



## Newsletter | September 2023

### Welcome

Welcome back to the new academic year - we hope that you all had a wonderful Summer and are all well rested.

We are excited to be back and are ready to support schools throughout Norfolk and Suffolk. Thanks to the Department for Education, we are able to offer more funding and Literacy Specialist schools this academic year. We will begin the year supporting 42 Partner Schools with funded Literacy Specialist days and free bespoke CPD support and look forward to adding more throughout the year.

This year we have a great deal of free CPD events scheduled. Please see below for a list of our events or visit our website for further information.

As always, if you require any advice or support in phonics, early reading and early language please contact a member of our team and we will endeavour to help.

Wishing you all a wonderful return to school and a successful 2023-24!

### Does our school qualify for funding?



We often approach schools, or are approached by schools, to discuss the qualification for funding. Many schools believe that they are not entitled to any funding as they do not meet the criteria set by the Department for Education.

Since we were initially awarded funding in 2019 we have been awarded 'Accelerator Funding' which is open to state funded schools with primary aged children. This includes, Special Schools, PRU, Junior schools, Ofsted Good/Outstanding.

We would strongly recommend that leaders apply for funding and support as schools are assessed on an individual basis. If you would like further information on funding please attend one of our free briefing [CPD sessions](#) or complete a [self-referral form](#).



## Wensum English Hub Events



Please find below a list of our [free](#) CPD offer for 2023-24. Further events will be added. Please check our website and Twitter for updated information.

**Autumn/Spring Term** - [Herts Reading Fluency Project](#)

**2023-24** – [Transforming Your Schools Reading Culture \(TSRC\)](#)

**2023-24** – [Early Language Programme](#)

**20<sup>th</sup> November 2023** – [Teaching Assistants: Supporting Spoken Language with Rachel Clarke](#)

**12<sup>th</sup> January 2024** – [The Learning Lady: Early Years Authors!](#)

**15<sup>th</sup> January 2024** – [The Learning Lady: Sensory Stories](#) (Remote)

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2024** – [Teaching Reading in KS2 with Rachel Clarke](#)

## Partner/Graduate Schools Important Dates

Please see below for any important dates coming up this term.

**11<sup>th</sup> September** - Partner Schools plans to be returned

**19<sup>th</sup> September** - Little Wandle Making a Strong Start Webinar for Reading Leads (remote)

**10<sup>th</sup> October** - Partner School **How to submit your Data** Briefing (remote). Please note this date has changed from the 11<sup>th</sup> October

**19<sup>th</sup> October** - RWI Building an Expert Team Reading Leader Training (face to face)

**19<sup>th</sup> October** - Partner Schools **SSP data** for YR-Y2 to be submitted

## Supporting Early Language Programme Briefing

The Supporting Early Language Development programme is research based and focussed on ensuring the very best outcomes in early language development. It is designed for delegates who are EYFS, KS1 and Primary English Leads.

During the course of the programme, delegates will engage meaningfully with early language pedagogy and plan how to initiate and sustain change within your school. Discussion is built into the programme structure and is based around the evidence presented to ensure rigour. Delegates will need to attend 6 sessions and complete gap tasks in between sessions.

**Places for this programme are FREE and fully funded by the DfE, however are limited** – please complete this [form](#) to express an interest in joining us to develop early language in your school!

## Waterstones



Waterstones are delighted to welcome back [SF Said](#) to their Norwich store on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September. After their sell out visit in June, SF Said will return for a signing of his newest release Tyger!

If that wasn't enough excitement, there will also be an opportunity to meet [Katherine Rundell](#), as she presents her first exciting fantasy book 'Impossible Creatures'.

More information about Waterstones [events](#) please visit their website.

