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**English Hubs**

Wensum English Hub

## Newsletter | December 2025

We can hardly believe we are already a third of the way through the academic year!

It's been a busy term for us all. We've welcomed our new Partner Schools and look forward to supporting them throughout their Hub Programme journey.

Our secondary pilot has been a **huge** success, and we are currently awaiting confirmation on whether it will continue next year. Our referral form is open and accepting applications—schools can apply now for support for 2026/27.

As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited to celebrate the National Year of Reading (see below for more information). Keep an eye on our newsletter and social media platforms for updates on how we will be supporting this initiative.

As this term comes to an end, we want to wish you all a relaxing and festive break. Our team will be putting their feet up and enjoying some mince pies—and we'll return in January, ready to answer any questions you may have!

### National Year of Reading 2026!



Earlier this year, the [Department for Education and National Literacy Trust](#) announced that 2026 will be the UK-wide **National Year of Reading!** The theme, "[Go All In](#)," is all about exploring passions through books - whether that's football, music, gaming, or anything else, there's a book for it.

Throughout the year, schools can access live broadcast events, expert-led webinars, and inspiring in-person opportunities. All designed to make reading exciting for children and young people. Resources are tailored for early years, primary, and secondary phases, and are easy to use alongside your lessons. Every half-term, your class can join "Go All In Together" events with nationally renowned authors and celebrities. Whether you dip in occasionally or follow the full programme, there's something for every classroom.

To find out more [register your interest here.](#)

## Partner/Graduate Schools

### Important Dates

Please see below for upcoming important dates for Spring 2026:

**9<sup>th</sup> December 9am-4pm** – [RWI Leadership: Build an Expert Team](#)

**11<sup>th</sup> December 3.45-4.45pm** – [ELS training: Making Phonics Count: Using Data to Guide Teaching](#)

**18<sup>th</sup> December** – [Partner and Graduate School SSP data to be submitted](#)

**8<sup>th</sup> January 3.30-5pm** – [Bug Club: Leadership and Planning](#)

**13<sup>th</sup> January 3.45pm -4.15pm** – [Fonetti Pilot briefing for Hub schools](#)

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 3.45pm -4.30pm** - [Partner School meeting: 'Graduation' and the third year of the programme](#)

**29<sup>th</sup> January** – Little Wandle: Developing consistency in the teaching or Early Reading and Responding to data

**27<sup>th</sup> February** – [Phonic Screening Check mock to be submitted](#)

**17<sup>th</sup> March 9am-4pm** – [RWI: Getting to Grips with Grapheme- Getting PSC ready!](#)



## Wensum English Hub



All of our events are FREE to attend

**10<sup>th</sup> December at 3.45pm** – [Bedrock Learning Q&A](#) Suitable for Secondary Schools

**11<sup>th</sup> December at 1.15pm** – [Support and Funding briefing](#) (Primary)

**8<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am**– [Support and Funding briefing](#) (Primary)

**12<sup>th</sup> January** – Reading Fluency: Building the Bridge to Comprehension: Day 2

**12<sup>th</sup> January** – [Lexia PowerUp! Demonstration](#) for Primary and Secondary schools 3.30pm – 4:00pm **(NEW for 2026)**

**15<sup>th</sup> January** - [Ready to Write Reception's Building Blocks for Success](#) **(FULL- Waiting list only)**

**20<sup>th</sup> January** – Transforming your Schools Reading Culture: Session 3

**21<sup>st</sup> January**– How to be Wise about Words: Session 3

**21<sup>st</sup> January**– [Support and Funding briefing](#) (Primary) 1pm

**23<sup>rd</sup> January** – [Being the Perfect Play Partner](#) **(FULL- Waiting list only)**

**27<sup>th</sup> January** - [Transcription Mastery: Building Handwriting and Spelling Foundations](#) **(FULL- Waiting list only)**

**27<sup>th</sup> January** – Supporting Early Language Development: Session 3

**2<sup>nd</sup> February**– [Support and Funding briefing](#) (Primary) 3.30pm

**23<sup>rd</sup> February** - [Composition Toolkit: Practical Strategies for Every Classroom.](#)

**25<sup>th</sup> February** – [Talk, Teach and Thrive: Essential training for TAs](#) **(NEW for 2026)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March** - [From Single to Multi-clause: Mastering Sentence Construction](#)

**16<sup>th</sup> March** – [Early Voices, Strong Foundations: essential training for ECTs](#) **(NEW for 2026)**

## Secondary Phonics Programme



Little Wandle has launched its new KS3 intervention, The Code.

