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Department  
for Education

**English Hubs**

Wensum English Hub

## Newsletter | Autumn 1

### Welcome back to the new academic year!

We hope you had a restful summer and are ready for the year ahead.

Our team are excited to get started and we're delighted to welcome Cherry Greenacre as our new Hub Administrator, alongside Chantal Cooke who continues as Finance Administrator. Please do get in touch with us if you have any questions or need support.

This is the **7th year of our programme**, working with schools across Norfolk and Suffolk. In addition to our ongoing support for Infant and Primary schools, we are expanding our work with Secondary schools this year. A limited number of places are also available for schools to join our Partner School Programme— details will be shared in our upcoming Support and Funding Briefing

We also have a packed calendar of FREE CPD and networking events for teachers this year. Keep an eye on our social channels and newsletters for the latest updates.

### Primary Briefings

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 re-engage with schools who may have previously received Partner School support.

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

**26th September** - 1.15 pm

**8th October** - 3.30pm

**22nd October** - 10.30am

**17th November** - 3.30pm

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

### Secondary Briefings

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.

**8<sup>th</sup> September** – 10.30 am or 3.30pm

**9<sup>th</sup> September** – 10.30 am or 3.30pm

**11<sup>th</sup> September** – 10.30 am 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.

## Partner/Graduate Schools

### Important Dates

Please see below for upcoming important dates for Autumn 2025:

**25<sup>th</sup> September** – [Little Wandle](#)

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

**7<sup>th</sup> October** – [Partner School Data Briefing](#)

**16<sup>th</sup> October** – [Read, Write, Inc](#)

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

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

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

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

**28<sup>th</sup> November** – Partner Schools **PSC Mock Data** to be submitted

**9<sup>th</sup> December** – [Read, Write, Inc](#)

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

## Picturebook Assembly Resources

Week commencing	Event	Book suggestions	Links to background information
02.02.26	Children's Mental Health Week (02.02 - 09.02) World Cancer Day (04.02)	 	<a href="#">Children's Mental Health Week</a> <a href="#">World Cancer Day</a>
09.02.26	Children's Mental Health Week (09.02 - 16.02) International Day of Women and Girls in Science		<a href="#">International Day of Women and Girls in Science</a>

Teacher and Reading for Pleasure advocate, Jon Biddle, has kindly shared an overview for a weekly picturebook assembly which focuses on empathy, inclusion and diversity for others to use, share and adapt.

[Click here](#) to view Jon's Padlet.

## Wensum English Hub



All of our events are FREE to attend

**30<sup>th</sup> September** – How to be Wise about Words: Session 4

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

**7<sup>th</sup> October** – [Transforming your Schools Reading Culture: Session 1](#)

**10<sup>th</sup> October** – [Reading Ambition for All: Session 1](#)

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

**14<sup>th</sup> October** – [Supporting Early Language Development: Session 1](#)

**20<sup>th</sup> October** [Ready for Reading \(New\)](#)

**23<sup>rd</sup> October** The Writing Framework – Explained (New)

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

**20<sup>th</sup> November** – [Talk Through Stories:](#)

**25<sup>th</sup> November** – [Supporting Early Language Development: Session 2](#)

**28<sup>th</sup> November** – [Reading Ambition for All: Session 2](#)

**2<sup>nd</sup> December** – [Transforming your Schools Reading Culture: Session 2](#)

**23<sup>rd</sup> January** – [Being the Perfect Play Partner \(New – designed for Tas, ECTs and Support Staff\)](#)

## 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.

## Social Media



We are on **Facebook** – make sure you are following up to keep up to date on all the latest news and advice.

You can also find us on the following social media platforms:

**Instagram** (@Wensumenglish\_hub)

**LinkedIn**(@WensumEnglish-Hub)

**X** (@Wensumenghub)

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 2025-26 are up-to-date with our admin team.



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## 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...

**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)

### **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/oQBdHPPrXPMfqYUdb7>

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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](mailto:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk)

**Secondary Support and Funding Briefing: Various dates**

**Sign up here:**

<https://forms.gle/uHZyecnC4HgZUvvr5>

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## 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 in an EIA may be eligible to receive up to £9,000!

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:

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



[Register your place here](#)



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Infant School

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email: [englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk](mailto:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk)

**Primary Support and Funding Briefing: Various dates**

**Sign up here:**

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

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## Ready for Reading

With an emphasis on high expectations in Phonics outcomes in our schools, it is more important than ever that our youngest children are well prepared at the preschool stage.

Join, former Ofsted inspector, Emma Spiers for this FREE one-day training course.

