

Funded by



Department
for Education

English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

Newsletter | Summer 2

Welcome

We can hardly believe we have reached the end of another academic year! It has been an incredibly busy and impactful time, with highlights including the PSC, The Writing Framework, the rapid expansion of our Hub offer, the publication of the *Reading Rights* report, the launch of the RISE teams, and much more – all contributing significantly to education and the English Hub Programme.

We are already planning how best to support schools with The Writing Framework – read our blog and keep an eye out for updates coming in Autumn 1.

This term, we also celebrated the incredible achievements of our Partner Schools at our graduation event and welcomed our new Partner Schools during their induction. Read on for more details about these celebrations and our forward planning.

Although the academic year is drawing to a close, we are currently finalising our CPD offer for next year. Stay tuned – more information will be available soon!

Primary Support

As part of our Primary support offer, we are able to support and fund primary schools across Norfolk and Suffolk. Join us on our FREE 30-minute briefing to hear how your school could claim up to £6000 in funding. We are pleased to announce we are now able to reengage with schools who may have previously received Partner School support.

Join us on one of the dates below to find out more:

26th September 2025 - 1.15 pm

8th October 2025 - 3.30pm

22nd October 2025 - 10.30am

17th November 2025 - 3.30pm

[Click here](#) to book your free space.

Secondary Support

You may have heard that the English Hub offer is expanding to support Secondary schools from September 2025!

We can now share dates of our support offer briefing. Schools can sign up to one of the dates below to hear more information on the pilot and the support we are able to offer!

8th September 2025 – 10.30am or 3.30pm

9th September 2025 – 10.30am or 3.30pm

11th September 2025 – 10.30am or 3.30pm

Briefings should last no more than 45 minutes and will include information on funding available!

[Click here](#) to book your free space.



Based at
Heather Avenue Infant School, part of..

WENSUMTRUST

Partner/Graduate Schools

Important Dates

Please see below for upcoming important dates for Autumn 2025:

25th September – [Little Wandle](#)

[Partner/Graduate School webinar: Making a Strong Start](#)

7th October – [Partner School Data Briefing](#)

16th October – [Read, Write, Inc](#)

[Partner/Graduate School training: Tutoring](#)

23rd October – Partner Schools **SSP Data** for YR-Y2 to be submitted

4th November – [ELS Partner/Graduate School training: Phonics for KS2](#)

12th November – [Bug Club Partner/Graduate School training: Phonics and SEND](#)

28th November – Partner Schools **PSC Mock Data** to be submitted

9th December – [Read, Write, Inc](#)

[Partner/Graduate School training: Leadership Build an Expert Team](#)



Wensum English Hub



All of our events are FREE to attend

30th September – How to be Wise about Words: Session 4

1st October – [How to be Wise about Words: Session 1 \(New intake\)](#)

7th October – [Transforming your Schools Reading Culture: Session 1](#)

10th October – [Reading Ambition for All: Session 1](#)

13th October – [Reading Fluency: The Bridge to Comprehension: Session 1 \(New\)](#)

14th October – [Supporting Early Language Development: Session 1](#)

13th November – [How to be Wise about Words: Session 2 \(New intake\)](#)

20th November – [Talk Through Stories:](#)

25th November – [Supporting Early Language Development: Session 2](#)

28th November – [Reading Ambition for All: Session 2](#)

2nd December – [Transforming your Schools Reading Culture: Session 2](#)

English Hub statistics from the Department of Education

- Over 5000 schools have received Partner School support
- 17% of schools across the country have worked with an English Hub
- Over £9 million a year of funding has been allocated 2023-24
- Over £40 million funding given out since beginning of the programme
- 2023 - 2024: 250 + Literacy Specialist Days → over 8500 across the Hubs
- Support for Infant, Primary, SEND, PRUs and Secondary
- Year on year Partner Schools outperform on PSC Nationally

Graduation Ceremony



Earlier this month we celebrated two years of hard work and dedication of our graduate schools with our Graduation Ceremony. A morning where we came together to hear how the English Hub has impacted Partner Schools, not only with an increase on PSC data but also on staff confidence.

We worked together to create a sustainable plan for the academic year of 2025-2026, where our schools move onto lighter touch support for our Hub Team.

We also welcomed our new intake of Partner Schools, who heard first hand from the Headteacher of Earl Soham on how support from Wensum English Hub has had on the reading attainment of her children and also the first quality teaching of her staffing team.

We ended our session with our BIG raffle giveaway – donated prizes included a HUGE bundle of books from Pandora Books, a CPD voucher from VNET, vouchers from Book Bugs and The Book Hive, donations from Norfolk Children Book Centre, Scholastic and Fonetti. Thank you to Dandelion Learning who not only donated two 1-year subscription packages worth over £4000, but also gave all our schools a 50% discount off their English CPD package!

We are Blogging!



