





## Witham St Hughs English Hub Newsletter

December 2020

Welcome to our first English Hub newsletter of this academic year. I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Welcome back to our Wave 1 Partner Schools and welcome to our new Wave 2 Partner Schools.

I am thrilled to be writing this newsletter to you, as your English Hub Lead. I have thoroughly enjoyed spending this term getting to know you, your teams and your children. I cannot thank you all enough for your continued support, commitment and dedication to the English Hub. Everyone has worked so hard to ensure that Phonics and Early Reading continues to be a priority in their school, even when 'bubbles' have been closed and numerous staff members isolating. The flexibility shown by your leadership teams, and all members of staff, during these unprecedented times has been outstanding and truly humbling. Thank you.

### English Hub Aims

Early Language Development	Age Appropriate Phonics Provision	Promoting a Love of Reading
Providing evidence based approaches to <u>early language development</u> , closing the gap in school based early years settings, including appropriate formative assessment	Encouraging best practice in <u>systematic synthetic phonics</u> teaching from school based early years provision to the end of KS1 and as the primary reading strategy throughout the school.  Supporting the effective use of <u>decodable books</u> in the early stages of learning to read, as a way of establishing <u>phonic decoding</u> .  Encouraging <u>fidelity to a single synthetic phonics programme</u> .  Supporting effective practice in <u>formative assessment in relation to phonics and early reading</u> .	Encouraging <u>reading for enjoyment</u> including supporting whole school reading approaches, reading to children at least once a day and encouraging reading at home, developing teacher's knowledge of appropriate children's literature.
		

### Welcome to the Team

For our new Wave 2 Partner Schools and any new Wave 1 Reading Leads, may I introduce you to our fabulous English Hub Team.

**English Hub Coordinator:** Carrieanne Nicolson

### **Literacy Specialists**

Jackie Mawer  
Lynne Rocks  
Susanna Craddock  
Donna Cavill  
Debbie McKay  
Hannah Younger





Our Literacy Specialists are fully committed to working with you on your allocated support days and are also on hand throughout the year, if you have any questions or queries.

### Partner School Support CPD Offer

I hope you have all had a chance to look through our School Support CPD Offer, which is available to all of your staff, FREE of charge. Please click on the link below to see the full list of courses, workshops, webinars etc. and feel free to book on as many courses as you wish. To date, we have delivered 8 courses with over 90 colleagues in attendance. The feedback has been fantastic and it is great to know we are having an impact on so many children.

You will also notice our free Reading Conferences, which include: Alex Quigley, Teresa Cremin, James Clements and Kelly Ashley. We are so excited to bring these incredibly talented and inspiring speakers to you. There will be a limited number of places so please book your place soon.

[..\Tier 2 - School Support Offer - FINAL.pdf](#)

**SCHOOL SUPPORT OFFER**

Funded by  
  
 Department for Education

**English Hubs**  
 Witham St Hughs English Hub

**SPRING TERM 2021**

**COST: FREE**

**James Clements: Reading in KS2 - Pleasure, Purpose and Progress**

**Thursday 7th January 2021 3.30pm-5pm**

Educator, researcher and writer James Clements will explore some practical approaches to supporting children's reading as they move through KS2, focussing on:

- building fluency
- supporting comprehension
- developing and maintaining a positive attitude to reading
- thinking, discussing and responding to texts

**TO BOOK:** [event.bookitbee.com](http://event.bookitbee.com)

**Read, Write, Inc. Reading Leaders' 'Working Group'**

**Monday 18th January 2021 10.30am**

Led by Hannah Younger – Literacy Specialist

This will become a working party – meeting half a day each half term.

Aimed at: Reading Leads and Phonics Leads in RWI schools.

**TO BOOK:** [Carrieanne.nicolson@equatetsa.co.uk](mailto:Carrieanne.nicolson@equatetsa.co.uk)

**Kelly Ashley - Word Power Addressing the Widening Word Gap**

**Tuesday 19th January 2021 3.30pm-4.45pm**

Explore fun, practical ideas for boosting language development in FS, KS1 & KS2 classrooms. Meet the Word Power League of vocabulary superheroes – helping pupils Power-Up new vocabulary. Investigate how to plan for a 'contextual' approach to vocabulary instruction using high-quality texts. Consider strategies to Unlock and Recharge new language – strengthening word memory over time

Aimed at: Reading / English Leads

**TO BOOK:** [event.bookitbee.com](http://event.bookitbee.com)

**English Hub Showcase Events**

**19th Jan 2021 / 10th Feb / 9th March 8.45am-12.30pm**

Our English Hub DfE funded Showcase Events are half-day workshops designed to promote and share best practice in relation to the teaching of early language, reading and phonics.

