive Text Maps.

Friday 17th May 2024 —9:15am-3:15pm

A day designed for leaders and teachers alike to consider the range of reading experiences they are providing for children whether through direct instruction (English and reading lessons, books read aloud) or via the books available to the children to choose from as they develop the *reading habit*. Ruth will explore fiction, non-fiction and poetry (with maybe the odd graphic novel thrown in), from contemporary and highly acclaimed authors. As part of this day, Ruth will also look at how texts should be mapped across a year group and the whole school to ensure that the content, complexity and interest level of books are progressive, supporting learners at all stages of their reading journey.

TALK TO LAMORNA

Our Literacy Specialist, Lamorna Ross, will be holding a Teams 'drop-in surgery' on **12th March** and **11th July** at which she will provide brief and targeted troubleshooting solutions to your SSP implementation dilemmas.

Appointments can be booked from 3:30-5pm, will last for 15 minutes and are free of charge. To book, please contact Lamorna directly via email at:

l.ross@lsenglishhub.org.uk

Lamorna will also be delivering the following webinars:

The Role of the Reading Leader

[Tuesday 16th January 2024 \(3:45pm to 5pm\)](#)

[Tuesday 16th April 2024 \(3:45pm to 5pm\)](#)

[Thursday 4th July 2024 \(3:45pm to 5pm\)](#)

This non-SSP-specific webinar is suitable for current or prospective reading leaders interested in learning more about the role of reading leader, and in acquiring supportive strategies to enhance performance. Simply click the date to book online or find out more.

The Role of Governors in Supporting Phonics Implementation

[Wednesday 24th January 2024 \(5pm to 6:15pm\)](#)

[Wednesday 10th July 2024 \(5pm to 6:15pm\)](#)

This webinar is suitable for anyone involved in school governance who would like to know more about excellent phonics provision.

**Senior HMI for Early Education,
Kirsty Godfrey Presents...****Developing a High Quality English Curriculum Based on Ofsted's Research Review into English and Introducing Key Messages from Ofsted's Subject Report for English Due for Publication in December.**

We are pleased to be able to offer another chance to see the recent webinar delivered by Senior HMI for Early Education, Kirsty Godfrey.

Kirsty focuses on developing spoken language and explains how to develop key skills required for an effective writing curriculum, including emphasising the importance of practising oral composition, and explains how schools can teach children to become accurate and fluent readers and writers.

If you would like to hear these key messages, please click the date to register:

[31st January 2024—16:00-17:15](#)

TALK THROUGH STORIES

At this in-person training day, recommended for reading leaders and Reception teachers, Nick Canon will show schools how to:

- use the Talk Through Stories programme to close the word gap and develop children's love of stories;
- teach every activity in the Talk Through Stories programme;
- inspire children to care about the characters and understand the story; and
- choose the right books to connect with their children.

Attendees will leave with an action plan to develop storytime and teach vocabulary in their school.

The event will take place at Little Sutton Primary School, Worcester Lane, Sutton Coldfield, B75 5NL from 10am to 4pm on Thursday 6th June 2024. To book, please click the link below:

[Talk Through Stories - 6th June 2024](#)

A SPOTLIGHT ON THE NEW DfE READING FRAMEWORK JULY 2023



Section 3: Encoding (spelling)

Within Section 3 of the latest Department for Education's Reading Framework, it states: *"Children learn to read more quickly than they learn to spell correctly. That is why their progress in reading must not be held back by whether or not they can spell accurately. The national curriculum also says that reading and spelling should be taught alongside one another, so that pupils understand that they can read back words they have spelt."*



"Dictation is a vital part of a phonics session. Writing simple dictated sentences that include words taught so far gives children opportunities to practise and apply their spelling, without their having to think about what it is they want to say."

- DfE Reading Framework

"The more graphemes children learn to read and write, the more words they will be able to read and spell, and, as they decode unfamiliar words, they encounter new vocabulary.." - DfE Reading Framework

"Phonics continues to play an important role in spelling, even after key stage 1, because teachers should still draw pupils' attention to GPCs that do and do not fit in with what has been taught so far in terms of spelling." - DfE Reading Framework

Please note that spelling is a key part of the delivery of phonics and schools should follow their SSP guidance to develop this area.