Have you checked out our new blogs? We recently published blogs on keeping children reading over summer and the newly released Writing Framework! Visit our [website](#) to view all of our published blogs!

Partner School Information

Cancelling Literacy Specialist Day

We understand that sometimes you may need to postpone your Literacy Specialist Day. Please can we ask if you need to give less than 48 hours' notice that you call us (01603426438) to cancel. This allows our admin time to contact the specialists to save a wasted trip.

Data

To support our schools with submitting data, in line with their PSP, we will be holding a data briefing on Tuesday 7th October 2025 @ 3.45pm. Full details will be emailed to schools at the beginning of the academic year.

Contact details

We appreciate 'school life' means that there may be a change of Reading Lead/Headteacher/Finance Officer. Please ensure details for these roles for 2025-2026 are up-to-date with our admin team.





As the year comes to an end, we sadly have to say goodbye to two of our Literacy Specialists. Both Amy Bond and Shelley Leggett leave us after dedicating their time to supporting our Partner Schools and championing for every child to become a reader. They both leave us to continue their work with SEND children and we wish them all the success in their future roles.

September 2025 will see the arrival of 4 new team members! Charlene Taylor joins us a Primary Literacy Specialist, Cherry Greenacre joins as our Hub Administrator and Engagement Coordinator. We can also announce that we have recruited two outstanding Secondary Specialists – we welcome them both to our Hub team!

Join the NSPCC Kindness Challenge this October!

This October, take part in the [Kindness Challenge](#) and help spread positivity while raising vital funds for Childline. Pupils will be encouraged to complete acts of kindness at school, at home, and in their communities throughout the week.

Schools will receive a free resource pack full of engaging materials, including worksheets, posters, and lesson plans, to help bring the challenge to life. In 2024, over 6,000 schools took part, making a real difference through small acts with big impact. Don't miss this opportunity to inspire kindness, build empathy, and support a cause that truly matters.

Book Recommendations



I'm Gonna Eat a Monster! by Kael Tudor, Year 1 Picture Book

A wolf spies a rabbit and thinks 'breakfast', but the rabbit asserts that she is looking for a monster to eat, and the wolf is persuaded to join her. At first, the wolf is entertained because there is no such thing as monsters, and he thinks he is having some fun with his 'breakfast', but as they trek further, he begins to shrink with worry.

The hilarious dialogue and accompanying illustrations work brilliantly together, and the repetition in the narrative makes it feel like a deliciously darker and funnier *Gruffalo*.

Ultimately, the wolf is eaten by the monster, and the rabbit survives to bring the monster 'breakfast' another day, giving this story an entertaining and satisfying twist at the end.

This story is a joy to read aloud, hugely entertaining to look at, uses language and language patterns to brilliant effect, and is the perfect introduction to trickster characters. It's also part of our *Summer Term Highlights* collection — perfect for transforming your school library bookshelves with an inviting and varied selection of exceptional brand-new books that are our top recommendations for the year so far.

Recommended by: Marcia, Book Collections Manager at Pandora Books



National Read Aloud Challenge

National 🌞
Read-Aloud
Challenge 2025

Powered by **Fonetti**

Join the *National Read Aloud Challenge* by Fonetti and spark a love of reading in your classroom! This nationwide initiative promotes daily reading aloud to boost fluency, confidence, and comprehension. Using Fonetti's voice-enabled app, children read interactive texts while teachers track progress with ease. Best of all, the winning school will receive an all-expenses-paid trip for two top-performing pupils to Amazon HQ in London—a once-in-a-lifetime experience! With free access to a rich library of texts and classroom resources, it's never been easier to bring stories to life.

Sign up now and get your class reading, competing, and celebrating every word! Full details can be found on the [National Read Aloud Challenge 2025](#) website.

Library Summer Reading Challenge



Join the Norfolk Libraries Summer Reading Challenge!

Encourage your students to keep reading all summer with the Norfolk Libraries Summer Reading Challenge! This free, fun initiative helps children stay engaged with books during the holidays. By reading six books of their choice, children can earn stickers, rewards, and a medal—boosting literacy, confidence, and a lifelong love of reading. Open to all primary-aged children, it's a fantastic way to support learning beyond the classroom. Visit your local library to sign up and pick up materials. Let's work together to inspire young readers this summer!

For more details, visit [Norfolk County Council Libraries](#)

We proudly support the National Year of Reading 2026!

Our Transforming your Schools Reading Culture CPD is a perfect way of joining in with the Year of reading. We will also planning further free Reading for Pleasure CPD for 2026 – watch this space!



