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English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

Newsletter | February 2024

We cannot believe that we are already halfway through the academic year, we hope that everyone has had a great first term.

This term has seen us deliver some exciting EYFS writing with Emma Spires, sold out Teaching Assistant and KS2 training with Rachel Clarke and bespoke SSP Hub training for our Partner and Graduate schools. We have more CPD planned for Spring term, including SEN training with Ann Sullivan. We would love to hear what CPD you would like us to host next. [Please click here](#) to leave your suggestions.

We are looking forward to two DfE events after the half term break – our National DfE Conference and National Literacy Specialist training. Please look out in the next Newsletter for sneak peaks of the Hubs exciting plans for the year ahead!

We have already had funding. Can we apply for any more?



The DfE have set a criteria that schools need to meet to access funding. Each allocation will be based on a school by school basis. We would always urge for schools to contact us if they are in need of further support to fund resources/training and we can let you know if you have any funding available.

In addition, as a trial, we are able to support previously engaged Wave 1 and 2 schools. If you are in a PEIA (Priority Education Invest Area) or have had a change of leadership/circumstances or Ofsted result, please contact us. Please note, this trial is only in place until July 2024.



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Partner/Graduate Schools

Important Dates

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

15th February 2024 – Partner Schools **SSP Data** for YR - Y2 to be submitted

15th February 2024 – Online Graduation Briefing for Partner Schools 3.30pm - 4.30pm

29th February 2024 – Partner Schools **Mock PSC** Data for Y1-Y2 to be submitted

29th February 2024 - **RWI** Getting to Grips with Graphemes RL Training (face to face)

Support and Funding Online Briefing

We are so glad that schools have been finding our 'Support and Funding' briefings useful in helping them access funding this year.

We are happy to share that we have been allocated additional funding for Primary, Junior, Special and Alternative Provision schools to access before the end of the school year.

Any State-Funded school, with primary aged children, may be entitled to **up to £9,000 in free funding** towards phonics and reading. We have also been allocated funding to offer a number of Literacy Specialist consultancy support days.

If you think your school would benefit from funding and bespoke support, join us for a 30 minute online briefing led by our English Hub Lead. **Please click [here](#) to book your place!**

New dates available:

- 26th February 2024: 10am -10.30am
- 5th March 2024: 1pm - 1.30pm
- 11th March 2024: 10.30am - 11am

Our Free CPD Offers



Please find below a list of our free CPD offer for 2023-24. Please check our website and Twitter for updated information.

7th- 21st March 2024 – Phonics for SEN Webinar series with Ann Sullivan (3 sessions). Click [here](#) to register your interest.

20th March 2024 – 'Promoting a Love of Reading for All' Online Conference. Click [here](#) to book your place.

9th May 2024 – 'Talk Through Stories' training with Nick Cannon (face to face). Click [here](#) to register your interest.



Spotlight Event – 'Promoting a Love of Reading for All'

Online Conference 20th March 2024 9am -12pm

We are excited to be working with Roade and St John Bosco English Hubs for this collaborative virtual conference, with outstanding keynote speakers: Ruth Baker-Leask, Abigail Balfe, Rose Robbins and Heeral Davda.

The aim of the conference is to provide knowledge, understanding and strategies for providing more diverse and inclusive bookshelves, Libraries and Classrooms and to promote a love of reading for all pupils.

Join us at 9am on Wednesday 20th of March 2024 for this insightful talk, please click [here](#) to register your interest.

Building a Foundation: Early Language in Phonics



Join Oxford University Press for a webinar on the 27th February 2024, hosted by Specialist Speech and Language Therapist Varsha Siyani and ELS Director and Author Tara Dodson. This webinar will look at the research into early language and the importance of phonics at Foundation Stage. Hear how parents can support their children at home, and the support available for teaching ELS at Phase 1.

Please click [here](#) to book your place!

(Recording of the session will be made available – if you are unable to attend during the day you will be able to watch on-demand later.)