Aimed at: • Head Teachers • Reading / Phonics Leads

**TO BOOK:** [event.bookitbee.com](http://event.bookitbee.com)

**Ensuring Cumulative Progress of Sounds and Books**

**Wednesday 20th January 2021 1.30pm-3.30pm**

Aimed at: • Head Teachers • Reading Leads

**TO BOOK:** [event.bookitbee.com](http://event.bookitbee.com)

**Sharing Best Practice in Phase 6**

**Wednesday 17th March 2021 1.30pm-3pm**

Led by Debbie McKay, Literacy Specialist, and Kirsty Dawson, EYFS Lead in one of our Partner Schools.

Aimed at:

- Y1, Y2 & Y3 teachers, especially those new to teaching phase 6 phonics
- Head Teachers and senior leaders
- English leads/ phonics and reading leaders

**TO BOOK:** [event.bookitbee.com](http://event.bookitbee.com)

**Reading Conference 1**

**Thursday 18th March 2021 8.30am-10am**

**'Deep Dive' into Reading**

**Monday 22nd March 2021 1.30pm-3pm**

Click on your chosen event to book or find out more

We completely understand the challenges schools are facing releasing staff for CPD at the moment so if anyone would like recordings and/or the accompanying resources to any of our courses, please let myself or Carrieanne know and we will get these sent out to you.

### Home Learning Resources

We know many of our Partner Schools are using various online learning tools and platforms for children self-isolating at home. Below are some further examples and resources to support home learning.



Get help with remote education

We have worked with sector leaders to create a package of resources designed to support your remote education planning and delivery. You can access all of these resources from [this dedicated page on GOV.UK](#) and we've created a [summary of the materials that you can download and share](#).

Read, Write, Inc. Schools

If you have the RWI online subscription, you can access numerous online videos through the virtual classroom, for teaching phonics and word blending skills at home.

There is also a Read, Write, Inc. teachers' page on Facebook and further information on their Twitter page @RuthMiskinEdu

If you have the Oxford Owl subscription, you will also find lots of home learning activities there too.

Letters and Sounds Schools

This YouTube channel provides phonics lessons and parental support for Letters and Sounds.

Phonics Time Together

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMyoHT3YViubndnX9pHiA4g?app=desktop>

There is also a Facebook page called 'Phonics Time Together' that provides updates and further support.

For parents to gain more understanding of Letters and Sounds:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/what-is-letters-and-sounds/>

**Free Resources**

Please see the email and link sent to you on 23<sup>rd</sup> November regarding lots of FREE OUP resources, for our Partner Schools. The 'we transfer' link expires today so if you haven't downloaded these resources yet, please do so as soon as possible.

<https://forms.gle/CWW3yf7zz1VgEhmf6>

**Supporting Parents at Home**

FREE eBooks and advice for parents on boosting vocabulary and reading at home are also available through Oxford University Press:

<https://global.oup.com/education/children/?region=uk>





## Newsletters

As an English Hub, we sign up for lots of Literacy newsletters, which provide a wealth of information and keep us up to date with all things Literacy!

Please find below some of my favourite newsletters, which you may wish to sign up to.

Pie Corbett Talk for Writing - [contact@talk4writing.com](mailto:contact@talk4writing.com)

Open University RfP [rfp@newsletter.open.ac.uk](mailto:rfp@newsletter.open.ac.uk)

National Book Tokens – raise money for books for school and lots of competitions and challenges. [booktokens@booktokens.co.uk](mailto:booktokens@booktokens.co.uk)

WELs Reading for Pleasure – Open University – Teresa Cremin – ideas, resources, RfP conferences and updates. [wels-reading-for-pleasure@open.ac.uk](mailto:wels-reading-for-pleasure@open.ac.uk)

National Literacy Trust membership [membership@literacytrust.org.uk](mailto:membership@literacytrust.org.uk) – author of week, resources and competitions, plus lots more.

World of David Walliams - [worldofdavidwalliams@e.harpercollins.co.uk](mailto:worldofdavidwalliams@e.harpercollins.co.uk)

Love Reading 4 Kids [books@lovereading.co.uk](mailto:books@lovereading.co.uk)

Harper Collins [kidsbooksnews@e.harpercollins.co.uk](mailto:kidsbooksnews@e.harpercollins.co.uk)

You may also be interested in this blog <https://bookbankprimary.wordpress.com/> written by Leann Lynch (T&L Lead at L.E.A.D. Equate) which aims to share interesting texts, old and new, and also links to key teaching areas such as: grammar, genre and PSHE to support with planning.

