



NEWSLETTER No9—FEBRUARY 2023

We hope you have enjoyed the webinar series delivered by Ruth Baker Leask on Exploring Children's Literature. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with schools feeling inspired to explore a broad range of texts to deliver a successful English curriculum.

Following the webinars delivered in December by Kirsty Godfrey, HMI for Early Education, the English Hub has been working with schools to share the key messages presented which came from the Ofsted research review into English. The webinar focussed on spoken language, reading and writing and the importance of developing foundation skills in KS1 in order for children to become fluent and secure in these areas in KS2. There will be another opportunity to hear Kirsty's messages next month when we replay the recordings. Please read on to find out details. We would strongly urge schools to share this opportunity with leaders and staff.

During the Ofsted webinar Kirsty Godfrey emphasised the need for schools to deliver a high quality curriculum and ensure there is ambition for all. Whilst teaching may need to be adapted for children with Special Educational Needs they should be on the same trajectory with the same ambitious curriculum. Many SSP providers are now developing their offer to support mainstream and special schools to create the best possible provision for SEN children ensuring they have positive outcomes. In relation to reading, in a recent article about inspecting Special Schools, Chris Pollitt, HMI stresses that strong settings "will never give up on teaching children those essential reading skills". Other key messages can be found later in this newsletter.

We hope you enjoy this Spring edition of the Little Sutton English Hub newsletter. As always there are lots of updates, information and opportunities for schools.

Best wishes from the English Hub Team.

English Hub and Accelerator Fund for English 2022-2023

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

"...we will be forever grateful for your expert support in transforming the teaching and reading in our school." – Erdington Hall Primary School



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

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, 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, strengths and areas for improvement;
- 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.

Schools fulfilling two of more of our 'target school' criteria may be able to claim funding towards the cost of supply cover. Please see the event description on our website, or follow the booking link for details.

Our final showcase for this academic year will be held on:

21st 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 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:

27th March 2023

11th May 2023

6th June 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**





"Ruth was an excellent speaker and her passion for poetry was inspirational. Thank you." - Tudor Grange Primary Academy

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:

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:

Wednesday 26th April—Year 1, Year 2

Wednesday 21st June—Year 3, Year 4

Understanding Reading Comprehension in KS2

18th May 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!](#)



HMI for Early Reading, Kirsty Godfrey Presents...

Ofsted's Research & Analysis into English

Free Webinar

Due to popular demand, we have sought permission to replay the webinars delivered last term by HMI for Early Years, Kirsty Godfrey. Kirsty delivers key messages from the Ofsted research review into English and addresses the implications for primary curriculum design for spoken language, reading and writing. In particular, there are interesting messages about the impact of vocabulary, foundational knowledge, writing, comprehension, and about how to meet the needs of SEND pupils. We would urge schools to attend one of these sessions.

8th March 3:45-5pm

22nd March 4pm-5:15pm

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

2 MARCH 2023

COMPETITIONS

Encourage the children in your school to win bundles of books by entering World Book Day's online competitions. [Click here for details](#)

FREE READING FOR PLEASURE RESOURCES

On the World Book Day website, you can find free reading for pleasure resources including lesson plans, activity sheets and discussion guides to help you encourage reading for pleasure and make your school's World Book Day event a roaring success. [Click here to find them!](#)

Introducing 2023's £1/€1.50 books for all ages





Phonic Preparation Free Online Course

24th May 2023

3:30pm –5:30pm

[To book click
here](#)

Kirstie Page, a speech and language therapist and primary teacher, will be delivering this free online CPD opportunity, aimed at EYFS leads, teachers, phonic and English leads, SENDCos, and KS1 practitioners working with children who have a high level of literacy and/or speech, language and communication need.

The course will consider which skills feed directly into phonic readiness and considers others such as sequential auditory memory, conceptual understanding and visual skills. It will examine how practice can become more targeted and incremental and, in doing so, will create a broader base for phonic readiness and later progression, whilst also taking children's starting points and language needs into consideration.

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.