World Book Day – 7th March 2024



To celebrate World Book Day this year, the charity is providing educators with ample resources for your class. Please find below useful links to resources and activities you can do with pupils to promote Reading for Pleasure:

- [Primary Schools Guide](#)
- [Reading for Pleasure Primary resources](#)
- [Reading for Pleasure Early Years resources](#)
- [Using dressing up to encourage reading](#)
- [World Book Day Activity Bank](#)
- [World of Stories – Free audiobooks](#)

SSP Updates

Little Wandle

- Updated Assessment Tracker: All schools will be moved onto the new platform by the Easter holidays. You can [get in touch](#) with the assessment team if you have any questions for your school
- New Year 2 pathways [Flowchart](#)
- [Training for TAs webinar](#) – 13th March 2024

ELS

- Bespoke INSET days: a full day of training designed around your school's needs. Schools can contact our Hub to apply for funding to access, please click [here](#) to book training

Read Write Inc.

- Join a consultant trainer at a [drop-in troubleshooting session](#) for help with your online assessments
- [This document](#) provides all the necessary information you need about assessing pupils with RWI

Literacy Specialist Days

URGENT

If you have a Literacy Specialist visit scheduled and need to cancel and/or reschedule, please contact us on 01603 426438. Our telephone line is manned from 7am.



Vacancy



We are thrilled to announce that we are recruiting for an English Hub Auditor/Literacy Specialist position.

To view and apply to the position, please click [here](#).

If you would like to find out more about the role, please contact Stacey Coleman or Laura Anderson at 01603 426438 to arrange an informal conversation.

Book Recommendation

'How do Meerkats Order Pizza?' by Brooke Barker



This non-fiction book is ideal for KS2 readers, exploring the lives of creatures and looking at the strange methods scientists use to try and understand them.

Packed with fascinating facts, this hilarious book from the bestselling creator of *Sad Animal Facts* reveals secrets like why roosters crow and how meerkats make decisions as a group—and how humans can better understand the wild creatures we share the planet with

DfE Updates



Writing Framework Sector Panels

The DfE is seeking input from primary practitioners in the sector as part of a wider review process. This will involve discussing best practice in writing and the Framework in small virtual group discussions. To ensure that they get views from a broad range of perspectives, the DfE would like to hold sessions with the 3 following groups:

- Class teachers (including ECTs)
- Literacy/English Subject Leads
- Senior Leaders (Heads, Deputy/Assistant Heads, SENCO)

If you are interested in attending one of the sessions, please complete [this form](#) by **Monday 19th February 2024**. Spaces will be limited, and we will be in touch to confirm if you have secured a place. Any personal information that you input into this form will be handled in line with DfE's [privacy notice](#).



Education
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Reading Fluency Project

The EEF are recruiting Primary Schools to take part in a trial of the 'Key Stage 2 Reading Fluency Project', a targeted reading fluency intervention designed to support struggling readers' reading comprehension among upper Key Stage 2 pupils.

Find out more and express an interest: [here](#)



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Partner Schools Briefing

On average schools supported intensively by the English Hub Programme outperform other schools by on average 7% when comparing PSC results from pre and post pandemic.

We are full capacity supporting schools for this academic year, but we have now opened our expression of interest for schools to sign up to being a Partner School from September 2024.

If you would like more information on what it means to be a Partner School, the funding and support involved and hear about the impact it has had on other schools in our region then please join us for a FREE short briefing. This will be an opportunity for you to find out about what a Partner School is and what it entails, there will be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

We will be holding three sessions on the following dates (you only need to attend one):

Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 3.30pm

Monday 15th April 2024 at 10.30am and 3.30pm.

Please [click here to sign up](#) to a FREE briefing / express an interest in becoming a Partner School.

Social Media

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



[X formally known as Twitter](#)



[Our LinkedIn](#)

Hub of Hubs



Did you know that there are other Hubs designed to support schools in many areas of the curriculum, such as: maths, music, Early Years and behaviour?

A list of the Hubs in our area and their contact details can be found on our [website](#)

Visit [our website](#) for more details, including links to register your interest for CPD offers and other literacy resources



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