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English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

Newsletter | Spring 2

Welcome

Can you believe we are already two-thirds of the way through the school year? We have had a busy Spring 2, full of training for our Literacy Specialists. We also welcomed Myland English Hub to Heather Avenue Infant School to showcase the work we have been doing. Our Strategic Lead and Hub Lead were fortunate enough to visit their Hub too as a way of networking, sharing ideas and forward planning for next academic year. We will also be joining Myland to bring you our free CPD events with Christopher Such and Alex Quigley - see below for more details.

Our Hub team are also preparing for the **Phonics Screening Check** - with only **33 teaching days** (as of 28.3.25) until the big day! Our Literacy Specialists have been busy working with Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programmes (SSP's) to provide schools with the best advice to make the biggest impact before the check. Did you know on average, Partner Schools outperform non Partner Schools (Nationally) by 7.5%! If you are interested in becoming a funded partner school join our free [briefing](#) for more details.

Partner/Graduate Schools

Important Dates

Please see below for any important dates coming up this academic year.

3rd April – Partner and Graduate School SSP data to be submitted

30th April - 3.45pm-5pm – Little Wandle Partner School Webinar: Finishing Strong

30th April - 3.45pm-5pm – [Essential Letters and Sounds Partner School Webinar](#): Supporting Blending and Developing Fluency

30th April - Partner and Graduate School PSC mock to be submitted

1st May - 3.45pm-5pm – [Essential Letters and Sounds Webinar Partner School Webinar](#): Supporting pupils with SEND

12th May - 3.45pm-5pm – [Essential Letters and Sounds Webinar Partner School Webinar](#): Phonics for KS2: Supporting Reading Development

22nd May – Partner and Graduate School SSP data to be submitted

9th June – 20th June – Phonics Screening Check weeks

17th June - 3.45pm-5pm – [Essential Letters and Sounds Webinar Partner School Webinar](#): Making Phonics Count: Using Data to Guide Teaching

23rd June - Phonic Screening Check scores to be submitted to English Hub

2nd July - [Graduation Ceremony/New Partner School Onboarding Event](#)

18th July - Partner and Graduate School SSP data to be submitted



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As always, our events are **FREE** for delegates to attend. Full day in-person CPD will include lunch and refreshments.

1st April - [Enhancing Early Language Development with Alex Quigley](#) (Session 2) (**NEW** for 2025)

3rd April - [Reading Fluency and Comprehension in Theory and Practice with Christopher Such](#) (Session 2) (**NEW** for 2025)

23rd April – [Partner School Briefing](#) (**NEW** for 2025) 9.30am-10.15am

23rd April – Fluency Final Project Review

24th April – [Partner School Briefing](#) (**NEW** for 2025) 3.30pm - 4.15pm

29th April – Y1 Fluency Twilight

6th May – [Preparing for the Phonic Screening Check](#) (**NEW** for 2025)

7th May – How to be Wise About Words: Session 2 (**NEW** for 2025)

21st May – Developing Early Language: Session 5

20th June – Making a Strong Start in September (**NEW** for 2025)

23rd June – How to be Wise About Words: Session 3 (**NEW** for 2025)

24th June – Transforming your Schools Reading Culture: Session 5

26th June – Making a Strong Start in September (**NEW** for 2025)

7th July – Developing Early Language: Session 6



WE ARE BLOGGING!

Have you checked out our new blogs? We are excited to be expanding our support through working with experts in English, Reading and Leadership. You can read our new blogs on our [website](#). More will be added in the very near future!

YEAR 3 COMPETITION



Literacy charity, The Children's Bookshow has launched a competition asking Year 3 pupils to design a bookmark.

The competition will be judged by [Neal Layton](#), Author and Illustrator of the environmental fable *The Tree, A Planet Full of Plastic* and *A Climate In Chaos* and how you can help, as well as many other brilliant picture books.

The winner will receive:

- Enough professionally printed copies of their bookmark to give to everyone in their school!
- A bundle of 10 brilliant books about the environment and protecting our planet to keep for themselves
- A bird feeder, a nesting box and an identification kit for their school playground

Full details on how to enter the competition can be found on the attached flyer.

Assessment and Discount Offers

We proudly work with a range of SSP and publishers, including Hachette Learning. They recently informed us that any school that currently uses NTS Reading or PIRA assessments from them and hasn't purchased any Reading Planet books since 2022 is entitled to a 50% discount on any reading print orders over £500 (bringing the total down to £250). All existing print customers can access a discount of 15% on orders over £200. Contact your rep [Helen Quin](#) for more information.

Preparing for the Phonic Screening Check



The Phonic Screening Check will take place between Monday 9th – Friday 13th June 2025. We will be hosting our [free webinar](#) on Tuesday 6th May at 3.45pm. This webinar is designed to support schools with administering the check. It will also include a range of top tips to prepare for the big day, whilst supporting schools to ensure as many children as possible pass this statutory check.