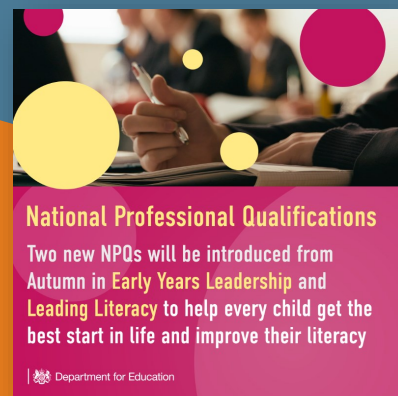
What you'll learn

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



National Professional Qualifications

Two new NPQs will be introduced from Autumn in **Early Years Leadership** and **Leading Literacy** to help every child get the best start in life and improve their literacy

 Department for Education

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](#).



The Importance of Continuing CPD for English Subject Leads

The critical importance of continuing professional development for English subject leads at primary school level is acknowledged in Ofsted's recently published [research and analysis into English](#). The report goes on to state that, 'their effectiveness depends on their knowledge of the subject and of effective pedagogy, and the extent to which they have autonomy and control over the curriculum, drawing on their subject expertise. Senior leaders need to give them this autonomy as part of the school's shared vision and accountability framework for English.'

'There is some evidence that a fortnightly to monthly rhythm of CPD sessions and/or support may be most effective in improving teachers' knowledge'

"...4 'dimensions' that teachers need in order to understand the content of a subject and how it is learned:

- 1. deep and fluent knowledge and flexible understanding of the content you are teaching**
- 2. knowing the requirements of curriculum sequencing and dependencies in relation to the content and ideas you are teaching**
- 3. knowing the relevant curriculum tasks, assessments and activities**
- 4. knowing pupils' misconceptions and sticking points."**

'Teachers' professional learning is most effective when the content and the activities are directed towards the needs and existing capabilities of teachers.'

One of the report's conclusions is that curriculum content and sequencing, as well as subject-specific pedagogy, best enables pupils to achieve the national curriculum aims for English, and it suggests that high-quality English may have the following features:

- ⇒ In the early years and key stage 1, leaders prioritise the expert teaching of systematic synthetic phonics with fidelity to a chosen SSP
- ⇒ Regular, subject-specific CPD focuses on improving disciplinary and pedagogical content knowledge.





A SPOTLIGHT ON THE DfE READING FRAMEWORK



Section 5: BUILDING A TEAM OF EXPERT TEACHERS

Section 4 of the DfE's 'Reading Framework' states that headteachers should appoint a literacy lead (or reading lead) who should become an expert in the school's chosen phonics programme and manage the teaching of phonics, reading and writing.

Together, the headteacher and literacy lead should agree on:

- the detail of their roles
- expectations and assessment of progress for each age group
- timetables for phonics, reading and writing sessions, and storytimes
- the best organisation of teaching spaces and resources
- extra practice for the children who are making the slowest progress
- systems to tackle any poor attendance and punctuality of the children who need the most support
- timetable for practice and coaching for teaching staff
- who delivers the intervention so it is of the highest quality
- staff systems for staff cover
- how they will help parents to support their children's reading.

"High quality in-service training, either face-to-face or online, is the first step. But training is just the beginning and, on its own, is insufficient to ensure consistency and effectiveness and to help teachers become experts. Acting, learning the violin and playing football all require the careful building up of skills and knowledge to be done as well as possible. Progress depends upon practice and coaching."

'Teachers are like tennis players: they develop most quickly when they receive frequent feedback and opportunities to practice.'

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.

For practical suggestions on how to implement an effective coaching strategy in your school, read **Section 5 of the [DfE Reading Framework](#)**

