

Funded by



Department  
for Education

  
**English Hub**  
Little Sutton English Hub  
*Learn, Read, Succeed in the Heart of England*

## NEWSLETTER No8—DECEMBER 2022



It has been an extremely busy first term at Little Sutton English Hub. This academic year, the Department for Education has given us over £300,000 to distribute on a first-come-first-served basis to primary schools within our catchment to assist with the implementation and development of excellent phonics provision. We are delighted to have received applications already, including some from schools within Education Investment Areas and Priority Education Investment Areas, and some from previously funded schools and schools that don't usually qualify for funding. However, due to broader eligibility criteria, they now do, which has come as a wonderful surprise to many! Please do get in touch to find out if you would be eligible.

Read on to find out how to apply.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year,  
from the English Hub team.

## English Hub and Accelerator Fund for English 2022-2023

**OVER £300,000 OF  
DFE FUNDING  
AVAILABLE NOW!**

*"We have come a long way and we couldn't have done it without you."* – Elms Farm Primary School

*"Great achievements this year as a result of the support of Little Sutton English Hub."* – Firs Primary School



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 below to complete the online application form. We also strongly recommend that headteachers and reading/English leads attend one of our free English Hub Showcase events, the details of which are given on the next page.

For further information, you can visit our website at [www.lsenglishhub.org.uk](http://www.lsenglishhub.org.uk), or telephone either Janet Conway or Kirstie Lynam on 0121 464 4494.



## OUR SHOWCASE EVENTS

**Free  
of  
charge**

## TALK TO LAMORNA

Our DfE funded Showcase Events are in-school workshops designed to promote and share best practice in relation to the teaching of phonics and early reading, reading for pleasure, and early language.

Delegates will see the teaching of early language and reading, including phonics, in the EYFS and Key Stage 1 in practice and will have the opportunity to find about:

- The importance of effective early literacy teaching, drawing on key DfE documents including the Challenge Checklist and Reading Framework;
- Best practice in phonics and early reading;
- How schools ensure that a love of reading is nurtured and developed;
- The whole Hub support offer;
- The advantages of adopting a DfE validated SSP programme and we will direct you to information that will help you select one that is right for your school;
- The requirements for becoming a Hub partner school, accessing intensive support.

Time will be taken to:

- Reflect on your own school's reading journey;
- Develop an action plan;
- Look at next steps in potentially accessing Accelerator Fund or English Hub funding for resources, training and more in-depth support.

Any school can attend. There are two places available per school, one compulsory for the headteacher, the other recommended for the reading/phonics leader.

Some schools may be able to claim funding towards the cost of supply cover. Please call Janet Conway on 0121 464 4494 to check your school's eligibility.

Click your chosen date to book:

**26th January 2023**

**16th March 2023**



At Little Sutton English Hub, we know that your school's journey to phonics success does not stop with the purchase of a validated systematic synthetic phonics programme.

### Implementation is key.

We also understand that every school is different, as is each SSP programme, which means that a myriad of teething problems can arise during implementation.

### We can help!

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:

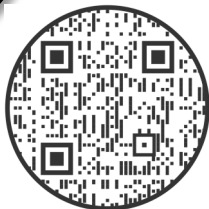
**11th January 2023**

**27th March 2023**

Appointments can be booked from 3:30-5pm, will last for 15 minutes and are free of charge.

**To book, or for further information, please contact Lamorna directly:  
[l.ross@lsenglishhub.org.uk](mailto:l.ross@lsenglishhub.org.uk)**



LINKS 

## FREE CPD WEBINARS AND EVENTS

Following phenomenal feedback, and due to popular demand, English expert Ruth Baker-Leask will be joining our Little Sutton English Hub once again, to provide high quality CPD training opportunities for school professionals.

These events are suitable for teachers and English leaders in primary settings and they are completely free of charge!

### Exploring Children's Literature

**Webinar 3:45-5:15**

During this webinar, Ruth will give practical suggestions of how the chosen texts can be used to:

- Broaden teacher's knowledge of different texts available
- Deepen teacher's understanding of genre and literary conventions
- Broaden children's reading repertoires
- Develop children's reading fluency and comprehension
- Expand children's developing vocabularies
- Expand opportunities for teachers to develop their pedagogy
- Ignite an interest in reading
- Grow knowledge of the world and much more...

Sessions are age-group specific.

To book, please select the relevant course/date below:

**Thursday 19th January - EYFS, Year 1, Year 2**

**Wednesday 1st March—Year 3, Year 4**

### Teaching Grammar in Context

**Webinar 3:45-5:15**

During these webinars, Ruth will model how easy and effective grammar teaching can be when taught in the context of an expertly written text.

