

October
2023

Newsletter



Flying High
English Hub

Katy Armstrong

Flying High English Hub Lead



The leaves are turning, the nights are drawing in and the temperatures are beginning to fall. That can only mean one thing: we're nearing the end of the first half term! From our school visits,

we've seen really strong starts in Reception and children getting straight back into the phonics routines in Year One. It's only when you take a step back and observe how easily the Year One children slip back into the routines of their SSP that we can fully appreciate the hard work of the Reception teams in establishing these. It's a difficult task! Some of our children have never been to a formal educational setting before: they're in a strange room with 30 other children and some adults who are new to them and expected to sit for an extended period concentrating on graphemes and phonemes which they may have never seen before.

It is these clear, consistent routines that will make the journey to being a reader so much easier for your children. We know that cognitive load is reduced when the phonics routines are the same no matter which adult is in front of the children so ensuring these routines are established and then consistently applied by every early reading teacher is crucial. Whether it's hand gestures, actions or phrases, whatever your SSP prescribes, keep at it! Your hard work will pay off!

So, EYFS staff, if there are days when you feel things aren't progressing as you'd like for your class, take a moment to pop into Year One and see the impact of your efforts!



We are delighted to announce the formation of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Early Years Stronger Practice Hub.

**CLICK
HERE**



Support & Funding



Flying High English Hub



BOOK
Showcase
21st Nov



BOOK
Showcase
23rd Nov

We all know phonics is essential to enable our children to learn to read. We also know it can be expensive to resource and school budgets are tighter than ever before! Do you need additional decodable books which match you SSP? Are you short of the required flashcards and other resources? Do you have staff that need training which comes at a cost? At the Flying High English Hub, we offer a range of support and funding for schools:

- Become a partner school and receive 2 years of support and funding
- Access up to £9000 through the Accelerator Fund
- Attend free CPD

Further details of how to access this support will be shared at our Showcase events in November along with the launch of the Accelerator Fund. Reserve your place now so you don't miss out on these limited funds. When they're gone, they're gone!

Welcome to the Team

A warm welcome to Suzie Jones, Bea Horridge and Rachel Jones who have joined the Literacy Specialist team and bring a wealth of phonics and early reading knowledge and expertise to support our partner schools.





Opportunities



**Flying High
English Hub**

If Reading for Pleasure is a priority for your school, we have some fantastic programmes, beginning next half term, which will support you.

Are you ready for whole-school change? Then the Transforming School's Reading Culture is for you. This 5-day programme is a sustained, research-based CPD programme, ideal for schools who have identified Reading for Pleasure on their SIP or are ready to give it a purposeful spotlight to develop a reading culture.

[Book Here](#)

If you're not yet in the position of focusing on Reading for Pleasure as a whole school, anyone (whether you are a teacher, teaching assistant, librarian, student teacher) who is committed to developing young people's desire, delight and engagement as readers can join our Teacher Reading Groups. Informal, friendly and supportive, these groups develop evidence-informed practice, widening our knowledge of stunning literature and the other texts written for children, enriching our RfP pedagogy and documenting the impact on the young people as readers.

Chesterfield:

[Book Here](#)

Nuthall:

[Book Here](#)

Thank you to colleagues who have already joined us for our Reading for Pleasure CPD with Ali Sparks and Reading for Reading: Pre-phonics skills.

*Some fabulous ideas
to use with the
children.*

*Facilitators were so
passionate and this
was really inspiring!*

Quality of facilitator: ★★★★★

Usefulness of the session: ★★★★★

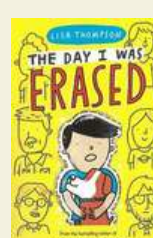
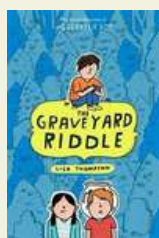
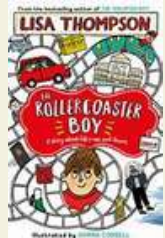
Quality of resources shared: ★★★★★

Author in the Spotlight

Lisa Thompson

The best thing about writing is the readers! I love being able to make people feel such strong emotions purely from my words on page – whether it's making them laugh, cry or them cheering a character on.

Lisa Thompson, a children's author from Essex, was a broadcast assistant for BBC Radio 2 before releasing her best-selling debut novel, *The Goldfish Boy*, in 2017. She began her writing career aged 9 or 10. Her parents were unable to afford horse riding lessons so she wrote a story about a girl who opened a rescue home for horses and immersed herself in the world of horses. Lisa has gone on to write more best-selling novels including *The Light Jar* (my personal favourite!), *The Day I Was Erased* and *The Boy Who Fooled The World*.



Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Early Years Stronger Practice Hub.

I'm pleased to let you know that Flying High is one of five partners, led by Alfreton Nursery School, that make up the new **Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Early Years Stronger Practice Hub**.

Hubs will particularly look at:

- personal social and emotional development;
- communication and language
- early literacy and maths.
- SEND & behaviour

As an English Hub, we share these priorities, particularly around communication and language. For those of you who work in EYFS and younger, I recommend connecting with them.



[Click here for flyer](#)