



NEWSLETTER No10—APRIL 2023



In this edition we are focusing on the importance of high quality spoken language and we draw on the DfE Reading Framework section on developing talk and Ofsted's research and analysis into English. Both documents present research showing the detrimental impact of language deficiency, emphasising the critical importance of high quality interactions with children from an early age and offer strategies to achieve this.

Following the Easter break, schools will now be preparing for their Phonics Screening Check. Many of the validated SSPs used by schools are offering comprehensive advice, guidance and support for this which we strongly urge schools to access and follow closely.

Thank you to all the schools who have attended showcases this year. We hosted our last showcase of the academic year on 21st March and were joined by leaders from 25 schools which was fantastic. They have been a huge success and it has been great to have visitors back in school. Being able to show effective teaching of phonics and early reading in practice is invaluable. Feedback from our showcases has been phenomenal, and we are delighted with the impact that these events have had in schools.

We are now undertaking audits and offering medium level support to the majority of the schools who have attended, and selecting some to become partner schools receiving intensive support from September 2023.

Our programme of professional development continues into the summer term. Details of webinars and in-school training opportunities can be found over the page.

Our Little Sutton English Hub's new programme of showcases will be launched in the autumn term and dates for these will be released in the next edition of this newsletter. We are also starting to plan our training programme for 2023/2024, so if you have any requests for training provision that would benefit your school, please do email your suggestions to: englishhub@littlesu.bham.sch.uk

We hope you have a super start to the summer term.

English Hub and Accelerator Fund for English 2022-2023



Schools interested in receiving support or funding from either our English Hub Programme or Accelerator Fund Initiative, should [follow this link](#) or scan the QR code to complete the online application form.

For further information, you can visit our website at www.lsenglishhub.org.uk, or telephone either Janet Conway or Kirstie Lynam on 0121 464 4494.

"Going away with a clear plan of what we need to do going forward." – All Saints National Academy

"Fantastic training. It has given us lots of time to reflect on current practise." – Stoneydelph Primary School



Little Sutton English Hub is proud to present the following training courses aimed at primary school headteachers, English leads, reading leads and other primary school professionals, all of which are completely...



**Free
of
charge**



Phonic Preparation

Speech and Language therapist, Kirstie Page, delivers this online webinar designed for professionals working with children who have a high level of literacy and/or speech, language and communication need.

24th May—3:30pm-5:30pm

TALK TO LAMORNA

Our Literacy Specialist, Lamorna Ross, is now running 'Ask the Literacy Specialist Drop-in Surgeries' on Teams to provide brief and targeted troubleshooting solutions to your SSP implementation dilemmas. The next sessions will be held on:

11th May 6th June

Appointments can be booked from 3:30-5pm, will last for 15 minutes and are free of charge. To book, please contact Lamorna directly via email at:

l.ross@lsenglishhub.org.uk



NEW!

Lamorna will also be delivering the following webinars. Select dates for more information and to book online:

The Role of Governors in Supporting Phonics Implementation

14th June – 5pm to 6:15pm

The Role of the Reading Leader

20th June – 4pm to 5:15pm.



HMI for Early Reading, Kirsty Godfrey Presents...

Ofsted's Research & Analysis into English

Many schools have joined us this month to listen to the webinar presented by HMI for Early Years, Kirsty Godfrey, where she shared findings from this report and discussed the implications for curriculum design. Due to popular demand, Kirsty Godfrey, has agreed to host another free online webinar dedicated to further exploring Ofsted's research review into English.

During the webinar, Kirsty will deliver key messages from the review, and address the implications for primary curriculum design for spoken language, reading and writing.

To book, please follow the link below.

26th June 3:45pm-5:15pm

Ruth Baker-Leask Training

Teaching Grammar in Context

Webinar 3:45-5:15pm

Wednesday 26th April—Year 1, Year 2

Wednesday 21st June—Year 3, Year 4



Understanding Reading Comprehension in KS2

This is a full day event (9:15-3:15) and will take place at Little Sutton Primary School.

21st April 2023

18th May 2023

SCAN ME FOR LINKS





PREPARING FOR THE PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

The Phonics Screening Check is fast approaching.

Schools should administer the check during the
week beginning

Monday 12th June.