Sessions are age-group specific.

To book, please select the relevant course/date below:

**Thursday 2nd February—Year 5, Year 6**

**Wednesday 26th April—Year 1, Year 2**

**Wednesday 21st June—Year 3, Year 4**

### Understanding Reading Comprehension in KS2

**10th March 2023**

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

In the light of the imminent DFE KS2 Reading Framework (due Spring 2023) Ruth Baker-Leask will spend the day looking closely at what teachers should be considering when teaching reading comprehension. Although the focus will mainly be on older readers (7-11yrs), Ruth will also explore the relationship between decoding and comprehension and how we can encourage even the youngest children in our schools to understand meanings beyond the literal. The day will examine how the following knowledge and skills impact upon children's understanding of text:

- background and contextual knowledge
- linguistic knowledge
- literary knowledge
- vocabulary
- cognitive processes (memory, inference, self-correction, asking questions etc.)

**To book, [click here!](#)**

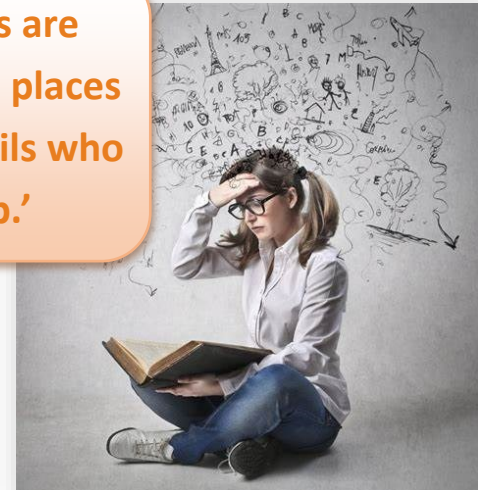


**‘Each year, around one quarter of 11-year-olds do not meet the expected standard in reading at the end of primary school in Year 6.’**

**‘...pupils who arrive in secondary school as poor readers are likely to continue to struggle. As the secondary curriculum places increasing demands on reading comprehension, older pupils who struggle with reading comprehension do not catch up.’**

These comments are taken from Ofsted’s recently published guidance:

**‘Now the whole school is reading’: supporting struggling readers in secondary school**



The guidance focuses on 6 case studies, and investigates the teaching practices employed to assist struggling readers in UK secondary schools. Amongst its conclusions, it states:

**‘All the schools recognised the importance of secure phonic knowledge and accurate decoding. They used a phonics programme for struggling readers who had gaps in their phonic knowledge. As one reading support teacher said, ‘The weakest readers always struggle with phonics.’**

Ofsted’s **Research Review Series: English** states:

**‘Pupils should be taught to read using a systematic synthetic phonics programme in Reception and this should not be delayed if children are not already phonologically aware. Teaching phonics also supports the development of pupils’ handwriting and spelling. Schools should identify early on any children who have not grasped the alphabetic code and intervene swiftly. Children who master the alphabetic code early on make better progress than their peers who do not. Good language development, including vocabulary, has benefits for pupils beyond their reading.’**

These findings highlight the incredibly important role that primary schools play in preparing children for secondary school and beyond. If the basics aren’t right, then the child’s entire future academic success is in jeopardy. Implementing a validated systematic synthetic phonics programme with fidelity, therefore, is not only good practice, it’s life-changing.



## A SPOTLIGHT ON THE DfE READING FRAMEWORK

### Section 4: CHILDREN AT RISK OF READING FAILURE

Section 4 of the DfE's 'Reading Framework' stresses how important it is for schools to implement their chosen validated SSP programme with rigorous fidelity and at a pace that ensures all children keep up from the start.

'Teachers should aim for all children to keep up with the school's chosen phonics programme, ensuring teaching time is sufficient for the content to be taught within the time-scales the programme sets out.'

It also provides an assessment document that assists staff to identify those children who are falling behind and gives practical guidance on delivering intervention.

### CONSIDERING WHICH VALIDATED SYSTEMATIC SYNTHETIC PHONICS PROGRAMME TO ADOPT?

By ensuring high-quality phonics teaching the government wants to improve literacy levels to:

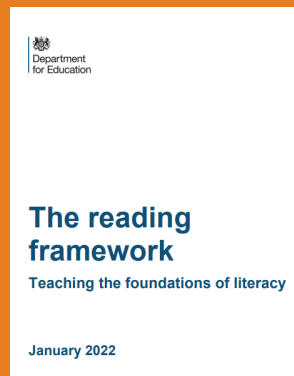
- give all children a solid base upon which to build as they progress through school
- help children to develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information

The DfE has now validated over 30 systematic synthetic phonics programmes (SSPs), offering a range of options and choices to schools.