THE HOUSE OF READING



Education
Endowment
Foundation

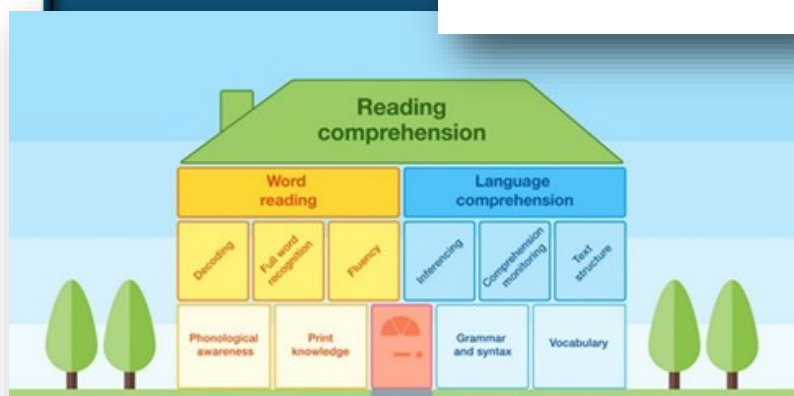
The House of Reading is a 3-part blog available on the EEF website, which explores ways to support KS2 children with reading and comprehension.

[Part 1— Vocabulary, Comprehension and Word Reading](#)

[Part 2— The Importance of Background Knowledge](#)

[Part 3—Supporting Struggling Readers](#)

The House of Reading is also discussed in one of the EEF's podcasts, available to download or listen to online. For more details, see the article below.



CLICK TO
LEARN
MORE

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.

The [January podcast](#) focuses on vocabulary and language and Alex is joined by:

Professor Jessie Ricketts, Director of Language and the reading acquisition research group for the Department of Psychology at Royal Holloway University of London.

Marcus Jones, Literacy Lead at Huntington Research School and English Teacher

Alex Reynolds, Literacy Content Specialist for the EEF

Together, they discuss vocabulary instruction and connections to reading and the curriculum.

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



Warwickshire
SLS



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



Library Lifeline: Part 11 The Immense Value of Pupil Librarians for Your School Library

Library Lifeline, written in association with the SLA, is a series of blogs designed to support anyone working in a school library. In each blog, the SLA's Member Development Librarian, Dawn Woods, answers a question posed by one of her readers. To ask a question, email:

worldofstories@literacytrust.org.uk

To read the full blog, [click here](#).

"Having Pupil Library Assistants, or Pupil Librarians is an excellent addition and enhancement to your school library and one which many library staff cite as invaluable. In cases where you don't have a library, Reading Ambassadors can help just as much in helping you to celebrate your reading spaces and reading for pleasure.

Not only will delegating tasks allow you more time to develop and implement strategic elements of your reading culture, but having pupil library assistants also benefits pupils enormously." - Dawn Woods

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](#).

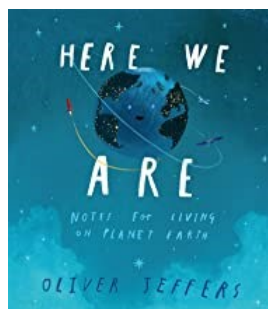


LITTLE SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL APPOINTS NEW READING CHAMPIONS

SPRING TERM FAVOURITES

RECEPTION

Oliver Jeffers

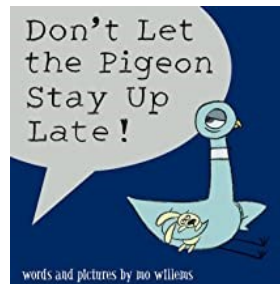


Little Sutton Primary School has appointed its new Year 6 Reading Champions for this academic year. It will be their job to promote a love of reading throughout the school by creating a newsletter filled with book awards, competitions, author news and recommended reads. They will also mentor reading buddies in Years 1, 2, and 3, helping them to practise reading and encouraging a love of reading.

Classes in Key Stage 1 have also been busy choosing their favourite authors for the spring term.