Secondary schools can learn more by joining the online briefing on **Wednesday 10 December, 3.45–4.45pm.**

The session will cover:

- The research underpinning \*The Code\*
- Insights from a three-year pilot across 60 secondary schools
- How the programme supports struggling readers—from identification to intervention and progress monitoring
- Practical guidance on timetabling, staffing and organisation
- Age-appropriate decodable books from HarperCollins
- Training and support for staff
- Timings, pricing and onboarding

[Click here to join](#)

## Demo for Primary and Secondary Schools



We are delighted to be joining Lexia PowerUp on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (3.30pm-4.pm) to learn more about their interventions for KS2-KS5 students.

Join us to hear:

- The theory behind the programme and its alignment with the Simple View of Reading
- The “Hidden Gap” in secondary literacy and the need for decoding and phonics support
- The student experience, including SEND and EAL support
- Real-time insights through myLexia to track progress and priorities
- Implementation guidance, EEF alignment, and a Q&A session

Click here to join: [Teams link](#)

## English Hub Pilot

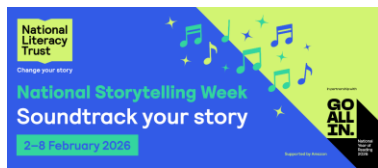
# Fonetti

[Fonetti](#) are holding a free briefing session , on the 13<sup>th</sup> January at 3.45-4.30pm, especially for Wensum English Hub schools to take part in their free pilot.

[Click here to register](#) your details for the booking link or [click here to find out more about Fonetti](#)



## NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK 2026



Celebrate Monday 2 – Sunday 8 February, with **free online events for EYFS through to Secondary**, hosted by the [National Literacy Trust](#).

Created by the Society for Storytelling, this annual event celebrates the power of stories - to build empathy, spark imagination, support wellbeing and strengthen literacy skills. With young people's reading and writing enjoyment at a low point, this year's celebration is more important than ever.

This year's storytelling project is supported by Amazon and forms part of the **National Year of Reading 2026**.

## Authorfy Goes Free!

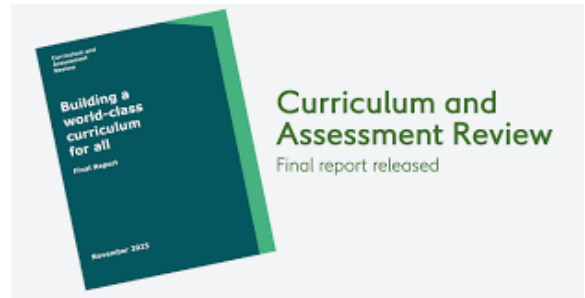


We're delighted to announce that **Authorfy** is an official resource for the **National Year of Reading 2026**—and the entire platform will be **free for everyone from 1 January**. This includes full access to:

- 13,000+ hours of author videos
- Thousands of resources and activity packs
- Downloadable book extracts and writing challenges

Completely open **and** free to use in classrooms, libraries, assemblies and at home

## Curriculum Review



Earlier this month, the [final Curriculum and Assessment Review report](#) was published.

The government has welcomed the review's recommendations and confirmed how it plans to take the reforms forward.

### Next steps include:

- Publishing a revised national curriculum in 2027, for first teaching in 2028.
- Providing greater clarity and specificity throughout the English curriculum.
- Creating a new oracy framework to complement the existing reading and writing frameworks.
- Improving the assessment of writing at Key Stage 2.
- Publishing a new combined secondary oracy, reading, and writing framework.
- Supporting schools to use a range of high-quality products to assess pupil progress in writing in Year 8.
- Introducing a new statutory reading test in Year 8.
- Making significant changes to the Key Stage 4 English Programme of Study and the GCSE English Language subject content.
- Reviewing the genres specified in the Key Stage 4 English Programme of Study and the GCSE English Literature subject content.