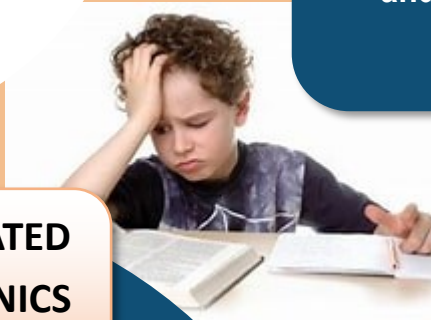
For a list of the validated SSPs available, and for further advice on how to [choose a validated SSP, click here.](#)

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

You can find the general assessment form and guidance on delivering intervention here:



Individual SSPs will provide specific guidance and materials for delivering interventions.



## BUMPER £24 MILLION TO BOOST CHILDREN'S LITERACY

Over £24 million is set to be invested in building children's literacy skills as the government continues to support pupils' recovery from the pandemic and work towards the target of 90% of primary children reaching the expected standard in literacy and numeracy.

Rachel Davis, Headteacher and Strategic Lead, Little Sutton English Hub said:

'Crucially, our work in the English Hubs Programmes has given staff the ability to identify specific barriers to individual pupils' learning and implement precise, swift intervention. This has helped children who find reading more difficult to achieve success. It has also greatly supported schools in their Covid Recovery Programme. '

The investment is part of the government's commitment to make sure every young person leaves school with a strong grasp of literacy and maths, and sits alongside further targeted support such as the National Tutoring Programme.

[To view the full DfE article, click here](#)

## 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 for the Spring '23 cohort.

### Who is it for?

The NPQLL is available for teachers who have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading literacy across a school, year group, key stage or phase. Fully funded places are available for all teachers and leaders employed in state funded schools. Additional grant payments are available for small schools.

**Following completion of the NPQLL, participants will have covered the following:**

Teaching (consolidation of the ECF)

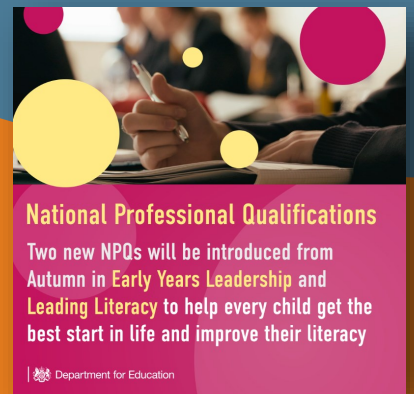
Developing Language

Developing reading

Implementation

Developing writing

Professional Development



**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.](#)**

National Literacy Trust

## ONE IN SEVEN STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS DOES NOT HAVE A DESIGNATED LIBRARY SPACE

According to the [largest ever survey](#) (published 15 November 2022 and commissioned by the [Primary School Library Alliance](#)) into the state of primary school libraries, it has been found that one in seven state primary schools does not have a designated library space, and over three-quarters-of-a-million children in the UK do not have access to books that would enable better educational outcomes and greater well-being.

Founded in November 2021 by the National Literacy Trust and Penguin Random House UK, the Alliance works with its flagship partners to address the chronic lack of investment in primary school libraries and bring together relevant parties to help solve this urgent issue. The Alliance aims to transform 1,000 primary school libraries by 2025. Flagship partners include publishing house Puffin Books, digital bank Chase, Oxford University Press, the Marcus Rashford Book Club, and additionally there are 26 supporting organisations. In its first twelve months, the Alliance has involved 334 schools in its programmes to transform school reading spaces in underserved communities in the UK, including donating 165,840 books.




You can read more about the work being done in the latest update from the Primary School Library Alliance, '[Working Together Towards a Library in Every Primary School](#)'.

### Working Together Towards a Library In Every Primary School

An update from the Primary School Library Alliance

November 2022





### 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](mailto:schoolslibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01926 413461

You can find out more about what WSLs can offer you here: <https://sls.warwickshire.gov.uk>



National Literacy Trust



**Primary Conference 2023:  
Empowering through education  
Wednesday 1 - Friday 3 February  
Online**

What are the best ways to empower teachers and pupils to navigate the challenges of pandemic-related loss of learning and raise attainment in literacy? Find out at the National Literacy Trust's online conference, **Empowering through education**. Their panel of speakers will explore how dialogic talk and increased opportunities to read and write for pleasure can empower children and raise literacy levels.