### What you'll learn

- What comes before Phonics and why
- Where visual discrimination and visual memory fit into the wider phonics picture
- How to help children achieve essential attention and listening skills
- How to teach rhyme and rhythm effectively, and how this supports phonics later on
- What phonemic awareness is and how to teach it
- When to introduce pre-phonetic skills through a carefully constructed
- 

### This CPD will be perfect for you if you:

- EY practitioners
- A manager, leader or practitioner working in a PVI setting
- Teacher in Nursery/Preschool
- Are an ECT in Nursery or Reception
- Work in Special School or alternative provision and need ideas for adapting your provision
- Support children in Reception who have pre-phonics gaps



Date: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Time: 9am – 3pm

Location: Hethel Engineering Centre, Wymondham, NR14 8FB

Cost: FREE – with lunch included!

[Click here to register your interest](#)



For more information

email: [englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk](mailto:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk)

**Ready for Reading: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/4gaVfce2n1KT6wDPA>

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## Talk Through Stories

*Join Nick Cannon for this one-day course which is designed to help enhance children's spoken vocabulary and love of reading, using the finest children's literature!*

This training is designed to:

- Extend and deepen children's vocabulary
- Build a love of stories
- Learn stories off by heart
- Help children get to know stories well

Talk Through Stories has been designed by Ruth Miskin Training to be compatible with any phonics programme, delegates will leave this session with an action plan to help develop storytime and vocabulary skills within their setting.

This event is **free** to attend with lunch and a **free** gift of a book included!

Places are limited – book now to avoid disappointment!

Session is aimed at:  
Early Years, KS1 teachers, Tas and SLT



**Date 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Time: 10am - 4pm**

**Location: Dunston Hall,  
Norfolk**

**Cost: FREE**

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



For more information

email: [englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk](mailto:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk)

**Talk Through Stories: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Sign up here:**

<https://forms.gle/VLhDMuD6KrHNFA3e8>

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## Being the Perfect Play Partner

Wensum English Hub are delighted to present, The Learning Lady, for this one-day training session aimed at developing early language skills for Teaching Assistants and support staff.

Developing communication and language through effective and timely interactions is critical in the EYFS; it impacts on success in all areas of learning. But moving communication and language on through play isn't easy. Join us for this practical, principled, training and learn what it takes to be the perfect play partner.

### What you'll learn:

- The role of EYFS partners in play and how this impacts on learning
- What sustained shared thinking actually is, and how to achieve it
- How the learning environment impacts on playful interactions
- Simple effective strategies for developing vocabulary through daily playful encounters

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

- A TA supporting learning in the EYFS
- An ECT or Teacher new to EYFS
- Support staff



The  
Learning  
Lady

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Time: 9.00am – 3.00pm

Lunch is provided

Venue: Hethel Engineering  
Centre, NR14 8FB

[Click here to register](#)



For more information

email: [englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk](mailto:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk)

**Being the Perfect Play Partner: Friday 23rd January 2026**

Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/af2yc2Tspg9VjPkz5>



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 *PAWS PET CLUB* and the *ANJUNA 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

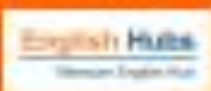
Author and poet Ashley Hickson-Lovence will visit your school to run a class or assembly on how to write stories based on your experiences, using the power of verse just like he did in his award-winning, East Angles set, novel *WILD EAST*.

Entry is FREE. Deadline 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025.  
[www.burylitfest.co.uk](http://www.burylitfest.co.uk)



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Our children's programme is supported by  
 Warrington Trust English Hub  
 And we love that we support your school  
[www.warringtontrust.org.uk](http://www.warringtontrust.org.uk)



Warrington Children's Library & Library  
 A library card is not for participation will be  
 provided on receipt of a submission entry.



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

## EVENTS FOR BABIES, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE!



STORYTELLING FOR PRESCHOOLERS

**THAT'S NOT MY...**

WITH GEORGE BOYLE

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 10am & 1pm  
Waterstones Bury St Edmunds - The Arc



STORYTELLING FOR KIDS 3-8

WITH LIZ FROST

**POPPY & SAM**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 10am & 11.45am  
Bury St Edmunds Library



PIA'S PET CLUB - KIDS 4-9

**SERENA PATEL**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 1pm  
Bury St Edmunds Library



WILD EAST - YOUNG PEOPLE 10-17

**ASHLEY HICKSON-LOVENCE**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am  
Unitarian Meeting House

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

Tickets must be booked in advance: [burylitfest.co.uk](http://burylitfest.co.uk)

With thanks to our partners:



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



01206 254140 @burylitfest @burylitfest



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

Join The Kindness Challenge today at [nspcc.org.uk/kindnesschallenge](https://nspcc.org.uk/kindnesschallenge)



**childline**  
A life-changing NSPCC service