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Wensum English Hub

### Primary- 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 minute online briefing led by our English Hub Lead.

Dates available:

- 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 - 3.30pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 - 1.15pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - 9.30am
- 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 - 1pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 - 3.30pm



**Location: Zoom**

**Cost: FREE**

Sign up [here](#)

Or using the QR code below



**For more information**

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

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## English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

### Composition Toolkit: Practical Strategies for Every Classroom.

Join VNET Consultant, Emma Adcock for free half-day course to help you evaluate and refine your composition teaching using the DfE Writing Framework's clear guidance.

Delegates will learn how to:

- Implement the writing process systematically using planning strategies, modelled and shared writing techniques
- Teach grammar for meaning and effect through practical approaches that help pupils understand how grammatical choices impact their writing.
- Develop composition skills across the curriculum using scaffolding techniques that enable pupils to write purposefully in different subjects.

Aimed at English Leaders, KS1 and KS2 teachers, Senior Leaders



Date 23<sup>rd</sup> February or 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Time: 13.45 – 16.30pm

Venue: Hethel Centre/The Nest Norwich

Cost: FREE – refreshments included

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



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



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## English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

### From Single to Multi-clause: Mastering Sentence Construction

Join VNET Consultant, Emma Adcock for free half-day course to help evaluate and refine your sentence teaching using the DfE Writing Framework's clear guidance on building composition through systematic sentence mastery.

Delegates will learn how to:

- Teach single-clause sentence and systematic approaches to building pupils' understanding of what makes a complete sentence
- Implement sentence construction activities that develop pupils' ability to move from simple to multi-clause sentences using conjunctions and grammatical structures
- Plan progression from oral to written sentence composition with practical strategies for sentence stems, visual prompts and scaffolding that supports pupils to master sentence patterns before moving to paragraph and text-level writing

Aimed at English Leaders, KS1 and KS2 teachers, Senior Leaders



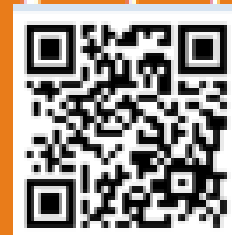
Date 3<sup>rd</sup> March 4<sup>th</sup> June  
2026

Time: 13.45 – 16.30pm

Venue: Hethel Centre,  
Norwich NR14 8FB

Cost: FREE – refreshments  
included

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## Preparing for PSC 2026

**Get your pupils and team ready for a  
successful phonics screening 2026!**

Join us for this FREE advisory session, to check that you are fully prepared for the Phonics Screening Check in June 2026. 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

# 23

APRIL 2026

3.45PM-5PM

ONLINE: VIA ZOOM



Contact Us  
01603 426438



For more Information visit our website:  
[www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub](http://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub)



We will also be sharing our top tips leading up to the check and when administering the check to make it go 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 Leads
- Reading Leads
- Y1 teachers
- Y2 teachers
- ECTs
- Those new to administering the PSC

Scan the QR below to sign up



[or Click here!](#)



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## English Hubs

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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.

# 23

JANUARY 2026

9AM-4PM

**HETHEL  
ENGINEERING  
CENTRE**

HETHEL INNOVATION  
CENTRE, NR14 8FB  
Free lunch included!



Contact Us  
01603 426438



For more information visit our website:  
[www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub](http://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub)



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

Scan the QR below to sign up



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# English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

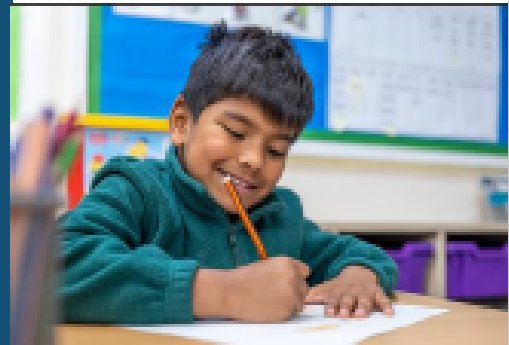
## Ready to Write: Reception's Building Blocks for Success

Join VNET Consultant, and writing expert – Emma Adcock – for this practical session which will cut through the confusion about early writing expectations. Learn exactly what the guidance says about the effective teaching of writing looks like in EYFS looks and why quality trumps quantity every time.