## SSP UPDATES

### Little Wandle

- The Little Wandle programme has made updates to assessment material as well as Year Autumn 1 week 2 weekly grid
- Some of the formation phrases have been simplified in order to make them all consistent
- Little Wandle strongly recommends that schools read the Weekly Wandle blog for further information on their SSP updates
- The layout of the website has been updated, so it is recommended to have a browse to familiar yourself to any new changes

### Read Write Inc.

- Coming soon – Read Write Inc. will soon be launching Fred Games via their online subscription. Visit their portal for more information
- Updated handbooks are now available on Oxford Owl. You can use this interactive version to support your assessment, practice and coaching

### Time for Phonics

- A free 1 hour introductory training is available on the 27<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm. Click [here](#) to book your space

## Spotlight Event – Teaching Assistants: Supporting Spoken Language | Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 9am-3pm

After a large demand for training tailored to Teaching Assistants, we are delighted to announce this bespoke one day course led by Literacy Advisor, Rachel Clarke. This course will consider the important role Teaching Assistants play in creating a learning environment that promotes spoken language. It includes a chance to experience a range of spoken language opportunities, such as role playing, sharing books and using questioning to explore children's understanding.

**Places are limited for this free course –** please complete this [form](#) to express an interest in joining us at The Nest, Holt Road, Horsford, Norwich.

Lunch will be provided.

## EMAIL ADDRESS

We now have a new email address for any finance related enquiries at:

[englishhubfinance@wensumtrust.org.uk](mailto:englishhubfinance@wensumtrust.org.uk)

For general enquiries please continue to use [englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk](mailto:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk)



## Events provided by Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press are providing free personal development training to support teachers around reading for pleasure, the DfE reading framework, inclusivity and KS2 struggling readers:

**14<sup>th</sup> September, 4pm:** Andrea Quincy – Next steps in teaching reading: building on the foundations of early readings. Register [here](#).

**19<sup>th</sup> September, 4pm:** James Clements – Next steps in teaching reading: building on the foundations of early reading. Register [here](#).

**5<sup>th</sup> October, 4pm:** Bennie Kara – Inclusive Readers: building global citizens. Register [here](#).

**14<sup>th</sup> November, 4pm:** Lindsey Pickton – Building confidence and desire in struggling readers at KS2. Register [here](#).

## Book Recommendation



**A Bad Day For Bear**  
**By Duncan Beedie**

Shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, this heart-warming story shows how sometimes children just have a bad day, and can get a little help from their friends.

## Social Media

To keep up to date with any announcements, events, and vacancies follow us on social media:



[Our Twitter](#)



[Our LinkedIn](#)

## Festival of Learning-Making Tech Relevant:

**Linking Tech with Industry to Bring Learning Alive!**

Save the date! 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 - Adastal Park, Ipswich

A festival style conference with three overlapping themes, suitable for all phases and all profiles of education professional:

**1) Edtech to improve learning:** Growing Skills and Confidence in Classroom Pedagogy

**2) Linking Careers & Industry with Curriculum:** Panel discussions & case studies exploring how teachers can apply technology references to cross-curricular environments

**3) Human Skills in a Tech World:** Leadership, Mentoring & Soft Skills Leadership, Mentoring, Soft-Skills & Ethics for a Fast Changing World

Register here: [festivaloflearning.edlink.uk](https://festivaloflearning.edlink.uk) (FREE for a limited time)





## Wensum English Hub Sustainable CPD Projects

Funded by  
Department for Education

**English Hubs**  
Wensum English Hub

**Reading for Pleasure: Transforming your school's reading culture (TSRC)**  
Evidence-based leadership CPD for primary English Leads

The TSRC programme is a sustained, research based CPD programme aimed at primary English Leads. During the course of the programme participants will engage deeply with reading for pleasure pedagogy and leadership theory to transform their school's reading culture. Participants will attend 5 sessions and complete gap tasks in between sessions. Those who cannot will be expected to attend all sessions.

**Programme aims:**

- Understand the research underpinning RPP practice and pedagogy
- Understand the importance of children's literature
- Transform whole school reading culture in your school
- Develop the leadership skills to initiate and sustain change
- Become advocates for RPP and share experiences and best practice

Session	Topic	Date	Time
Session 1	Reading for Pleasure: a whole school culture	12th October 2023	9.30am - 12pm
Session 2	Creating whole school change	22nd November 2023	9.30am - 12pm
Session 3	Creating a reading school: structural changes	16th January 2024	9.30am - 12pm
Session 4	Creating a reading school: behavioural changes	21st March 2024	9.30am - 12pm
Session 5	Evaluating impact and sustaining change	27th June 2024	9.30am - 12pm