[Read the DfE Reading Framework July 2023 here.](#)

A Spotlight on Ofsted's Research and Analysis into English: Spelling

Ofsted's Research and Analysis into English says:

“When young children are taught phonics, they learn the alphabetic code for spelling (encoding) as well as for reading (decoding). This is why spelling and decoding have been referred to as ‘reversible processes’. Reading involves blending the individual sounds of a word to say the whole word, while spelling requires the writer to segment a whole word into its individual sounds (phonemes) and to identify what they are.”

The document goes on to say that, “ The Department for Education’s non-statutory curriculum guidance for the early years, “Development Matters”, suggests that teachers of Reception-age children should dictate sentences for children to write that contain only the taught letter-to-sound correspondences. Similarly, the Year 1 national curriculum programme of study requires pupils to write down dictated sentences using the GPCs and common exception words taught so far.”

“Knowing how to spell a word makes the representation of it sturdy and accessible for fluent reading.” - *Ofsted Research & Analysis into English*

“Dictation gives children opportunities to practise and apply their spelling knowledge and segmenting skills, without having to compose sentences by themselves. It requires them to distinguish between the sounds they hear in order to choose the correct graphemes to represent the sounds and to form the letters correctly. They also have to understand what they are hearing to distinguish between homophones (for example, ‘to’/‘two’ and ‘meat’/‘meet’).” - *Ofsted Research & Analysis into English*

[Read the whole document here](#)



EARLY YEARS STRONGER PRACTICE HUBS

As part of the early years [education recovery support](#) package, which also includes the [early years experts and mentors programme](#), the Department for Education has created Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs which are designed to provide advice, share good practice and offer evidence-based professional development for early years practitioners.

There are 18 hubs in total—2 in each of the 9 government office regions across England.

What's involved?

Early years stronger practice hubs will support other nurseries and childminders in their area to adopt evidence-based practice improvements by:

- ✓ building on and strengthening local networks of early years educators to share knowledge and effective practice
- ✓ proactively sharing information and advice on evidence-based approaches – for example, through newsletters, blogs and social media
- ✓ acting as a point of contact for bespoke advice and signposting to other funded support
- ✓ working with the EEF to select evidence-based programmes to fund and make available to nurseries and childminders.

YOUR MIDLANDS HUBS



Ryders Hayes School, together with Fullbrook Nursery, Abu Bakr Nursery and Kiddies Playhouse, form the [Thrive Together Early Years Stronger Practice Hub](#) (West Midlands) supporting early years setting

and childminders to address the impact of Covid-19 on our youngest children (0-4 years), by sharing information and advice on evidence-based approaches, and establishing local networks to share knowledge and effective practice.

Midlands Stronger Practice Hub:

HEART

Helping Early years practitioners Apply Research to Teaching and learning.



The partnership consists of:

Bloomsbury Nursery School
Castle Vale Nursery School
Norton Hall Children and Family Centre
Weoley Castle Nursery School

Local Authorities covered:

Birmingham, Coventry, Herefordshire, Solihull, Warwickshire, Worcestershire

Education
Endowment
Foundation

EEF'S EVIDENCE STORE A TREASURE-TROVE OF ADVICE

Research by the EEF found that there were, on average, three more children per class, not reaching the expected levels of development by the end of reception class in 2021, when compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Developed as part of the EEF's work supporting the Department for Education's Stronger Practice Hubs, the [Evidence Store](#) takes a comprehensive look at priority areas for early years learning and development. Co-developed by researchers and educators, it identifies approaches early years staff can use to support learning and development. The store provides a summary of the best available evidence for the approaches and illustrates how they could be put into practice with children in all types of early years settings.

Now, contained within the Evidence Store is the theme of [early literacy](#), which includes guidance on approaches that support this area of learning and development.