We will also be sharing bespoke advice from a range of SSPs and our experts will be hand to answer any questions.

Book Recommendations



With its refrain of 'Leave the trees, please', there's a dreamlike quality to this picture book and a sense of passionate intensity, both perfectly captured in Melissa Castrillon's beautiful illustrations. Benjamin Zephaniah's text is short, conversational but urgent, exhorting us not just to protect the trees but to appreciate their majesty and the crucial role they play in all our lives. (Love Reading4Kids).

EEF Writing Trials



Through DfE accelerator funding, the EEF are trialling four programmes that aim to improve writing outcomes for primary-aged pupils. Schools across England can contribute to the education evidence base by signing up to participate in one of these projects and have a chance to receive a free or heavily discounted programme.

Literacy Tree will be hosting a FREE briefing on 2nd April 2025 at 3.45pm to discuss their Writing Roots trial in more detail. Click [here](#) to book your place.

Alternatively, [search your school on the EEF website](#) to find out which projects you can get involved in.



Reading Fluency and Comprehension in Theory and Practice with Christopher Such

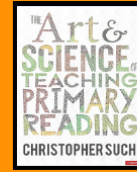
Session 1: 20th March 2025 3.45—5.15 p.m.

Session 2: 3rd April 2025 3.45—5.15 p.m.



English Hubs

Myland English Hub



Session 1: Reading fluency in theory and practice

The ability to read fluently is central to literacy development. In this session, you will learn about the nature of reading fluency, how it can be nurtured in the classroom and how it can be assessed as part of a systematic approach to addressing barriers to reading development.

This session will discuss the following:

- Frameworks for understanding reading
- The English writing system and its impact on reading fluency
- The integrated bodies of knowledge that support language comprehension
- Reading fluency defined
- Practical strategies for teaching reading fluency
- Fluency assessment - the centre of a systematic approach to assessment

Session 2: Reading comprehension in theory and practice

Comprehension is the ultimate goal of reading. And yet common misconceptions about the nature of reading comprehension often undermine the teaching of reading, reducing it to the counterproductive rehearsal of a small set of illusory skills. A better understanding of comprehension - and its links to word recognition and reading fluency - can transform teaching into something more meaningful and enjoyable for pupils and teachers.

This session will discuss the following:

- Frameworks for understanding reading
- The English writing system and its impact on reading fluency
- The integrated bodies of knowledge that support language comprehension
- Practical strategies for teaching comprehension

Christopher Such is a teacher educator, consultant and author of *The Art and Science of Teaching Primary Reading*. As part of Ambition Institute's learning design team, he co-designed their National Professional Qualification in Leading

Literacy (NPQLL). In his work as an education consultant, he has worked with schools, multi-academy trusts, English Hubs and wider organisations to develop teachers' understanding of reading and implement approaches to evidence-informed classroom teaching that prioritise meaningful experiences with texts.

To book these **free and remote** sessions, please contact:

enunn@myland.essex.sch.uk

English Hubs

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Reading Fluency and Comprehension in Theory and Practice

With Christopher Such

Email to book your place: enunn@myland.essex.sch.uk



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Enhancing Early Language Development Webinar Series with Alex Quigley

Session 1: 25th March 2025 3.45—5.15 p.m.

Session 2: 1st April 2025 3.45—5.15 p.m.



This twilight series draws upon a range of high quality evidence and examples from early years and key stage 1, with relevance for all primary practitioners.

Session 1: Enhancing Language Development: High Quality Talk

This session explores the increasing challenges of early language on school entry. Alex unpicks the varied challenges before posing practical opportunities to develop high quality talk routines, such as drawing on sustained shared thinking in everyday teaching.

Alex Quigley is a former teacher who is now a best selling author with a specialism in literacy, teaching and learning. He works for a national charity to help break the link between family income and school attainment. Alex is also a TES columnist who blogs at: www.alexquigley.co.uk.

Session 2: Enhancing Language Development: Book Talk and Vocabulary

This session explores issues with early reading and vocabulary. Alex shares a range of practical approaches to address these issues and to maximise early language development.



To book these **free** and **remote** sessions, please contact: enunn@myland.essex.sch.uk



Enhancing Early Language Development

With Alex Quigley

Email to book your place: enunn@myland.essex.sch.uk



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Preparing for the Phonic Screening Check Get your pupils and team ready for a successful phonics screening 2025!

Join us for this FREE advisory session, to check that you are fully prepared for the Phonics Screening Check in June 2025. This training session is for phonics reading leaders and Year 1 teachers. We will focus on

- Hearing best practice in the lead up to the Phonic Screening Check
- Making the most of interventions
- Pre training required prior to administering the check
- How to administer the check and moderations
- On the day routines
- SSP specific guidance
- Practical ideas on how best to prepare your children for the check

We will also be sharing our **top tips** leading up to the phonics screening check and to make sure the administering process goes as smoothly as possible. There will be time for delegates to ask our Hub Lead or Literacy Specialists questions regarding anything phonic screening check related!

