

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome

Time is flying this term, and we've got lots of exciting updates! We're thrilled that 2026 has been named the **Year of Reading**—a real boost for everyone passionate about reading for pleasure. Check out our newsletter to see how you can bring reading to life in your school.

Last term, we wrapped up our secondary pilot reading reviews, and this term we are working with a small number of secondary schools through our intensive partner support package. We are pleased to confirm **support for Secondary will continue next year**. Read on for more information!!

Behind the scenes, our **website is getting a refresh**. It's still a work in progress, but we're constantly adding new content—pop over to see what's new.

Our **Hub Leadership Team** have also been busy this term — not only planning for 2026/27, but also visiting our current Partner Schools on joint visits to celebrate the **amazing progress** being made. Thank you to all of our schools for being so welcoming to our team, for showcasing the fantastic English practice happening across your settings, and for working collaboratively with us to drive reading in your schools.

And the biggest news? Our **Hub is expanding in 2026–27** to support all phases from EYFS - KS3. Scroll down for more details—you won't want to miss it!

## National Year of Reading 2026 has launched!



The National Year of Reading (branded Go All In) is now underway across England and the UK. The campaign is backed by the Department for Education and delivered with partners like the National Literacy Trust. ([GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))

How schools can take part:

- Visit the official Schools page for ideas, resources and downloadable toolkits to help you plan reading activities and termly events. [National Year of Reading – Schools info and resources](#)
- Register to Go All In via the Learning Management System for free resources, webinars and participation awards. ([National Literacy Trust](#))
- Download starter guides and toolkits from the National Literacy Trust to support your school's reading plans. [National Year of Reading – Schools & Toolkit](#) ([literacytrust.org.uk](https://www.literacytrust.org.uk)).

Let's make 2026 a year where every child discovers books they love!

## Celebrating Reading Success at the National Read-Aloud Challenge Awards

We were delighted to attend the National Read-Aloud Challenge Awards Ceremony held at Amazon HQ in London earlier this term — a truly inspiring celebration of reading and achievement. The event brought together passionate advocates for literacy and showcased the incredible dedication of young readers from across the country.

The ceremony was expertly guided by Arti Halai, with awards presented by Clare Balding, whose thoughtful interviews with children and teachers captured the emotional impact of the challenge. Guests were also inspired by presentations from Olympic gold medalist Morgan Bolding, who even gave attendees the unforgettable opportunity to hold an Olympic medal.

Powerful contributions from Michael Iafe and Paddy McGrath reminded everyone why reading truly is a superpower. We are honoured to be involved with Fonetti in the challenge and as part of their Hub pilot, and we valued the opportunity to connect with so many professionals who share a passion for children's literacy.

Looking ahead, if you're interested in participating in the 2026 National Read-Aloud Challenge, keep an eye out for updates or follow the challenge for more information. In the meantime, Fonetti is offering a tailored pilot for Hub schools (ages 5-15), running until the end of the Spring term. [Click here to sign up.](#)



### Congratulations to Fressingfield Primary – East of England Winners!

We are incredibly proud to congratulate Fressingfield Primary School our valued partner school, on being recognised as the East of England winner at the National Read-Aloud Challenge 2025.

It was a real honour to watch the children stand confidently in front of a packed room to share how much they enjoyed taking part in the challenge. Their enthusiasm, confidence and genuine love of reading shone through and was a credit to everyone involved.

A huge congratulations goes to the entire team at Fressingfield Primary School, as well as their children, parents and carers, for working together to promote a strong reading culture throughout the school. To win across the whole of the East of England is a truly outstanding achievement.

We hope to see Fressingfield back next year, proudly defending their title!

## OUP – Updated contact details

We have been informed that April Newman is **no longer the contact for OUP resources.**

Schools using Read Write Inc., ELS, or Floppy Phonics should now direct all enquiries to **Maggie McHarg** at [Maggie.McHarg@oup.com](mailto:Maggie.McHarg@oup.com). We would like to thank April for all of her support with schools.