Each approach includes:

- a summary of the evidence;
- a "snapshot" film showing what the approach might look like;
- a list of practices that may be used to implement the approach;
- short spotlight videos and written scenarios to see the practices in action.

Early years specialist, Lauren Grocott, has over 17 years of experience in the education sector and has written a blog for the EEF entitled 'Exploring Self-Regulation in the Early Years' which address the impact of Covid on early years education. [You can read her blog here.](#)

FREE ONLINE WEBINARS

University Cambridge Primary School is hosting a series of webinars with expert speakers, including:

Ann Sullivan: Phonics for Children with SEND

This free webinar takes place on **11th January 2024 - 16:30-17:30**

To book online, [please click here.](#)

THE READING AGENCY

The Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge 2023 Success



The 2023 Summer Reading Challenge: 'Ready, Set, Read!', delivered in partnership with libraries and the Youth Sport Trust, once again brought the fun and benefits of reading to families across the UK. There were fantastic increases in children's participation and engagement in the Challenge, with more children visiting their local library to take part, as well as more children taking part online. Participating library branches (3,159) across 92% of library authorities in the UK saw a surge in the number of children's book loans over the summer, supported by a cross-authority approach to delivery in 34 public libraries. This new partnership model ensured many more children and families living with disadvantage were able to take part, and helped contribute to an increase in the number of children's book loans over the summer.

685,821

Children took part in *Ready, Set, Read!*

329,166 Children received a certificate of completion from their library or completed online

133,697 New library members



**DEVELOPING READING FOR PLEASURE:
Engaging Young Readers**

"An effective literacy curriculum not only teaches children how to read, it also inspires them to want to read."

This free course has been authored by Dr Lucy Rodriguez Leon, Professor Teresa Cremin, Dr Helen Hendry, and Dr Sarah Jane Mukherjee from The Open University. It is primarily intended for teachers, teaching assistants, librarians, and school leaders, and some of the activities will focus on the curriculum.

[Click here for more information and to enrol.](#)
[\(Free statement of participation on completion\)](#)

THE READING AGENCY

The Winter Mini Challenge



The Reading Agency is teaming up again with [Youth Sport Trust](#) for this year's Winter Mini Challenge, a free reading adventure. The Challenge encourages children to keep up their reading over the winter holidays and offers rewards and prizes for continuing to read.

Children can log their reads and share reviews on the digital platform and earn rewards for their reading, with many public libraries across the UK offering events and activities which tie into the theme.

Following the success of this year's Summer Reading Challenge, the Winter Mini Challenge will continue to follow the Ready, Set, Read! theme throughout the winter. By taking part online via the Challenge [website](#), children will be able to join this year's six characters as they head out to have fun on a winter walk.

Accompanying resources which can be downloaded through the digital platform will help families and teachers to provide free and fun activities over the holiday.

The Winter Mini Challenge will launch on 1 December and run until 19 February.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL



BookTrust has launched its Christmas appeal, aiming to send 17,000 festive book gifts to children who are in care or visiting food banks this year.

To find out how you can help, just [click here](#).



NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION FOR LEADING LITERACY (NPQLL)



Overview

The NPQLL is a specialist NPQ. It will train existing teachers and leaders to become literacy experts who will drive up standards of literacy teaching in their schools and improve literacy outcomes for every child. It is a 12-month course and applications are open now .

The DfE-approved providers offering this NPQ have designed their course content around an evidence-based framework.

The course covers 6 topics, with a mix of self-study and group coaching sessions, as well as face-to-face sessions with other participants.

On average you will need to spend between 1 and 2 hours per week working towards completing this NPQ. Where possible, you should do this during dedicated career development time in school hours.