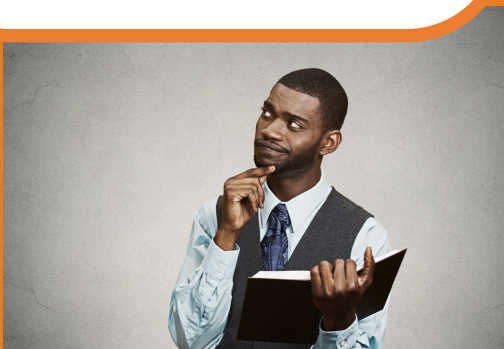
Children absent can complete the check the following week, but those absent
for two weeks must be recorded as absent in the results data.

In order to prepare your children and staff, we recommend that you use your
SSP assessments and follow the [PSC guidance](#).

CONSIDERING WHICH VALIDATED SYSTEMATIC SYNTHETIC PHONICS PROGRAMME TO ADOPT?

For a list of the validated SSPs
available, and for further advice on
how to [choose a validated SSP](#),
[click here](#).

[And follow this link for the contact
details](#) of every validated SSP
provider.



classroom
caboodle

Caboodle is an online virtual platform where the
World's top children's authors, poets and illustrators
come together so students anywhere in the world
can be inspired about reading and writing. It's
affordable, inclusive, educational and fun .

Subscription is £499 + VAT per year and plans are
available from early years to secondary school.

Subscription includes:

- 10x Videos per year
- Teaching notes for each video
- 3x Caboodle Live sessions
- Book Discounts

[For more information, follow this link.](#)



A SPOTLIGHT ON THE DfE READING FRAMEWORK

DEVELOPING TALK

Young children typically gain several new words a day, acquiring vocabulary at an 'astonishing rate'. Yet by the time they start school, some children will have heard millions more words than others. The number of words a child has heard and can speak by the age of three is a predictor of later language development, so these early vocabulary gains are critically important. A language-rich environment is one in which adults talk with children throughout the day. The more children take part in conversations, the more they will understand once they can read, and the more vocabulary and ideas they will have to draw on when they can write.



The number and quality of the conversations that children have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial. Back and forth interactions should involve :

- ✓ thinking out loud, modelling new language for children
- ✓ paying close attention to what the children say
- ✓ rephrasing and extending what the children say
- ✓ validating the children's attempts at using new vocabulary and grammar by rephrasing what children say if necessary
- ✓ asking closed and open questions
- ✓ answering the children's questions
- ✓ explaining why things happen
- ✓ deliberately connecting current and past events ('Do you remember when...?')
- ✓ providing models of accurate grammar
- ✓ extending children's vocabulary and explaining new words
- ✓ connecting one idea or action to another
- ✓ helping children to articulate ideas in well-formed sentences.

For more information and examples of how you can develop talk in your classroom, see the 'Developing Talk' section of the [DfE Reading Framework](#)





THE READING AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge 2022

Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

The annual evaluation findings for 2022 provide overwhelming evidence to suggest that librarians and volunteers engaged in delivering the Challenge played an instrumental part in motivating children to read.

Although the main purpose is to encourage the social aspect of sharing enthusiasm for stories, the Challenge is also available online for children without access to a participating library.

[Follow this link to find out more.](#)

IMPACT OF THE READING AGENCY'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2022

The Summer Reading Challenge is run in partnership between The Reading Agency and UK public libraries. Children's reading can 'dip' during the long summer holidays. The Challenge helps get children into libraries each year to keep up their reading enjoyment and confidence. In 2022, The Reading Agency saw 723,184 children engaging in over 95% of library authorities across the UK.

Children and teachers participating in the Summer 2022 Reading Challenge, reported several positive impacts on children's reading engagement and behaviours. Most felt that children were more likely to read after participating in the Challenge because:

- The Challenge helped them to find books they enjoyed**
- Reading more regularly over the summer increased some children's reading confidence as they were able to develop their vocabulary and practice reading aloud**
- Children were also inspired to write their own stories and share recommendations with others**
- Children were motivated by rewards and incentives**

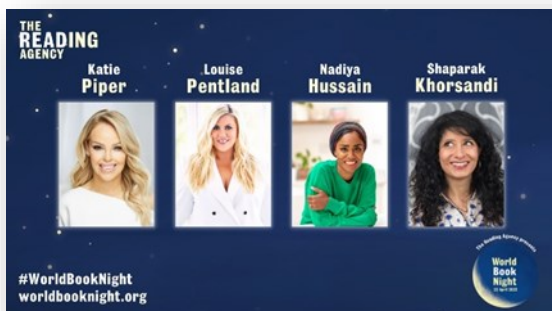
We're excited to announce that this year's Summer Reading Challenge theme is 'Ready, Set, Read!'