Who is it for?

- Phonics leads
- KS1 Teacher/Leads
- Reading Leads
- ECTs
- Those new to administering the PSC



Phonics screening check

Pupils' materials



Date: 6th May 2025

Time: 3.45pm – 4.45pm

Online via Zoom

Book your place [here](#)



For more information

email: englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk

Preparing for the Phonic Screening Check

<https://forms.gle/J5MMLHpMCafuuE3j7>

Deadline for Booking: Thursday 1st May 2025



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Making a Strong Start in Teaching Phonics in September

Wensum English Hub are delighted to deliver training in How to start teaching phonics in Reception and Year 1 and make all the difference.

This training is aimed at all phonics teachers from Student Teacher through to School Leaders and is suitable for ALL phonics programmes.

We will show you how to:

- Ensure pace, progress and consistency
- Reinforce Phonics throughout the day
- Ensure no child gets left behind – 'Keep Up' not 'Catch Up)
- Give EYFS children the best start to their Phonics journey
- Top Tips for the academic year

This is the perfect training for you if you are....

- Headteachers
- Reception Teachers
- Year 1 Teachers
- Phonics / Reading Leads



Dates:

20th June 2025 – 1.15pm – 2.45pm

or

26th June 2025 - 3.30pm – 5pm

Venue: Online Via Zoom



For more information

email:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk

Making a Strong Start in Teaching Phonics in September

<https://forms.gle/zR7Ws4yFKmAkttm19>

Deadline for Booking: Tuesday 17th June 2025



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**APPLY FOR ENGLISH HUB
SUPPORT AND FUNDING AND
BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN
A FREE BOOK FOR YOUR
SCHOOL!!**

“
The support received from Wensum Hub has been transformative for our school. We now have a clear and consistent approach to Phonics teaching, tutoring and development. Wensum Hub have also supported the school through a challenging time with changes of leadership, offering additional LS days to train up a new reading lead. I can't thank the amazing team enough for their knowledgeable and passionate

”
support and guidance

If your school is based in Norfolk or Suffolk – please contact us for support and funding.



Fill out a self referral form [here](#) to be in a monthly draw to win a book!



For more information

email:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk

Funded Reading Review

<https://forms.gle/hXqmDkJhfvwnpr2d9>

Deadline for Booking: June 2025

NB: We currently have funding for a certain number of reading reviews, once we reach this limit we will be unable to offer dates until September 2025



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Calling all Year 3 teachers!

The Children's Bookshow launches environmental competition with the British Trust for Ornithology

Literacy charity, *The Children's Bookshow* has launched a competition asking Year 3 pupils to design a bookmark.

Working together with environmental organisation, the British Trust for Ornithology, the charity wants children to design a bookmark with a picture of their favourite bird in its natural habitat on the front and a message to encourage the protection of birds and their habitats on the back.

The illustration could be a bird that children see on their walk to school, or that comes and eats the seed on a bird table in their garden; it could be a tropical bird that lives in the rainforest or one that lives on a local lake or by the sea. Is this bird endangered, is its habitat under threat? The competition asks children to do some research and on the back of the bookmark write a call to action to encourage us all to protect birds and look after their natural habitats.

The competition will be judged by Neal Layton, author and illustrator of the environmental fable *The Tree, A Planet Full of Plastic* and *A Climate In Chaos and how you can help*, as well as many other brilliant picture books.

The winner will receive:

- Enough professionally printed copies of their bookmark to give to everyone in their school!
- A bundle of 10 brilliant books about the environment and protecting our planet to keep
- A bird feeder, a nesting box and an identification kit for their school playground

Three runners up will receive a copy of Neal Layton's *The Tree* and *Saving Mr Hoot* by much-loved author and illustrator, Helen Stephens.



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**Birds
Science
People**

Year 3 students in
Iren's Bookshow. T

The Children's Bookshow

Giving the joy of reading

All the entry details can be found on The Children's Bookshow website. A bookmark template is also available to download:

<https://thechildrensbookshow.com/competitions/design-a-bookmark-competition>

Founded in 2003, The Children's Bookshow is a charity that inspires children with a love of reading. The organisation introduces children to world-class authors and illustrators through a programme of theatre events, in-school workshops and regular competitions.

The core activity of The Children's Bookshow is an annual Autumn tour — a live literature roadshow that brings the joy of reading to children across the U.K. In 2024, the tour delivered performances, workshops and free books to over 8,500 children.

ENDS

For more information, please contact Saira Aspinall on:

saira@thechildrensbookshow.com



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