What you'll learn

This course covers how to support colleagues to develop all pupils':

- language capability and wider understanding of language
- word reading
- reading comprehension
- writing skills

You'll also learn how to:

- contribute to effective professional development linked to teaching, curriculum and assessment across the school
- design and implement literacy improvement strategies

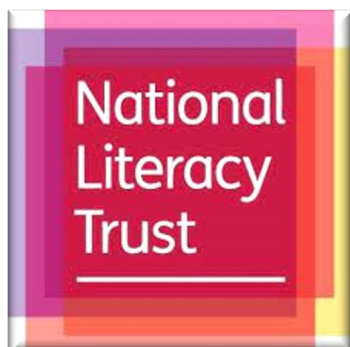
“The NPQLL is a fantastic opportunity to deeply consider the research that underpins effective literacy in schools, and to share with like-minded colleagues what that can, and should, look like in our settings. Working in a cross-phase group, it ensures that the whole journey of the child is considered, and is a way of upskilling primary and secondary colleagues about each other's priorities. The course also provides a solid grounding in what it means to lead, and how to lead well, and is grounded in the EEF's research on this.” - Helen Myers (facilitator)

**NOW RECRUITING FOR A
FEBRUARY COHORT!**

NPQ Funding Update

The DfE has updated the [Targeted Support Fund](#) offer from autumn 2023 to encourage and support teachers and leaders working in small state-funded settings to participate in NPQs. A grant payment of £200 will be made to primary schools (of any size) and other schools and 16-19 organisations with one to 600 pupils for each teacher they employ who takes an NPQ. This per teacher payment will increase to £800 where the employing organisation is a primary school with one to 150 pupils.

NPQs are run through [Teaching School Hubs](#)
or you can [register online with the DfE](#).



HOW THE NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST IS HELPING TO GET A LIBRARY INTO EVERY PRIMARY SCHOOL



On Wednesday 8 November, the National Literacy Trust welcomed over 100 authors, partner organisations, funders, fellow charities, MPs, peers, and supporters, to Portcullis House in Westminster, to celebrate the anniversary of their [Libraries for Primaries campaign](#).

Libraries for Primaries is a coalition of organisations united by a common purpose: to ensure that every primary school in the UK has a well-stocked school library. Currently, 1 in 7 state primary schools in the UK do not have a library – a figure that rises to a shocking 1 in 4 schools in the UK's most disadvantaged communities.

The campaign is not only bringing people together, but – thanks to investment from a range of generous funders including Penguin Random House, Bloomberg, Chase, Arts Council England, Portal Trust, the Marcus Rashford Book Club, Oxford University Press and the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust, and more than 30 supporting organisations – the National Literacy Trust is doing something about it and putting libraries into more primary schools.

Since 2021, 640 primary schools have had their library or reading spaces transformed and they are on track to hit their initial target of 1,000 schools by spring 2024 – a year ahead of schedule. Already, almost a quarter-of-a-million more children are now on a path that will lead them to a life-long love of reading, and all the benefits it affords.

But they want to do more and are urging the government to provide much-needed investment and commitment.



National
Literacy
Trust

FREE REPORT ON LITERACY ATTITUDES IN YOUR SCHOOL

Would you like to know what your pupils think about reading, writing, speaking and listening?

Now in its 14th year, the National Literacy Trust's Annual Literacy Survey of children and young people aged 5 to 18 explores children and young people's literacy behaviours, attitudes and enjoyment.

The survey will be live in January 2024. Participating schools will get a personalised school report outlining the findings, which you can compare nationally once the national reports are published.

[TO REGISTER](#)
[CLICK HERE](#)

WICKED WRITERS: BE THE CHANGE COMPETITION WILL LAUNCH IN JANUARY 2024

The National Literacy Trust has teamed up with the stage musical **Wicked**, and its acclaimed [Wicked Active Learning](#) cultural and social education programme, to run an exciting social action writing competition encouraging school pupils to write about a positive **environmental** change they want to see.

Wicked Writers
**BE THE
CHANGE**



The deadline for entries will be **11 March 2024** and the winners will be announced on **Earth Day 22 April 2024**.

Open to all UK schools and launching on 29 January 2024, [Wicked Writers: Be the Change](#) asks 9 to 14 year-olds to harness the power of persuasive writing to think about any **environmental** issue they feel passionately about.

Pupils' writing will be judged in two age categories – ages 9 to 11 (KS2 / P6, P7) and ages 11 to 14 (KS3 / S1, S2, S3). Teachers will be able to download a resource pack including engaging lesson plans linked to the National Curriculum to inspire pupils to write about environmental issues close to their hearts.