Delegates will:

- Discover how to establish systematic handwriting instruction from the start of Reception
- Leave with strategies to support daily routines and approaches that build strong foundations
- Learn practical strategies for supporting different needs, including fine motor development and left-handed writers

Aimed at: School Leaders, EYFS teachers



Date 15<sup>th</sup> January or 21<sup>st</sup>  
April 2026

Time: 13.45 – 16.30pm

Venue: Hethel Centre,  
Norwich, NR14 8FB

Cost: FREE – refreshments  
included

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code  
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# English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

## Transcription Mastery: Building Handwriting and Spelling Foundations

Join VNET Consultant, Emma Adcock for Transcription Mastery! This course will support you to evaluate and refine your approach to teaching Transcription using the DfE Writing Framework's clear guidance.

Delegates will:

- Learn how to implement systematic handwriting and spelling instruction across KS1 and KS2,
- Learn how to apply morphology practically in spelling teaching using morpheme matrices, word families and etymology to help pupils understand word construction and improve spelling accuracy
- Walk away with ready-to-implement progression frameworks and intervention strategies that ensure no child falls behind.

Aimed at English Leaders, KS1 and KS2 teachers.  
Senior Leaders



Date 27<sup>th</sup> January or 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Time: 13.45 – 16.30pm

Venue: The Nest / Hethel Centre, Norwich

Cost: FREE – refreshments included

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



For more information email:  
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## Strong Starts, Strong Readers: Kick-starting Phonics Success in September

Wensum English Hub is delighted to offer a FREE 90-minute training session designed to help staff confidently establish high-quality phonics teaching in Reception and Year 1.

'Phonics gives children the key to unlocking this alphabetic code for their reading and spelling. This is why teaching phonics for reading and spelling is a cornerstone of the programmes of study for English in the national curriculum.'

-DfE Reading Framework 2023

**23** OR **25**

JUNE 2026

3.30PM-5PM

ONLINE: VIA ZOOM

Contact Us  
01603 426438

For more information visit our website:  
[www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub](http://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub)



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

Who should attend?

- Headteachers
- KS1 Leaders
- EYFS Leaders
- EYFS Teachers
- Reading/ Phonics Leaders

This session has been written for all phonics teachers - whether you have just started teaching phonics or are very experienced. Suitable for all Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programmes.

SCAN THE QR BELOW TO SIGN UP



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## English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

# Talk, Teach and Thrive: Essential Training for TAs

'The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language rich environmental is crucial'  
-DfE Reading Framework 2023

Join us for this **FREE** dynamic 90-minute session exploring early language development in the EYFS/Primary phases.

In this interactive webinar, you'll:

- Dive into the latest research and effective models
- Connect with fellow educators and share insights
- Walk away with practical, ready-to-use strategies for the classroom

# 25

FEBRUARY 2026

1.15PM-2.45PM

ONLINE: VIA ZOOM



Contact Us  
01603 426438



For more information visit our website:  
[www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub](http://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub)



The session will cover:

- Key vocabulary for describing early language skills
- Age-related expectations for language development (0-7 years)
- The Communication Chain: Understanding how language elements connect
- Resources to support high-quality interactions
- Feedback strategies for fostering language growth

Who's it for?

- Teaching Assistants
- Support Staff
- ECTs

Don't miss out on this opportunity to enhance your approach to early language learning!

Scan the QR below to sign up



[or Click here!](#)



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## English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

# Early Voices, Strong Foundations: Essential Training for ECTS

Join us for this **FREE** 1 day, interactive session exploring early language development in the EYFS and Primary phase. Discover why communication and language are at the heart of learning, and leave equipped with strategies you can use straight away.

### Previous participants said...

"This session was very informative and engaging. I could sense the passion, which made me feel excited to implement these skills in my practice."

"I feel confident in delivering whole-class and group-level interventions, games and activities to aid communication and language."

# 16

MARCH 2026

9.30AM-3PM

**HETHEL  
ENGINEERING  
CENTRE**

HETHEL INNOVATION  
CENTRE, NR14 8FB  
Free lunch included!



Contact Us  
01603 426438



For more information visit our website:  
[www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub](http://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub)



### In this session, we will explore:

- Why language and communication are vital for learning and long-term life outcomes
- Age-related expectations for early language development (0-7 years)
- Key vocabulary for describing language development, including content, use, and form
- The complex nature of communication through the Communication Chain model
- Feedback strategies to scaffold pupil talk and strengthen the focus, rigour, and quality of conversations
- High-impact resources and activities that promote rich interactions and purposeful talk in the classroom

**SCAN THE QR BELOW TO SIGN UP**



**or Click here!**