**Facilitator:**  
Kathie Chidgey and Laura Anderson

**Cost:** All sessions are offered free of charge

**Location:** TBC, Norwich

**Register your interest HERE**

<https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub/about>

Funded by  
Department for Education

**English Hubs**  
Wensum English Hub

**Looking for a successful intervention to improve reading fluency?**

An 8-week project—involving 2x20 minute sessions per week

**FREE project!**  
Usually costs £850 per delegate  
Fully funded by Wensum English Hub  
Coming in Spring 2024!

**Training:**

- Pre-project task—to be completed remotely—Autumn 2023
- 1/2 day training with a HfL trained advisor
- 2 hours coaching with a dFE Literacy Specialist
- Twilight evaluative session

**Herts for Learning KS1 Reading Fluency Project**

Transformational teaching strategies to help improve pupils' progress towards the Expected Standard at the end of ECF

**MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT**

In just 8 weeks: The average increase in reading comprehension age for participating pupils is 1 year 5 months\*. 76% on pupils on the project make (on average) more than 6 months progress in reading comprehension age. Pupils made, on average, 11 months progress in reading accuracy age.\*

\*According to the YARC assessment tool. Based on data for over 400 pupils

Improves:

- \* stamina
- \* accuracy
- \* enjoyment
- \* confidence
- \* reading engagement

**Register Your Interest**

For more info or to register your interest contact: [englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk](mailto:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk)

**Supporting Early Language Development Programme**

**Ensure the best start for all pupils in their language development**

The Supporting Early Language Development Programme is research based and focussed on ensuring the very best outcomes in early language development.

For more information and to register your interest [click here:](#)

**English Hubs**  
Wensum English Hub

[www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub](http://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub)

## CPD offer from 2023

Funded by  
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**English Hubs**  
Wensum English Hub

**Teaching Assistants: Supporting Spoken Language**

Spoken Language (Sometimes called oracy) is at the heart of high-quality teaching and learning. The course recognises the important role of Teaching Assistants in creating a learning environment that promotes spoken language. It includes opportunities to experience a range of spoken language opportunities including role playing, sharing books and using questioning to explore children's understanding.

**Course Aims:**

- Explore the theoretical background about how children learn to talk
- Consider how to promote talk as a learning tool
- Consider the importance of active learning including storytelling, drama and role play as tools for learning

**Date:** 20th November 2023  
**Time:** 9am - 3pm  
**Venue:** The Nest, Horsford  
**BOOK HERE**

**Heather Avenue Infant School**  
Primary English

**We are part of...**  
**WENSUM TRUST**  
FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

For more information, future events, or to book a place email: [englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk](mailto:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk)

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**Teaching Reading in KS2**

Join Literacy Advisor, Rachel Clarke as she considers how to teach guided reading so that it is targeted to children's needs whilst also being manageable to teachers. Explore how to teach vocabulary as part of the reading lesson through the use of Tier 2 vocabulary.

This practical course will look at planning for reading and, as Rachel is a collector of children's books, we look at quality children's books and consider how to use them in our reading lessons.

**Course Aims:**

- Establish the range of skills involved in being a reader in KS2
- Consider guided reading as a key pedagogical approach for teaching reading
- Explore approaches for teaching vocabulary during the reading lesson

**Date:** 13th January 2024  
**Time:** 9am - 3pm  
**Venue:** The Nest, Horsford  
Place an interest Express an interest [HERE](#)

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**English Hubs**  
Wensum English Hub

**Ask a Literacy Specialist**

Wensum English Hub are delighted to offer schools the opportunity to book a remote Zoom call with one of our highly trained Literacy Specialists.

These free sessions are designed to give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have on topics such as reading, developing a love of reading and early language.

Each session will last up to 15 minutes. If you feel you may need more time then please book a double slot. Further dates will be added throughout the year. Please see our website for details.

To book a slot please fill out this [form](#) giving as much information as possible. You will receive an email confirming your slot within 72 hours.

**Date:** 13th January 2024  
**Time:** 9am - 11am  
**14th January 2024 - 11am - 12pm**  
**15th January 2024 - 11am - 12pm**  
**16th January 2024 - 11am - 12pm**  
**17th January 2024 - 11am - 12pm**  
**18th January 2024 - 11am - 12pm**

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Visit [our website](https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk) for more details, including links to register your interest



Based at  
Heather Avenue Infant School, part of...

**WENSUM TRUST**