All shortlisted young writers will be published in the **Wicked Writers Anthology** and receive free copies of the publication. Other prizes include free tickets to see Wicked at the Apollo Victoria Street, London, author visits from MG Leonard, and curated book bundles.

Schools can sign up for updates about the competition by expressing interest [here](#) or by [emailing Wicked Writers](#).



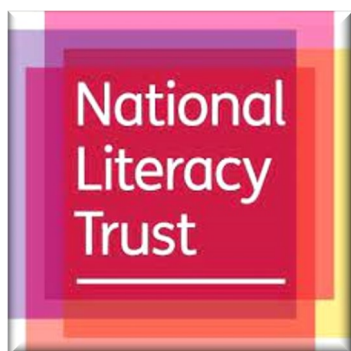
The Children's Book Project seeks to tackle book poverty and to give every child the opportunity to own their own book by gifting donated books to targeted communities across the UK.



'Gently used' children's books in good condition can be donated at any of several drop-off sites around the UK. To find your nearest drop-off point, or to learn more about this amazing charity project, [please click here to visit their website.](#)



Schools nationally can register to be a recipient of a Children's Book Project event. To apply, [please follow this link.](#)







THE NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Shockingly, the National Literacy Trust's [latest research](#) shows that fewer children own a book than at any time in the last five years, and that almost one million children in the UK don't have any books of their own at home.

Make a donation this Christmas to the National Literacy Trust and this is what your money could do:

-  **£10.00** could provide a disadvantaged child with their very first book.
-  **£25.00** could help fund family literacy packs for parents with children on neo-natal wards, helping them to bond with their babies through reading.
-  **£50.00** could help train a volunteer to work with parents with low literacy levels and give them the skills to help develop their child's literacy and communication skills.
-  **£100.00** or more could contribute towards a National Literacy Trust Hub, which will create long-term change in areas of the UK where low levels of literacy are entrenched and intergenerational.

[Click here to donate](#)



CHILDREN'S AUTHOR, SF SAID, GIVES HIS 5 BEST TIPS ON HOW TO MAKE EVERY CHILD A READER



1. Create a buzz around books

Make books central to everything you do. Make reading central to everything you do.

2. Be a reader yourself

Let kids always see you reading. Read all sorts of stuff. Read children's books so you can talk with children about what they are reading. But whatever you read, talk to them about what you're reading. Share your passion. Share your love for books and reading. They will catch on.

3. Have a library

Have a library and a librarian. Take kids to libraries. Give them the biggest possible, widest possible range of books to choose from. Choice is absolutely crucial to becoming a reader. We all need free choice in what we read, and children are no different to us. So let them choose, give them guidance. Expert guidance from librarians whose whole mission in life is to help kids find the right book at the right time.

4. Read aloud to children every single day

This is so powerful. I would describe it as a kind of magic. When you read aloud to kids, even if it's just for 10 minutes a day, it can change their lives forever. It's one of the most powerful ways of helping kids fall in love with books and reading.

5. Make time for children to read for pleasure themselves every single day

When I say read for pleasure, I really do mean that. There should be no strings attached to reading for pleasure. It should just be for fun. If there's a fun test afterwards, that's not fun. No test is fun. Reading for pleasure is just reading for pleasure.

Never dismiss their choice. Let them read whatever they like. Comics, graphic novels, manga, nonfiction, sports reports. Whatever they find exciting. Let them read that and enjoy it. Then you will very quickly find they begin to recommend reading matter to their friends, and you begin to build a real culture of reading for pleasure. It is so powerful. It is so important. I hope you find these five top tips useful.