## **The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector – Amanda Spielman**

Published 1<sup>st</sup> December

This report is a very interesting read and reinforces the aims and values of the English Hub. It also highlights the importance of everything you are doing as Partner Schools.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-201920-education-childrens-services-and-skills/the-annual-report-of-her-majestys-chief-inspector-of-education-childrens-services-and-skills-201920?mc\\_cid=675ac9a09f&mc\\_eid=80cad4b022](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-201920-education-childrens-services-and-skills/the-annual-report-of-her-majestys-chief-inspector-of-education-childrens-services-and-skills-201920?mc_cid=675ac9a09f&mc_eid=80cad4b022)

**TES** have published a shorter article, with the highlights from the report.

[https://www.tes.com/news/pupils-lost-legacy-poor-phonics-teaching?mc\\_cid=675ac9a09f&mc\\_eid=80cad4b022](https://www.tes.com/news/pupils-lost-legacy-poor-phonics-teaching?mc_cid=675ac9a09f&mc_eid=80cad4b022)



**Oxford University Press – Word Gap Report**

The following extract is taken from the OUP website.

We are proud to announce the latest Word Gap report from [Oxford University Press](#) and the Centre For Education and Youth. This is such a vital issue, particularly with the impact of school shutdowns on children's learning this year.

The new report looks at how we can bridge the word gap (where children have a vocabulary below age-related expectations) at the transition point between primary and secondary school, taking into account the school closures this year:

- **87%** of teachers are concerned that increasing academic requirements at transition from primary to secondary school, highlight pupils' difficulties with vocabulary.
- **92%** of teachers believe that this 'word gap' has widened further following school closures brought about by Covid-19.

Please, share this email and [link](#) with the teachers in your schools.

**Data Submission**

Thank you for uploading your lowest 20% data to the EHTC portal and for sending data for your whole Year 1 cohort to the English Hub. Please find the deadline dates below.

**EHTC Lowest 20% Data** – please remember this is for the same *CORE* group of children.

<b><i>Term</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>
<i>Autumn Term 1</i>	<i>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</i>
<i>Autumn Term 2</i>	<i>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</i>
<i>Spring Term 1</i>	<i>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February</i>
<i>Spring Term 2</i>	<i>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March</i>
<i>Summer Term 1</i>	<i>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May</i>
<i>Summer Term 2</i>	<i>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July</i>

**Year 1 cohort data to the English Hub**

<b>PSC</b> <b>2017 Paper</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	<b>SSP</b> <b>Nonsense word</b> <b>Assessment</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	<b>PSC</b> <b>2018 paper</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	<b>SSP</b> <b>Nonsense word</b> <b>Assessment</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar.	<b>PSC</b> <b>2019 Paper</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr.	<b>ACTUAL</b> <b>PSC 2021</b> <b>Paper</b> w/c 14 <sup>th</sup> June
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**Year 2 Phonics Screening Check – Autumn 2020**

Good luck to all of your Year 2 children completing the Phonics Screening Check this term. We have had some great success stories from our Partner Schools so we would love to know your PSC results once you have them.

**Engaging Children with the English Hub**

We are really missing getting into schools at the moment and interacting with the children. I would love to engage children with the English Hub, as much as possible. I will continue to email and tweet competitions and resources that you can use in school but I would also be delighted if you could share anything that your children are doing in school to promote and celebrate Phonics, Reading, Vocabulary and Reading for Pleasure with the English Hub.

Please tag us in your tweets: **@WSHEnglishHub** or email anything to myself, your Literacy Specialist or CarrieAnne. It really does make our day when we see what the children are doing. Additionally, if anyone would like a remote visitor (me!) to read a story to your children or talk about the work we are doing as an English Hub, I would be delighted to join you!

**Christmas Gift**

Finally, to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the English Hub, we have sent each and every Partner School a little Christmas gift. It will arrive through the post soon, all wrapped up for the children to open! After a challenging year, we hope it will bring a smile to your faces! We would LOVE for you to film the children opening this present and email it to us or tag us in a tweet.

It will be a pleasure to watch it being unwrapped! Enjoy!

If you have any queries or need anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or CarrieAnne.

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**English Hub Coordinator:** CarrieAnne Nicolson: [CarrieAnne.Nicolson@equatetsa.co.uk](mailto:CarrieAnne.Nicolson@equatetsa.co.uk)

**Telephone:** 01522 214459

We would like to wish you all a very restful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Amy and the Hub Team*