Meet their expert speakers:

Opening session - **Sharna Jackson** live workshop

Keynote - **Mat Tobin**

**Hydeh Fayez** from **St Matthews Research School**

**Shareen Wilkinson**, leading primary education adviser and Director of Teaching and Learning at **LEO Academy Trust**

Ross Young from the **Writing for Pleasure Centre**

Kate Wescott and Rachel Ratcliffe from **Voice21**

Case study from **How Schools are Closing the Word Gap: Oxford Language Report 21-22**

**Attendance costs just £50, with a 50% discount for National Literacy Trust members!**

[Click here to find out more and book your place!](#)

National Literacy Trust

## ANNUAL LITERACY SURVEY 2022-2023

Since 2010, the National Literacy Trust has conducted an annual literacy survey of more than 40,000 children and young people. This survey returns essential data on children's literacy behaviours, attitudes and enjoyment levels, providing a consistent national measure of children's literacy and informing all of the National Literacy Trust's campaigning and programmatic work.

Schools that participate receive their own individual school report, which can be compared to national reports once they are published, or used to inform literacy and numeracy strategy and current provision, or given as supporting evidence to Ofsted.

The survey runs from **3 January to 10 March 2023**. For further information, [follow this link](#).





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

For ages 6-8 and up

Little People, Big Dreams: Wilma Man-killer

Author: Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illustrator: Alexandra Bowman



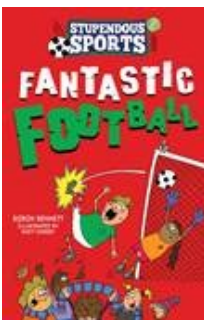
Alice Éclair Spy Extraordinaire: A Recipe for Trouble

Author: Sarah Todd Taylor

Stupendous Sports: Fantastic Football

Author: Robin Bennett

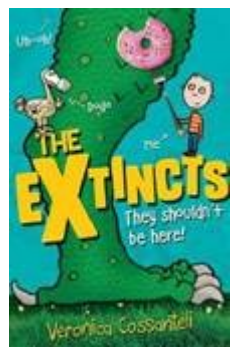
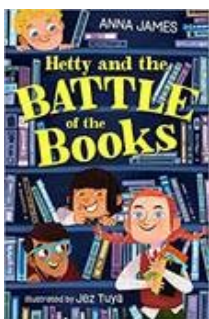
Illustrator: Matt Cherry



Hetty and the Battle of the Books

Author: Anna James

Illustrator: Jez Tuya



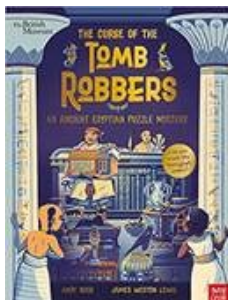
The Extincts

Author: Veronica Cossanteli

The Curse of the Tomb Robbers

Author: Andy Seed

Illustrator: James Weston Lewis



Rosie Raja: Churchill's Spy

Author: Sufiya Ahmed

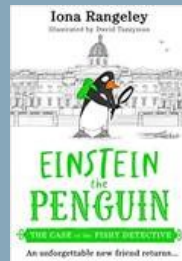


For ages 4-5 and up

Einstein the Penguin: The Case of the Fishy Detective

Author: Iona Rangeley

Illustrator: David Tazzyman



Pick a Story: A pirate + alien + jungle adventure

Author: Sarah Coyle

Illustrator: Adam Walker-Parker



Time Travel at Puddle Lane

Author: Emma Shevah

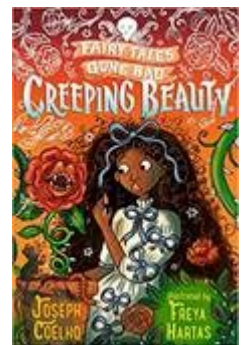
Illustrator: Laura Catalán



Creeping Beauty

Author: Joseph Coelho

Illustrator: Freya Hartas



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.



Following the success of this year's Summer Reading Challenge, The Reading Agency is once again teaming up with Science Museum Group to continue the Gadgets theme throughout the winter. Through taking part online via the Challenge [website](#), children will be able to join six fictional Gadgets.

During the school holidays, some children can experience a 'dip' in their reading skills. The Winter Mini Challenge supports this by providing an outlet for children to continue reading for enjoyment outside the classroom. The supporting resources will help families and teachers to provide free-to-access recreational activities over the holiday.

When a sudden snowstorm whirls in, the Gadgets - brought to life by children's writer and illustrator Julian Beresford - must use their ingenuity, creativity and curiosity to investigate the science behind fashion, technology, cooking and music, to keep everyone entertained until the weather brightens.

[Find out more here.](#)

## 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