Delivered in partnership with national children's charity the Youth Sport Trust and public libraries, this year's challenge aims to keep children's minds and bodies active over the summer break, empowering young people to forge new connections with others and unleash the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading. Look out for further details in our next newsletter.



THE READING AGENCY

WORLD BOOK NIGHT



Together with The Reading Agency, this year's World Book Night ambassadors, Nadiya Hussain, Katie Piper, Fearne Cotton, Louise Pentland and Shaparak Khorsandi, are inviting the whole nation to join the #ReadingHour (7-8pm) on Sunday 23rd April, when everyone will be encouraged to spend time with a good book and invite others to do the same.

The initiative started in 2020, during the first national lockdown, when the estimated social media reach of #WorldBookNight and #ReadingHour was 14.3 million. This year, The Reading Agency will be launching an exciting new initiative to get the whole nation reading, with more details unveiled in early April. So encourage your teachers and children to pick up a good book and join this annual celebration of reading for pleasure!

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION FOR LEADING LITERACY (NPQLL)

Overview

The NPQLL is a specialist NPQ. It will train existing teachers and leaders to become literacy experts who will drive up standards of literacy teaching in their schools and improve literacy outcomes for every child. It is a 12-month course and applications are open now .

The DfE-approved providers offering this NPQ have designed their course content around an evidence-based framework.

The course covers 6 topics, with a mix of self-study and group coaching sessions, as well as face-to-face sessions with other participants.

On average you will need to spend between 1 and 2 hours per week working towards completing this NPQ. Where possible, you should do this during dedicated career development time in school hours.

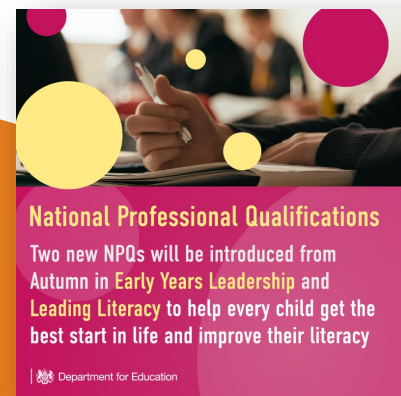
What you'll learn

This course covers how to support colleagues to develop all pupils':

- language capability and wider understanding of language
- word reading
- reading comprehension
- writing skills

You'll also learn how to:

- contribute to effective professional development linked to teaching, curriculum and assessment across the school
- design and implement literacy improvement strategies



Funding for NPQs has been extended for the next two years to support participants undertaking NPQs in 22/23 and 23/24.

The Targeted Support Fund provides a grant payment of £200 per participant to settings with 1-600 pupils, for every teacher or leader they employ who participates in an NPQ.

For more information, and to check eligibility, [register online now with the DfE](#).



A Spotlight on Ofsted's Research and Analysis into English: The importance of high-quality spoken language

Developing vocabulary explicitly, especially in the early years, is critically important. Without action to tackle it, the word gap grows. This has been called the 'Matthew effect': that is, the word-rich get richer and the word-poor get poorer. If schools work to reduce the word gap in the early years and key stage 1 well, disadvantaged children can develop their vocabulary faster.

For pupils of all ages to use spoken language successfully, they need to make progress in interrelated aspects of language:

- ♦ **physical (vocal control and body language, such as making eye contact and speaking loudly and clearly)**
- ♦ **linguistic (knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical constructions, and use of rhetorical devices)**
- ♦ **cognitive (knowledge of content, organisation of ideas, and tailoring talk to a specific purpose, such as to persuade or inform). This will include pupils learning about 'exploratory talk' (to explore new ideas and come to new understandings) and 'presentational talk' (to share their thinking with others). Pupils should learn how to pose questions, and use talk to narrate, explain, speculate, imagine, hypothesise, explore, include, discuss, argue, reason and justify**
- ♦ **social and emotional (considering the needs of different listeners, responding appropriately to others and developing the confidence to share ideas with different audiences)**

It is important to note that spoken language is not just about improved speech. Pupils also need to develop their ability to collaborate through conversation.