If you have any questions, please contact [englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk](mailto:englishhubadmin@wensumtrust.org.uk).



## Year 6 Writing Assessment Forums



## This Month, It's Not Just One – It's 40!

Usually, we spotlight a single fabulous new book—but this month, we're spoiled for choice! National Book Tokens have just released their Top Reads of 2026, featuring 40 must-read books for all ages. From gripping fiction to inspiring non-fiction, there's something to captivate every reader.

[Dive into the full list and start building your 2026 reading list today: Explore the 40 Best New Book](#)

Year 6 Writing Assessment Forums are available to support teachers in gaining a clear understanding of the end of key stage two writing assessment standards and to provide an opportunity to moderate writing alongside colleagues from across the local area. These funded sessions will be led by dedicated and experienced Norfolk moderators.

[To confirm your attendance, please complete the Microsoft form for each member of staff wishing to attend.](#) This form provides a list of the venues, dates and times of the sessions from which to choose. Only colleagues who register in advance will be allocated a space on the forum. Places are limited.

## Exciting News: The English Hub Programme is Expanding!

We are delighted to announce that from September 2026, our English Hub programme will be expanding—again!

We will, of course, continue to **fund** and **support Key Stage 1** with reading reviews and Partner School support for phonics and early reading. Following the great success of our **Secondary** pilot, we are delighted that our funding will continue in 2026/27 to support struggling readers and staff in KS3 to further develop reading skills. Secondary Schools are urged to [attend our free online briefings](#) or [complete a self referral form](#) now, to be the first to be contacted with updates to Secondary support and funding.

We are also excited to announce the launch of [TSRC for secondary schools](#) as well as a range of [free DfE approved CPD as part of our primary core offer](#). All details can be found on our [website](#) and on our expression of interest form!

But that's not all — our biggest news is that we are expanding our offer to support **Early Years and Key Stage 2!**

We are delighted to announce that, from **September 2026**, the Hubs Programme will cover **EYFS to KS3**, with both **funding and Partner School support** available. In addition to our core CPD offer, we will also be delivering DfE-approved CPD for Early Years teachers!

Funding, support, and CPD will be available to all state-funded schools across England. Schools that have previously received support may also be eligible for support across additional phases.

**If you would like to find out more, please complete our expression of interest form. Further information will be shared with schools soon.**

## Free Secondary CPD - Coming Soon!

Following the success of our Primary Transforming Your School's Reading Culture course, we are delighted to announce a free Reading for Pleasure CPD launching next year, designed specifically for secondary schools.

With reading for pleasure in decline across UK secondary schools, this course will support teachers and leaders to develop a strong, sustainable whole-school reading culture and re-engage students with reading.

[Sign up via the form to join our waiting list for further information.](#)

Don't worry Primary - our Primary TSRC will continue to run alongside this offer.!

[Primary schools can sign up here!](#)



## Events and Booking Details

- 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)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March @ 1.15pm** - [Primary Support and Funding Briefing](#). (Online)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March** - [From Single to Multi-clause: Mastering Sentence Construction](#)
- 4<sup>th</sup> March** - Primary TSRC (Session 4)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Match** - World Book Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> March** - Supporting Early Language Development (Session 4)
- 11<sup>th</sup> March** - How to be Wise about Words (Session 4)
- 16<sup>th</sup> March** – [Early Voices, Strong Foundations: essential training for ECTs](#) (NEW for 2026)
- 15<sup>th</sup> April** - [Secondary Support and Funding Briefing.](#)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> April @ 3.45pm** - [Preparing for the Phonic Screening Check 2026](#) (Online).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June @ 3.45pm** - [Jon Biddle Presents: Building a School Culture that Loves to Read](#) (Online)

## Priority CPD Access 2026-27

Do you want to be the first to hear about — and sign up for — our **FREE CPD** available in 2026? [Complete this short Expression of Interest form for our core, DfE-approved programmes available for EYFS, Primary and Secondary schools.](#) Schools on our expression of interest list will have **priority access** to events as soon as bookings open!

