

Witham St Hughs English Hub Newsletter

June 2020

I hope you are all well and keeping safe. Now you have reopened your school gates to Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 pupils we hope to be able to support you further. I know this will have been a huge organisational and logistical task. It will have been and will more than likely continue to be challenging for the near future. Well done on all your hard work and positive attitude. I hear such wonderful stories of how school teams are working together in a unique and different way to ensure the very best outcomes for the children.

A reminder of our English Hub aims:

The English Hub exists to promote three priority areas:

Early Language Development

Providing evidence-based approaches to early language development and closing the word gap in school-based early years settings, including appropriate use of formative assessment;

Age-appropriate Phonics Provision

encouraging best practice in systematic synthetic phonics teaching from school-based early years provision to the end of Key Stage 1, and as the primary reading strategy throughout the school. This includes

- ✓ encouraging fidelity to a single systematic synthetic phonics programme;
- ✓ supporting the effective use of decodable books in the early stages of learning to read, as a way of establishing phonic decoding;
- ✓ supporting effective practice in formative assessment in relation to phonics/early reading.

Promoting A Love Of Reading

encouraging reading for enjoyment including by supporting whole school reading approaches, reading to children at least once a day and encouraging reading at home, developing teachers' knowledge of appropriate children's literature.

Online learning support – Shared Drive

Please do look on the Shared Drive of resources (link below). This drive is a collection of resources to support both home and school learning. I have added folders and files over the last few weeks and will continue to do so.

Please click on the link:

[Partner School Shared Drive](#)



Reading Conference

The Reading Conference has now been rescheduled to Thursday 18th March 2021. Your place, if booked, is secure. The Hub will be in touch in the next academic year to provide further details.

Impact Statement

Thank you to those of you who kindly returned the Impact Statements. The results are truly heart-warming. At Witham St Hughs English Hub, we have an absolute passion for working with schools in a supportive manner. We strive to ensure we are collaborative and we 'do with' rather than 'do to'. This has proved to be the case in the results. The praise of the work with the Literacy Specialist's was really lovely to read. Thank you. The overview of results is on the Shared Drive and in the new L.E.A.D. Equate brochure.

THE READING TOGETHER DAY

The Reading Together Day, which will take place on 16th July, is a new initiative to inspire children and their families to read together. The day is being coordinated by The Reading Agency, in collaboration with many organisations. Whilst it has not yet been publicly announced, we are very excited about the day and we would love you to get involved. It's a day to create a buzz and get the nation talking about reading and its benefits. There will be online activities, celebrity videos, author talks, a new book launched, and promotion of The Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge. If there is a way that you can get involved, please do and promote as much as possible on social media and share your ideas with the English Hub. We are hoping to have further information in the coming weeks, but in the meantime, please save the date and keep an eye on our Twitter feed [@WSHEnglishHub](#)

Future

From our conversations, I know you are eager to know the situation for next year in order to help you plan forward. The Department of Education are now finalising the English Hub plan for next year. As you will be aware, it has been and still is a challenging time and decisions need careful consideration before they are published, hopefully I will be able to share further details shortly.

I will be working with Amy Wells (new Hub Lead) to digest the DfE offer to ensure we offer the very best way forward for all Hub schools.



Communication

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More



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Keep Safe.

Louise and The Hub Team