[Read the whole document here](#)

For ideas and strategies (including EAL), you might like to watch this free online webinar produced by Cambridge Press:

[How to introduce oracy into your English classes](#)

In this presentation, Kimberley Silver offers a practical, step-by-step strategy to help you implement oracy skill-building into your English classes as part of regular speaking practice





Education
Endowment
Foundation

Improving Social and Emotional Learning in Primary Schools

Evidence from the EEF's Teaching and Learning Toolkit suggests that effective social and emotional learning (SEL) can lead to learning gains of +4 months over the course of a year. Yet – even though SEL is already a large (and often unrecognised) part of their current job – few teachers receive support on how they can develop these skills in their everyday teaching practice. This is particularly important at a time when schools are reviewing their core vision and curriculum offer, and implementing statutory Relationships and Health education.

So, the EEF has created a **free**, downloadable guidance report into social and emotional learning which offers school leaders six practical recommendations to support good SEL for all children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds and other vulnerable groups, who, on average, have weaker SEL skills at all ages than their better-off classmates.

[You can download the guidance report and additional tools here.](#)

VOCABULARY AND LANGUAGE PODCAST

The EEF has created a series of podcasts entitled 'Evidence in Action' during which host, **Alex Quigley**, discusses prevalent educational issues with an array of expert guests.

In the Vocabulary and Language podcast, Alex and his guests discuss vocabulary instruction and connections to reading and the curriculum.

To listen along, and to find out about other podcasts available, [click here](#).



Schools Library Service

Our aim is to support schools as they create and encourage lifelong readers and learners.

Warwickshire Schools Library Service are a team of dedicated and highly skilled children's librarians, supporting primary and secondary schools across Warwickshire and surrounding areas that do not have their own SLS. Just get in touch to see if we can help.

What can we do for you?

Here are just a few of the ways we support schools:

- Hand-picked termly project boxes to support the curriculum.
- Annual loans of reading for pleasure resources.
- Library maintenance and support work (weeding, auditing, labelling, etc).
- Telephone/email advice and support.
- Book buying service.
- Training, including free primary and secondary network meetings.
- Reading group sets and advice on recommended reading lists.
- Book awards, activities and events for all year groups.

We offer very bespoke subscriptions so please get in touch with us and we will be happy to help.

Email: schoolslibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01926 413461



Warwickshire
County Council



National
Literacy
Trust



Morrisons
FOUNDATION

MORRISONS FOUNDATION GIFTS WORLD BOOK DAY JOY TO CHILDREN ACROSS THE UK

The impact that reading for pleasure has on a child's literacy skills doesn't just affect their success at school. Research conducted by the National Literacy Trust shows that children who are most engaged with literacy are three times more likely to have higher levels of mental wellbeing than their peers.

With this in mind, the donated books were specifically chosen to cover topics that are relevant for the development of a child's mental health, their emotional wellbeing and social inclusion.

With the support of its partners at the Morrisons Foundation, the National Literacy Trust has been able to distribute bundles of brand-new books to over 500 primary schools across England, Scotland and Wales to celebrate World Book Day and help inspire and nurture a love of reading for over 100,000 primary school children.



National
Literacy
Trust

**FREE
WEBINARS!**

EVERY READER COUNTS

DEVELOPING INCLUSIVE READING PROVISION AND PRACTICE
A DIVERSE LIBRARIES WEBINAR

Guests included in this latest webinar:

Jane Walker of **Barrington Stoke**, an independent and award-winning children's publisher.

Award-winning author **Serena Patel**

And the team from, **Next Page Books**, a bookshop based in Hitchin with a particular commitment to representations of neurodiversity, including characters with dyslexia.



The latest of several free webinars offered by the National Literacy Trust designed to promote diversity and inclusivity in our school libraries, Every Reader Counts explores the importance of making provision for books and reading spaces that offer accessible and welcoming reading experiences for those who find reading especially challenging and those children who, for various reasons, have come to be reluctant to read. It aired live on 29th March and a recording should be available to view shortly.

**NEXT PAGE
BOOKS**
CHILDREN'S • NEURODIVERSE • INCLUSIVE



Every month, the Book Trust reviews dozens of books for children and teenagers. Here are some of the ones they have picked for April, guaranteed to get your children reading...

