

SUMMER 2017

Newsletter for  
volunteers  
and schools

# Schoolreaders

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER FOR 2017. It has been a fantastic year for Schoolreaders. Thanks to you, our volunteers, schools and funders we now have over 700 volunteers, 350 schools and about 3,000 children are benefitting from a one-to-one reading session with a Schoolreader every week of the school year. Helping these children towards better literacy will improve their life chances. What a great achievement. We estimate that our Schoolreaders will deliver over 400,000 reading sessions next year!

## Welcome to our new County Ambassadors

As we work towards becoming a nationwide network, we are also striving to form and maintain ever-stronger local links. We are therefore delighted to welcome three new County Ambassadors to Schoolreaders; they will act as our representatives and lead fundraising in their particular areas.



### Tracy Rogers in Suffolk

American-born Tracy has lived in Suffolk for almost 30 years. When her three daughters were young she started Young Art East Anglia, a charity that works with up to 60 primary schools each year, organising an exhibition to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. Tracy did everything from Chairing the charity, to making the teas. She says, 'Schoolreaders is a wonderful concept and I am looking forward to cheering on the Suffolk group'.



### Rosie Cunningham in Dorset

Rosie works in PR, dealing with journalists and promoting brands. With two young children she is very aware of the importance of daily reading and, as well as being a school governor, she has been a reader at her local school for 3 years. 'I love the lightbulb moment when everything falls into place for a child struggling with phonics', she says.



### Liz Cavell-Taylor in Leicestershire and Rutland

Nine years ago, Liz left London and a decade-long career in marketing to return to her native Rutland. In addition to bringing up three daughters, now all grown up, she founded and still runs a bespoke travel business. As well as travelling for her own pleasure, she enjoys tennis, gardening, yoga and, of course, reading.

## WORKING WITH THE WI

Spreading the word about Schoolreaders and signing up new volunteers are very important to us, and we continue to get a great deal of support from the Women's Institute. Since March we've talked to WIs in Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk East, Suffolk West, Lincolnshire North and, last but not least, Essex, where the WI was celebrating its centenary. Each talk has introduced Schoolreaders to a fresh audience and brought in new volunteers.

Gyles Brandreth came to meet us in Suffolk West, and gave the scheme his seal of approval, saying it's a 'simple idea making a real difference to literacy in schools'.



photo © Waffie TV

## Look out for us on social media



Every 'like' on Facebook helps to raise our profile, so please get clicking. And you can find out our latest news by visiting us on Twitter: @Schoolreaders

## Happy Holidays!

Feedback forms will be sent out shortly. Please find five minutes to fill yours out, as the information you give us helps us improve our methods and reach more children. And don't forget to make arrangements with your school for your return in the autumn. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us at 01234 924111. In the meantime, best wishes for a very happy summer!

## NEW CHILDREN'S LAUREATE

Lauren Child, artist and author-illustrator of the Charlie and Lola picture books and Ruby Redfort novels, was named in June as Waterstones Children's Laureate 2017-19. The role, which is coming up for its twentieth anniversary, is awarded every two years to celebrate the important contribution children's literature makes to cultural life. Previous Laureates have included Quentin Blake, Michael Morpurgo and Julia Donaldson. Reflecting on her role over the next couple of years, Child said 'I want to inspire children to believe in their own creative potential, to make their own stories and drawings and ignite in them the delight of reading for pleasure. In an increasingly fast-paced world, children need the freedom to dream and imagine.'



photo © The Telegraph

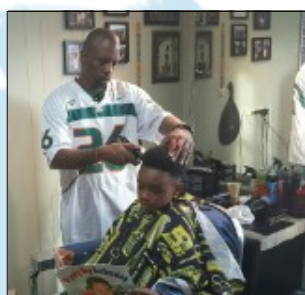


photo © CNN TV

## Literacy Champion

A barber's shop in the USA is offering its younger clients a tempting \$2 discount on a \$10 haircut - as long as they read out loud to the staff. Ryan Griffin, who dreamed up the scheme at his barber's shop in Ypsilanti, Michigan, says, 'It hit me! I was like, let's not let these kids waste their time just either sitting there doing nothing, or playing a video game. They can read.' The scheme is proving a big hit, with almost all children enjoying this unusual opportunity to read.

## Forthcoming LITERARY EVENTS

### Edinburgh International Book Festival

Each summer Charlotte Square Gardens in the heart of Edinburgh is transformed into a tented village for this three-week celebration of the written word. With more than 800 events, including daily readings, signings, workshops and children's activities, this is the largest festival of its kind in the world.

12-28 August 2017, Charlotte Square Gardens, Edinburgh, [www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk)

### The Telegraph Bath Festival of Children's Literature

The UK's largest dedicated Children's Literature Festival aims to offer something for children of all ages, and for adults who love books. Speakers this year include Cressida Cowell, Nadiya Hussain, Julia Donaldson and Chris Riddell. 29 Sept-8 Oct, [www.bathfestivals/childrens-literature](http://www.bathfestivals/childrens-literature)

### The Times & Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival

One of the oldest and best loved literature festivals in the world, with lectures, poetry readings, children's events, interviews, storytelling, book groups, writing workshops, and education projects. 6-15 October 2017, [www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature](http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature)

### Cambridge Winter Literary Festival

Established in 2003, this festival presents a wonderful range of high-profile participants talking about literature, media, science, history, politics, poetry, philosophy and children's literature.