## Dandelion Learning English CPD Offer

Dandelion Learning have kindly shared their **FREE** and **discounted** CPD events with English Hub Schools

### English Leaders Briefing (FREE)

Access their Spring Briefing for English Leaders recording [HERE](#)

Register for live the Summer Term Free Briefing [HERE](#). (Recording available after the event)

### Dandelion Learning Whole-School English CPD — On Demand

For just £100+VAT (usually £199) you can choose from any of our 30 recorded training sessions and share it with all staff, with flexible access that fits around real school life.

Why schools love this offer:

Ideal for staff meetings, INSET or twilight sessions.

Watch anytime, anywhere with our free app  
Course completion certificates to evidence CPD.

Browse their on demand recorded training [HERE](#)

**EASY100** – simply enter this code at checkout!

## Partner School Calendar Dates

**12<sup>th</sup> February** –Partner and Graduate School SSP data to be submitted

**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!](#)

**26<sup>th</sup> March** –Partner and Graduate School SSP data to be submitted

**24<sup>th</sup> April** - [RWI: Focus on : Yellow, Blue and Grey Storybooks](#)

**30<sup>th</sup> April** - Little Wandle: Finishing Strong, Managing transition and preparing for PSC

**6<sup>th</sup> July** - Graduation Ceremony



Department  
for Education

**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!](#)**



Department  
for Education

**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!](#)**



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**English Hubs**

Wensum English Hub

# 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**

Wensum English Hub

# Jon Biddle Presents: Building a School Culture That Loves to Read

Join Jon Biddle for an inspiring  
online session on Reading for  
Pleasure.

In this session, Jon Biddle explores the importance of Reading for Pleasure and how his school has built a strong reading culture in recent years. He shares practical, sustainable strategies for classrooms and whole schools, reflects on his own reading journey, and invites attendees to consider theirs. Jon also tackles common barriers to nurturing lifelong readers and highlights the powerful impact of graphic novels, sharing favourites and classroom ideas.

**3**

**JUNE 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)



Jon Biddle is an experienced primary teacher and English lead, and a nationally recognised advocate for Reading for Pleasure. Awarded RfP Experienced Teacher of the Year (2018), he advises Empathy Lab, sits on the UKLA national council, writes for NEU Educate, and shares practical, classroom-ready ideas inspired by his love of children's literature and graphic novels.

**SCAN THE QR BELOW TO SIGN UP**



**[or Click here!](#)**

# English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

## COMING SOON!!



### KS2:

- Audits
- Support
- Funding\*

\*For eligible schools

To be added to the waiting list for more information, scan the QR code!



# English Hubs

Wensum English Hub

## COMING SOON!!



### Early Years

- Audits
- Support
- Funding\*

\*For eligible schools

To be added to the waiting list for more information, scan the QR code!



# Join the Pilot. Win free access.

with **Fonetti**

We are excited to invite your school to take part in a pilot of the Fonetti School Portal: an interactive Read-Aloud platform designed to boost children's reading engagement, fluency and enjoyment. Over the pilot period, we'll track reading activity across all participating schools. At the end, the school with the highest reading activity will win a full year of free whole-school access to Fonetti.

- **Sign Up today**
  - Register your school for pilot access
  - Receive login details and setup guidance
- **Launch and use**
  - Select class or whole-school rollout
  - Children read aloud on Fonetti
  - Reading activity logs automatically
  - Track progress on school dashboard
  - Encourage frequent pupil reading sessions
- **Compete & win**
  - Schools ranked by reading activity
  - Highest-reading school wins the prize
  - Prize: full-year whole-school access
  - Winner announced at pilot end

“Let's make this pilot a launchpad for a whole-school reading revolution and may the most engaged school win!”

**English Hubs**

Wensum English Hub



Fonetti's award-winning, patented speech recognition was developed in collaboration with The University of Edinburgh. Designed specifically for how young people read aloud.