For ages 6-8 and up



[Songs of the Birds](#)

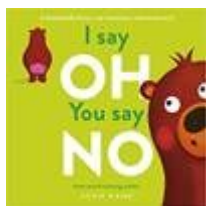
Author: Isabel Otter

Illustrator: Clover Robin

[The Versatile Reptile](#)

Author: Nicola Davies

Illustrator: Abbie Cameron



[I Say Oh, You Say No](#)

Author: John Kane

[Honey's Hive](#)

Author: Mo O'Hara

Illustrator: Aya Kakeda



[Who Ate All the Bugs? The TRUE and GORY story of the food chain!](#)

Author: Matty Long

[Aziza's Secret Fairy Door and the Magic Puppy](#)

Author: Lola Morayo

Illustrator: Cory Reid



For ages 4-5 and up



[Captain Loo-roll](#)

Author: Matt Carr

[Meet the Weather](#)

Author: Caryl Hart

Illustrator: Bethan Woolvin



[Courage Out Loud](#)

Author: Joseph Coelho

Illustrator: Daniel Gray-Barnett

[Click here](#) for more information about each book, and for details of the other exciting titles that the Book Trust recommend for younger/elder age groups.



CREATE A CULTURE OF READING FOR PLEASURE IN YOUR SCHOOL

[Follow this link](#) to discover three top tips from BookTrust that can help you to create a culture of reading for pleasure in your school.



THE BENEFITS OF READING A FREE DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCE

A new interactive resource published recently by BookTrust sets out the



extensive and wide-ranging benefits that reading can bring children, in a simple and accessible way.

Drawing on evidence from extensive academic and peer-reviewed research, BookTrust's new resource provides a deeply compelling case for how supporting children to read has the potential to transform children's life chances and give them the best start in life.

In the resource, BookTrust has grouped the benefits of reading into four core themes setting out how children who read are more likely to:

- ✓ Overcome disadvantage caused by inequalities
- ✓ Be healthier and happier children with better mental wellbeing and self-esteem
- ✓ Do better at school and make more progress across the curriculum
- ✓ Develop creativity and empathy

You can [download the resource here](#).



Helping children who are looked after, previously looked after, on the edge of care and other vulnerable groups, with reading and numeracy.

Across the UK, children are enrolled for the Letterbox Club by [local authorities](#), [schools](#) and other settings. Each child receives their own colourful parcel of books, maths games, stationery and other high quality materials once every month for six months, usually from May to October. Priced at £145 per child, including VAT.

For many children, it's the first time they have had a letter or a parcel through the post and for some it's the first time they have had books of their own.

You can now sign up for **Letterbox Club 2023**. **Parcel deliveries begin in May 2023**

To find out more and register, [click here](#).

The Open
UniversityREADING
FOR PLEASURE

FREE PODCASTS FROM THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Watch these free podcasts for ideas and strategies which could encourage independent reading and booktalk in your school.



OU RfP Research and Practice Podcast

READING
FOR PLEASURE

The Open University has created a series of reading for pleasure research and practice podcasts, during which, three practitioners share their experiences of developing this pedagogy, alongside the research findings. Follow the links below to see the podcasts.

[Booktalk](#)
[Independent
Reading](#)

Reading: A Child's Superpower

(in partnership with The Open University)

Free

In today's screen focused world powered by videos, why should your child pick up a book and read? Professor Teresa Cremin of The Open University shares her expert knowledge on the benefits of reading in childhood, tips for engaging a reluctant reader and how you can nurture a child's love for reading. This event is suitable for both parents and teachers or anyone interested in developing children's reading skills.



If you missed Professor Teresa Cremin sharing her expert knowledge on the benefits of reading in childhood, you can watch the replay on YouTube using the link below. This would also be a great video to share with parents in your next newsletter as it offers top tips for encouraging reading at home.

