



Newsletter | March 2024

Welcome

It feels like this term has flown by- we can't believe we are nearly summer ready!

In this short half term we have managed to pack a lot in! Fully funded bespoke SSP training for our Partner and Graduate schools, World Book Day, SEND training with Ann Sullivan. We also had our annual Reading for Pleasure conference with Roade and St John Bosco English Hub.

Our Literacy Specialists went to London for their first Literacy Specialist Conference since Covid, where they networked with the other 33 Hubs, shared best practice and met keynote speakers Rt Hon Damian Hinds, Gita Sisupalan, Kirsty Godfrey and Prof Teresa Cremin.

Our Hub Lead also attended our termly DfE National Event. The message coming from the government is that reading and early language remains a priority in helping standards to raise in schools. We look forward to sharing with you as soon as possible the plans the DfE have in delivering the English Hub programme over the next academic year!

Which Phonics programme should we choose?



The simple answer to this is... which ever programme is best for your children and school setting. There are currently 45 validated SSP (Systematic Synthetic Phonics) Programmes available for schools to choose from if they would like to access our funding offer. A full list can be found on our [website](#) - many of these have links shared by the programme creators. If you would like support in choosing an SSP please complete a [self-referral form](#) and a member of our team will be in touch discuss the different options which may be suitable to your setting. At Wensum, we are also fortunate to work with SSPs directly and can place you in contact with them if required.

Please remember to do your research and see what works best for you!



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.

15th April – Partner School Briefing (online)

Click [here](#) to sign up!

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

Partner/Graduate Schools Important Dates

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

26th March – Partner Schools **SSP Data** for YR-Y2 to be submitted

23rd April – **Little Wandle Training** for Partner Schools ‘Preparing for the Phonics Screening’ (online)

25th April – **Mock PSC** Results for Y1-Y2 to be submitted

26th April - **RWI Training** for Partner Schools ‘Fast Track Tutoring’ (face to face)

26th June – **Bug Club** Training for Partner Schools ‘Planning ahead for September’ – to sign up email jayde.heids@pearson.com

Partner School 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 two sessions on Monday 15th April, at 10.30am and 3.30pm (you only need to attend one!)

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

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:

- Monday 22nd April 1.30pm-2pm
- Wednesday 24th April 9.30am-10am

SSP UPDATES

Read Write Inc.

- Need any extra support using the Online Assessment? RWI are offering [free 45 mins Drop-In sessions](#) every day until the end of term!
- You can watch the 'how to' film or [read the guidance](#) for Online Assessments through your portal before you start.

Unlocking Letters & Sounds

- The ULS team have created specific home reading records which helps parents support children's early reading. You can place your order [here](#) to purchase records for your classroom.

Monster Phonics

- Rapid Intervention Programme: click [here](#) to view the targeted training.
- New SEND programme for KS2: designed to aid children who require further assistance in phonics, available from May 2024.
- Superhero Spelling: a spelling and vocabulary development programme for Years 3-6. [Watch a demo.](#)

Social Media

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

[Our Twitter](#)

[Our LinkedIn](#)

BookTrust Update



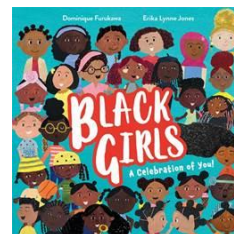
Waterstones Children's Laureate

As part of his laureateship, Joseph Coelho is creating weekly poetry prompts for children and grown-ups to explore new poems and have a go at writing their own poetry. You can access Joseph's videos and prompts [here](#).

Engaging Children with Vision Impairment in Stories

BookTrust talked to RNIB about how teachers can engage children with a visual impairment in reading. Services like [RNIB](#) and [Guide Dogs](#) can provide audio materials and reading materials in Braille to facilitate accessibility. RNIB recommends teachers and parents to adopt a multi-sensory approach to storytelling, which will engage the child further and allow them to have a positive experience when it comes to reading. You can read more [here](#) and find out book recommendations specifically curated for children with vision impairment.

Book Recommendation



[Black Girls: A Celebration of You](#)

[By Dominique Furukawa and Erika Lynne Jones](#)

This rhyming picture book is Furukawa's debut, celebrating Black and mixed-race girls and exploring the diversity of Black girlhood. The writing champions Black girls and affirms their ambitions and goals in life.



Big Norfolk Holiday Fun



The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun (BNHF) activity programme provides holiday activities for children and young people aged 5-16 (or 4 if they are in Reception) in Norfolk.

Children who receive benefits-related free school meals can claim free spaces on the activities, whilst paid spots are available on many activities for those who don't.

Find out more about this in their [FAQ section](#).

The next Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme will be taking place during the Easter holidays and will run from the 2nd to the 12th of April.

Online booking is now available for most providers, visit [Every Move](#) to book an activity this Easter!

Reading for Pleasure Quality Mark Briefing



Reading for Pleasure Quality Mark



The UKLA/OU Quality Mark recognises and rewards schools that have developed, embedded and enriched their Reading for Pleasure culture and ethos with a remarkable impact on staff's knowledge and practice, on parents, and on pupils' recreational reading.

If you'd like to gain this prestigious Quality Mark, you can apply to take part in a year-long process supported by an expert in reading who will assist you in achieving the results of a school who consistently engages in reading for pleasure. For more information on how to apply, you can visit [this website](#) and attend an

Introductory CPD Session on Wednesday 24th April, 2pm-4pm.

Register for the session [here](#).

Graduation

We are aware that schools who will be finishing their second year of the programme with us this academic year are awaiting information regarding Graduation. We held a Graduation briefing session on the 15th February for all Partner Schools. In light of this briefing we are still awaiting the final graduate report from the DfE. As soon as we receive this we will contact all graduating schools and will host another virtual Q&A drop in session (date TBC).

Thank you for your patience in the delay. If you have any concerns do not hesitate to [contact us](#).



Pearsons have put together a series of helpful Primary Literacy webinars to run throughout this term. These provide a pedagogical overview and a walkthrough of the Bug Club and Rapid intervention products, whilst offering schools support and guidance on getting the most out of the resources. [Here](#) is a link to the recordings for all webinars up to date.



Nuffield Early Language Intervention



Pearsons are partnered with OxEd and Assessment to deliver the Nuffield Early Language Intervention. It is an evidence-based oral language intervention, for children in nursery and reception who show weakness in their oral language skills, and who are therefore at risk of having trouble with accessing the curriculum and reading.

In addition to the core NELI intervention, Pearsons now have a whole class solution as well as Language and Reading screener apps and NELI Preschool, which Pearsons are currently recruiting schools for an effectiveness trial.

If you would like more information, please contact jayde.heids@pearsons.com

Children's Book Project



Would you like to get free books for your classroom?

The Children's Book Project works with settings across the UK to redistribute thousands of new and gently used books to children and their families.

80% of their gifting takes place in schools and other education settings nationwide.

Schools can register to feature on the Children's Book Project's nationwide map as an official book donation hub. You can use this to invite donations from your school community and local families and to help engage local corporates and other groups to run a Book Drive on your behalf.

Register [here!](#)

Visit [our website](#) for more details, including links to register your interest



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

WENSUMTRUST