[TO READ MORE BLOGS FROM SF SAID, FOLLOW THIS LINK](#)



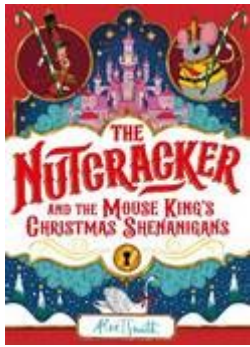
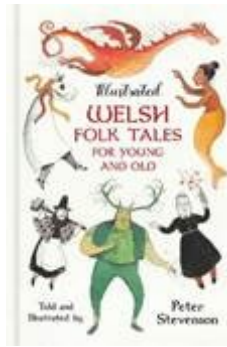


Every month, the Book Trust reviews dozens of books for children and teenagers. Here are some of the ones they have picked for December, guaranteed to get your children reading...

For ages 6-8 and up

Illustrated Welsh Folk Tales for Young and Old

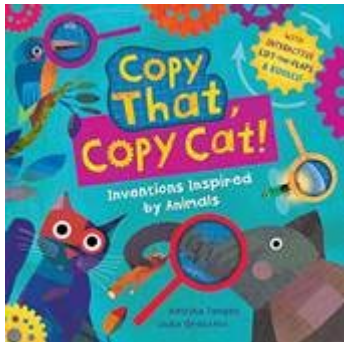
Author: Peter Stevenson



The Nutcracker and the Mouse King's Christmas Shenanigans

Animal Tales from India: Ten Stories from the Panchatantra

Author: Nikita Gill
Illustrator: Chaaya Prabhat

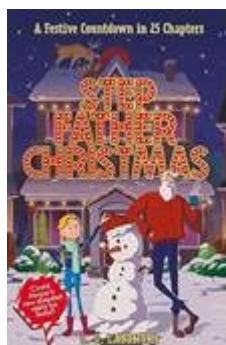


Copy That, Copy Cat: Inventions Inspired by Animals

Author: Katrina

Step Father Christmas

Author: L. D. Lapinski



For ages 4-5 and up

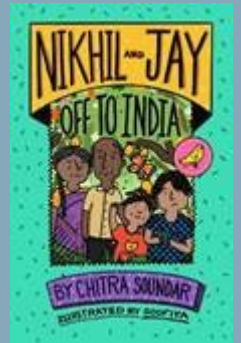
The Night Train

Author: Penny Neville-Lee
Illustrator: Matilda Woods



Nikhil and Jay: Off to India

Author: Chitra



Princess Katie's Kittens: Suki in the Snow

Author: Julie Sykes
Illustrator: Sam



Click here for more information about each book, and for details of the other exciting titles that the Book Trust recommend for younger/elder age groups.

LoveReading

4 KIDS FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

The LoveReading4Kids Funding for Schools Scheme accepts applications from state funded schools in the UK which have signed up for free membership to the LoveReading4Kids community. Primaries, secondaries and early years' settings are all eligible to apply. PTAs are not eligible to apply, the application needs to come directly from the school. Schools can apply for between £1,000 and £5,000. Funding is only provided for books with a specific focus on reading for pleasure.

Areas for Consideration will include:

- Schools with income deprivation or cultural deprivation
- FSM
- IDACI
- Literacy levels
- Schools looking to improve standards

Evidence of these will need to be supplied to validate your application.

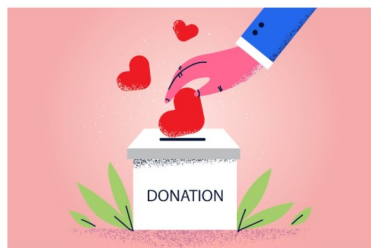
To see all terms and conditions or to apply, [please click here](#).



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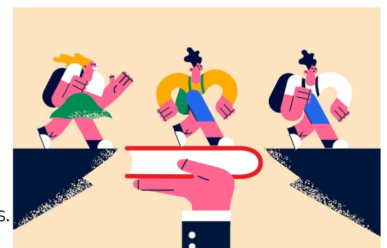
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Kirstie Lynam
English Hub
Administrator



Chrissie Boyland
English Hub
Finance Officer



Manreet Ratan
Literacy Specialist



Lamorna Ross
Literacy Specialist



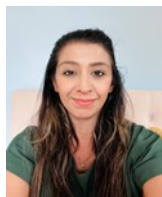
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