[Reading: A
Child's Super-
power](#)

WATERSTONES CHILDREN'S BOOK PRIZE 2023

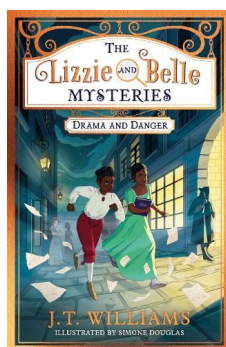
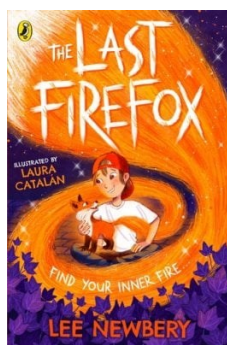
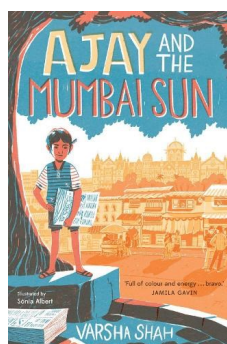
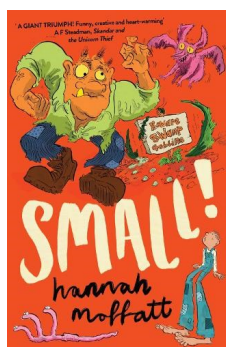
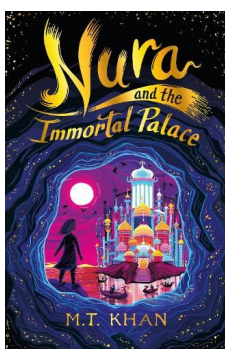


It is our enormous pleasure to share with you Waterstones Children's Book Prize shortlist for 2023. This year's selection

– as always chosen by Waterstones booksellers – marks Waterstones's continuing commitment to championing the finest new talent in children's writing and illustration today.

In 2022 Hannah Gold's inspiring ecological adventure [The Last Bear](#) triumphed over an exceptional field, but which superb story will take on the mantle of Waterstones Children's Book Prize winner this year? For further information and to view other shortlisted categories, [click here](#).

YOUNG READERS SHORTLIST 2023




Bookmark
We are Bookmark.
 Our mission is simple – we want every child to read.
 We partner with schools to deliver high impact, low admin one to one reading sessions for children in years 1-5 who are at risk of not meeting the expected standard for reading.
 Founded in reading for pleasure pedagogues, our six-week programme provides two, 30-minute, one-to-one reading sessions each week, with a fully trained and vetted volunteer.
 Perfect for children who are lacking reading confidence, enthusiasm, or opportunities at home.
 Bookmark schools not only have access to our volunteer led reading support, but literacy resources designed to embed reading across your school. A book subscription service, free termly magazines, annual literacy CPD grants and more!
 All at a cost of just £1 per session – that's £12 for a full programme.
 Register your interest now:
www.bookmarkreading.org/schools
 Registered Charity No. 117768

BOOKMARK

Reading isn't just about books. It's about reading a road sign, a safety manual, a birthday card. It's understanding a job application or an important letter from your bank.

Children's charity, Bookmark, gives children the reading skills and confidence they need for a fair chance in life, through their flexible volunteer-led programme.

To volunteer, or to find out more, [click here](#).

IN AN AVERAGE CLASS, 8 CHILDREN LEAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL UNABLE TO READ WELL*

*National Literacy Trust [Reading England's Future \(literacytrust.org.uk\)](https://literacytrust.org.uk)

MEET THE TEAM AT LITTLE SUTTON ENGLISH HUB



Rachel Davis MBE
English Hub
Strategic Lead



Vicky Hewitson
English Hub Lead



Janet Conway
English Hub
Co-Ordinator



Kirstie Lynam
English Hub
Administrator



Chrissie Boyland
English Hub
Finance Officer



Manreet Ratan
Literacy Specialist



Lamorna Ross
Literacy Specialist



Alex Finn
Literacy Specialist



Jess Faulkner
Literacy Specialist



Emma Whittaker
English Lead LSPS



Seema Samuel
Literacy Specialist



Julie Secker
Literacy Specialist



Catherine Lewis
Literacy Specialist



Debbie Allen
Literacy Specialist

Little Sutton English Hub
Little Sutton Primary School
Worcester Lane
Sutton Coldfield
B75 5NL

Tel: 0121 464 4494
Email: englishhub@littlesu.bham.sch.uk
Please visit our website www.lsenglishhub.org.uk
Follow us on twitter [@lsenglishhub](https://twitter.com/lsenglishhub)

English Hub Strategic Lead:
Rachel Davis MBE
English Hub Lead:
Vicky Hewitson
English Hub Co-Ordinator:
Janet Conway