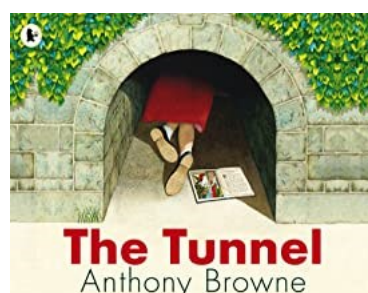
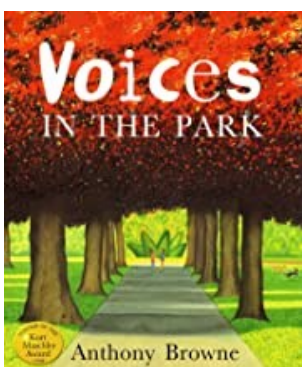
YEAR ONE

Mo Willems



YEAR TWO

Anthony Browne





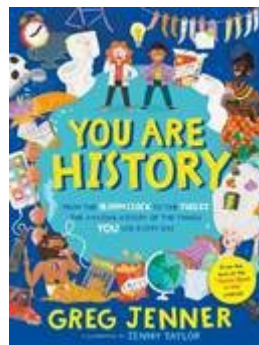
Every month, the Book Trust reviews dozens of books for children and teenagers. Here are some of the ones they have picked for February, guaranteed to get your children reading...

For ages 6-8 and up



Secret Beast Club: The Unicorns of Silver Street

Author: Robin Birch
Illustrator: Jobe Anderson



You Are History

Author: Greg Jenner
Illustrator: Jenny Taylor

History's Biggest Show-Offs: The Boldest, Bravest and Brainiest People of All Time

Author: Andy Seed
Illustrator: Sam Caldwell



Bertie and the Alien Chicken

Author: Jenny Pearson
Illustrator: Alexsei Bitskoff



Little Explorers: Science

Author: Templar Books

For ages 9-11 and up



The Rescue of Ravenwood

Author: Natasha Farrant

Dread Wood: Fear Ground

Author: Jennifer Killick



[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.



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](#).

BRING AN AUTHOR INTO YOUR CLASSROOM FOR FREE!

BookTrust want to get every child in your school reading, so join them each term for a live virtual author event with some of the leading names in children's literature as they share their inspiration behind their books, set interactive writing exercises and answer your questions in a live Q&A.



Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock talk and Q&A

Date: Friday, 17th March 2023

Time: 10am- 10:45am

Accessibility: Subtitles will be available on the video recording two days after the event.

Suitable for: Year groups 5, 6 and 7

Super star space scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock is back with her second book, *Am I Made of Stardust?* and here to answer all your questions about the wonders of the universe for curious children (and teachers!) – from whether it's raining gemstones on Jupiter, to what the astronauts are having for dinner on the International Space Station! Join her for a fun and fabulous journey full of mind-blowing facts and insights.

Each term BookTrust select 100 registered schools with the highest FSM percentage to receive 50 to 100 free books (terms and conditions apply).

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

BLUE PETER'S AMAZING AUTHORS COMPETITION



**THE
READING
AGENCY**



Singer and children's author Tom Fletcher is giving his backing to Blue Peter's latest competition offering budding young writers a money can't buy prize.

The [Amazing Authors competition](#), run in partnership with The Reading Agency and BBC Arts, is open for entries until 5pm on 8th March and asks young viewers to pen a short story or poem. The winning story will then be brought to life as a book and read as a CBeebies Bedtime Story.

Burgeoning young authors will need to come up with a brilliant main character, which could be a human, animal, or something completely imaginary - who gets caught up in an amazing adventure.

Their work will then be turned into a book and an animation, creating a wonderful story brought to life by award-winning animation studio, Aardman, thanks to funding support from the Arts Council's National Lottery Project Grants. It will be read by Tom on Blue Peter and will even be available as a podcast on BBC Sounds.



As part of this once in a lifetime prize, the winner will also get to go behind the scenes at HarperCollins and Aardman to see how characters are illustrated and books are published before receiving a printed version of their story to treasure forever. They will also receive a framed picture from the animation and a Blue Peter competition winner's Orange Badge.



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 pedagogies, 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. 177768

99% of children improved or maintained their reading level in 2022.

Teachers find us innovative, cost effective and crucially, low in admin.

"Our expectations were exceeded! I didn't initially realise how personalised the sessions would be for each child. The experience so far has been really positive".
- Teacher



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](http://www.bookmarkreading.org/schools).

STATISTICS SHOW THAT IN AN AVERAGE CLASS, 8 CHILDREN WILL LEAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL UNABLE TO READ WELL

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

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