The Writing Framework

Last week the Department for Education has published The writing framework. The writing framework has been drafted with guidance from a range of sector experts including academics, leading practitioners, writing programme providers, EEF and Ofsted. It sets out a common approach to teaching writing rooted in evidence and existing good practice. The top five key messages include:

- **Writing is complex:** it places significant demands on pupils' working memory so it is vital it is taught in a sequenced way to manage those demands
- **Teaching handwriting and spelling (transcription) from the reception year is crucial** so that these skills become automatic for children. This will free up their working memory for composition
- **Sentence instruction is essential** since all writing is made up of sentences. Knowledge of grammar helps pupils to control sentences and convey meaning, but it does not support their writing fluency when taught in isolation
- **Spoken language is as important for writing as for reading.** Pupils should compose orally while they are developing their transcription skills. This can still be valuable when they can transcribe fluently
- **Quality is more important than length.** Pupils need to master the foundations of writing – handwriting, spelling and sentence construction. They should not be expected to write at length before they are ready

We will be providing free Understanding the Writing Framework briefings and ongoing free CPD – Look out for more information in the new academic year!

Finally...

A huge thank you to all our schools and staff for their continued hard work and engagement throughout this year.

Wishing everyone HAPPY SUMMER HOLIDAYS!!

From all at Wensum English Hub



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for Education

English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CPD IN 25/26

Reading Ambition for All: Teaching children who need the most support, including those with SEND - This DfE funded programme explores the appropriate teaching, support, and provision for the lowest-attaining children in reading, with a particular focus on those with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

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

Transforming Schools Reading Culture - 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.

How to be Wise About Words - you will learn how to confidently deliver active and immersive techniques to effectively develop children's early language and oracy skills.

NEW FOR 2025! - Fluency Project - We are excited to launch our new DfE approved programme - designed by the experts at HfL Education from September 2025. Similar to our core CPD offers, the Fluency Project will be made up of 5 half day sessions and will focus on research and advice on how to develop the fluency of children in KS2. More information on the structure of the course and areas covered will be shared soon!

All of our CPD events are free to attend



To find out
more and
register your
interest click
here



Hub School

Heather Avenue
Infant School

We are part of...

WENSUMTRUST

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

For more information, future events, or to book a place
email: englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk

DfE Approved CPD: Autumn 2025

We have now opened our Expression of Interest for our DfE approved core CPD Programmes

Transforming your Schools Reading Culture

Supporting Early Language Development

Reading Ambition for All

How to be Wise about Words

NEW Fluency

Expression of Interest Form

<https://forms.gle/oQBdHPrXPMfqYUdb7>



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Secondary Support and Funding Briefing

Would you like to find out how to claim funding and literacy support for your school?

You may have heard that the English Hub offer is expanding to support Secondary schools from September 2025!

We can now share dates of our support offer briefing. Schools can sign up to one of the date below to hear more information on the pilot and the support we are able to offer!

8th September – 10.30 am or 3.30pm

9th September – 10.30 am or 3.30pm

11th September – 10.30 am or 3.30pm

Briefings should last no more than 45 minutes and will include information on funding available!



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to register your place.



For more information
email:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk

Secondary Support and Funding Briefing: Various dates

Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/uHZyecnC4HgzUvvr5>



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English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

Support and Funding Briefing

Would you like to find out how to claim funding and literacy support for your school?

Wensum English Hub is fully funded by the DfE to support schools with phonics and early reading – schools may be eligible to receive up to £6,000!

We help schools achieve excellent teaching through developing early language, closing the word gap, approaching early reading through systematic synthetic phonics, and promoting a love of reading.

If you think your school would benefit from funding and bespoke support, join us for a 30 minutes online briefing led by our English Hub Lead.

Dates available:

- 26th September 2025 – 1.15pm
- 8th October 2025 – 3.30pm
- 22nd October 2025 – 10.30am
- 17th November 2025 – 3.30pm



[Register your place here](#)



Hub School

Heather Avenue
Infant School

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FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

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email: englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk

Primary Support and Funding Briefing: Various dates

Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/5ydfbsZYpnKYtAEH9>



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WENSUM TRUST

National Read-Aloud Challenge 2025

Powered by **Fonetti**

Enrol Now



Reading opens the gateway to success, building children's imagination and vocabulary. Yet, reading skills often decline over summer. Wensum English Hub shares Fonetti's passion to get children reading—and keep them reading! Schools in Norfolk and Suffolk saw clear success from taking part in the challenge, which keeps children engaged in a fun, motivating way. That's why we proudly support the National Read-Aloud Challenge year after year.

English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

Laura Anderson - English Hub Lead

Join the National Read-Aloud Challenge this Summer!

- ★ Summer activity to reduce reading regression
- ★ Independent Read-Aloud App with instant feedback
- ★ 2 months FREE access to the Fonetti online library for children participating in the Challenge
- ★ Compete with other schools locally and across the nation
- ★ Competition, gamification, leaderboards and prizes to be won
- ★ Engage and encourage children to develop a love for reading
- ★ Leading schools are awarded 4 places to a fully funded day trip to London for the awards ceremony hosted by Clare Balding CBE

Enrol your school FREE of charge at: readaloudchallenge.co.uk

Reading is fuel for our imaginations and reading aloud is all about confidence... So let's get reading!"