25-26 November 2017,  
[www.cambridgeliteraryfestival.com](http://www.cambridgeliteraryfestival.com)



photo © Independent Cambridge

# SCHOOL CASE STUDY

## Ursula Taylor C of E School, Clapham, Bedfordshire

### THE TEACHER'S VIEW

from Deputy Head, Kate Hall

Ursula Taylor School was one of the twelve pioneer schools that signed up for the Schoolreaders scheme when it was set up four years ago. Mrs Hall, who teaches Year 4 and is Deputy Head at Ursula Taylor, is delighted with the help and support she gets from her three Schoolreaders, some of whom have been with her since the beginning. She says the scheme was incredibly simple to sign up to, and is easy to administer. Extra support is always valuable, but this is particularly true as the school goes through a period of significant change following a borough-wide decision to transform many Lower Schools into Primaries, thereby adding two new year groups to many local schools. Mrs Hall says that the children really look forward to Thursday mornings, when they know the Schoolreaders will be in. 'Thank you so much for this wonderful service', she says.

Our Schoolreaders do much more than read; they even join us on school trips.



I love my visits to the school. I learn something new each time I go in!



### THE VOLUNTEER'S VIEW

from Schoolreader, Karen Parrott

Karen joined Schoolreaders in November 2016, and her Thursday-morning visits to Ursula Taylor School are now a firm fixture each week, fitted in alongside her job as an office administrator. Karen felt immediately welcomed into the school, and was given a guided tour and lots of support until she felt confident enough to see the children one-to-one. A highlight of each hour-and-a-half-long visit is seeing the sea of hands shoot up as children clamour to be allowed to have a session with her. Karen says that she sees some children regularly, but gets to know almost the whole class over the course of the year. Reading material is varied, and the children bring whatever they are working on at the time. One little boy so enjoys reading to Karen that he insists on bringing extra books in from home to show her; a compromise has had to be reached so that these can be enjoyed while curricular reading is also attended to.

### WHAT THE CHILDREN SAY

from Tom, aged 7  
and Tana, aged 10

Mrs Parrott is a good listener; I like reading with her 100%!



She helps me, giving definitions when I'm stuck.





## YOU, OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS...

Many of you are already giving your precious time to help children read. That in itself is an incredible thing to be doing, and without you Schoolreaders would not exist - so THANK YOU! Just £15 provides a whole year's reading support for a child. Knowing this, more and more people - including some of our reading volunteers, and some schools - are keen to help with our fundraising. Here's what some of our supporters have been up to:

### GOING THE EXTRA MILE

One of our committee members, Ed, is running in the Royal Parks half marathon. You can support him by visiting [www.virginmoneygiving.com/edwardscott](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/edwardscott)



### FICTION INTO FUNDS

Thame U3A Creative Writing Group asked for donations for their work and made £40 for Schoolreaders.



### SADDLING UP FOR SCHOOLREADERS

A supporter and her husband are biking from London to Brighton to raise funds.



### GROWING SUPPORT

One supporter organized a garden tour and sold plants, raising over £100.



### LUNCH FOR A GOOD CAUSE

A Schoolreader in Bedfordshire held a lunch and organised a private tour of Grade-1 listed Southill Park for her guests, raising more than £160 for us.

## Could you help?

Whether you are a volunteer, a teacher, or someone who recognises the extraordinary power of what Schoolreaders is doing, here are some ways in which you could help:

- **Make a donation.** We are especially keen to have ongoing support through standing orders. Just £12 per year, if given with Gift Aid, would provide reading support for one child for a whole year. A form is available on our website.
- **Nominate Schoolreaders** to benefit from the fundraising of a club, or your company. And don't forget that many companies will match anything you raise.
- **Tell us about a charitable trust, a school, a church or literary event** which may be interested in supporting us. We will do the work, but an introduction from you can make all the difference.
- **Talk about us!** Please help us get the word out.

If you would like to discuss your ideas, please contact us on 01234 924111

### WITH THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS:

The Waynflete Charitable Trust, The Christopher H R Reeves Charitable Trust, The John Jarrold Trust, The Ibbett Trust, John Coates Charitable Trust, The Dove Trust, Gale Family Charity Trust, The Steel Charitable Trust, The Wixamtree Trust, St James Place Foundation, The Harpur Trust, The Frank Jackson Foundation Fund administered by Suffolk Community Foundation, Christopher Holmes Charitable Fund administered by Essex Community Foundation, Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation's London Luton Airport Operations Ltd Fund and our many individual donors and fundraisers

## A Lasting Gift in your Will

Would you consider leaving a lasting gift to help children of the future learn to read better, to get more enjoyment from reading and to increase their life opportunities? Every donation, whatever the amount, will be gratefully received and will make a difference. If you require any help with wording in a will, please call Bianca on 01234 924111. Thank you.