Clare Balding CBE, National Read-Aloud Challenge & Fonetti Brand Ambassador



#BeProudReadAloud

National Read-Aloud Challenge 2025

Powered by **Fonetti**

Fonetti
The read-aloud app

"We started the National Read-Aloud Challenge to make reading accessible for every child—especially over the summer, when many fall behind. We offer Fonetti free during the holidays, and by partnering with like-minded businesses to help spread the word, we're sparking a love for reading and driving lasting change."

Kim Antoniou, Founder of Fonetti



Meet Fonetti



Children choose from a library of engaging books and simply read them aloud. Progress and stars achieved are shown to inform and encourage.



When read correctly, the words turn green. If skipped or misread, they turn grey. For children, an audible clue can be accessed by simply double-tapping the word.



Children can effortlessly monitor their progress on a daily, weekly, monthly or overall basis! Parents and carers are kept informed with weekly progress updates.

Introducing the **award-winning** Read-Aloud App for children, the perfect tool to improve literacy, fluency and language skills.

Academic partner:



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



Serena Patel



Ashley Hickson-Lowrance



Enter a piece of creative writing inspired by the phrase

Getting Lost In A Book

It could be a short story, micro fiction, a play, haiku, poem, tv script, song, rap or radio play! (800 words max)

TO WIN AN AUTHOR EVENT FOR YOUR SCHOOL!*

*plus lots of books and prizes just for you!

Winner for Ages 5-8 & 9-12

Serena Patel, author of *PIA'S PET CLUB* and the *ANISHA ACCIDENTAL DETECTIVE* series, will visit your school to present a fun-filled assembly where she'll test your pet knowledge and you'll get the chance to create your own pet story character!

Winner for Young People 13-17

Author and poet Ashley Hickson-Lowrance will visit your school to run a class or assembly on how to write stories based on your experiences, using the power of verse; just like he did in his award-winning, East Angles set, novel *WILD EAST*.

Entry is FREE. Deadline 20th July 2025.

www.burylitfest.co.uk



001494 1209140

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@burylitfest

The children's programme is supported by
Mersey Trust English Hub
Find out how they can support your school
www.merstrust.org.uk

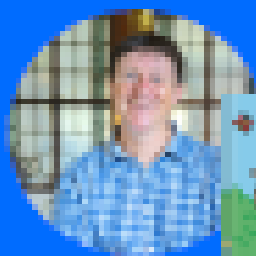


BURY Lit Fest is a Children's Literacy & Arts festival
A stamp certificate will be provided on receipt of a submitted entry



Bury St. Edmunds *KIDS GO FREE!* Literature Festival 2025

EVENTS FOR BABIES, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE!



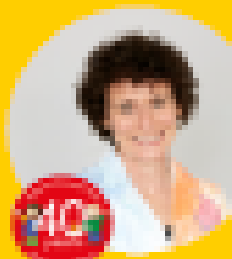
STORYTELLING FOR PRESCHOOLERS

THAT'S NOT MY...

WITH GEORGE BOYLE

Thursday 9th October 10am & 1pm

Waterstones Bury St Edmunds - The Arc



STORYTELLING FOR KIDS 3-8

WITH LIZ FROST

POPPY & SAM

Saturday 11th October 10am & 11.45am

Bury St Edmunds Library



PIA'S PET CLUB - KIDS 4-9

SERENA PATEL

Sunday 12th October 1pm

Bury St Edmunds Library



WILD EAST - YOUNG PEOPLE 10-17

ASHLEY HICKSON-LOVENCE

Saturday 11th October 10.30am

Unitarian Meeting House

FREE for U18s, Accompanying adults £2.50 *FREE* with book purchase!

Tickets must be booked in advance: burylitfest.co.uk

With thanks to our partners:



Bury Lit Fest events are Children's
University eligible activities.





Want to create kindness
with your pupils and raise
money for young people?

Join The Kindness Challenge today at
nspcc.org.uk/kindnesschallenge



childline
A life-changing NSPCC service



This October, schools up and down the country will be spreading kindness in their school communities by taking part in The Kindness Challenge to support the NSPCC's service Childline.

TAKING PART IS SIMPLE:

1. Sign up by searching for 'NSPCC Kindness Challenge' for loads of free ideas and resources.
2. Suggest kind acts and have students complete them throughout the week.
3. Raise money and help share kindness with children who need it most.

Whether you're playing a game with a new friend or helping someone with homework, it all helps create a better world.

Kickstart kindness in your school this October, and watch it spread throughout the year.



NSPCC Kindness Challenge

Registered with



FINANCIAL
REGULATOR