



# English Hub

## ROADE ENGLISH HUB

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER



### FREE Online Events COMING UP...

**20th March - Online conference: Promoting a Love of Reading for All**

**21st March 10am - Talk Through Stories. In person at The Hilton, Northampton**

**21st March 3.45pm- Close up on Comprehension. Online course.**

**25th March 3.45pm - ECT Session: Administering the PSC. Online Course**

**17th April 3.30pm- Phonics Screening Check Success. Online Course**

**18th April 9.30am - Reading Leader Network Meeting: Reading for pleasure focus. Online Course**

**24th April 9.30am - Take a Look at Roade Primary School. In Person**

**8th May 9.30am - Reading for Pleasure with Ruth Baker-Leask. In person, Leicester venue.**

**To book, visit our website and click on the events section.**

### Hub News - Jodie Matthews , Strategic Lead



What's the catch? It's the question I probably get asked the most in my role as Strategic Lead of Roade English Hub. As leaders and educators we know that very rarely does anything come for free and the Hub offer of free support and funding sounds too good to be true! I think it's what puts a lot of schools off from applying.

However, on this occasion I honestly believe that there is no catch. Hubs hold funding from the DfE to give to schools to help them with decodable books, phonics training, subscriptions to their phonics scheme and phonics and early reading resources. We actually have spend targets and are expected to give out a large amount of money each year. So if you know schools that haven't applied yet, please encourage them to do so. Schools can receive up to £6000! All they have to do is fill out a self-referral form on our website and then one of our team will arrange to visit to discuss action planning and help them plan how to spend the money. It's a quick process and many schools are able to spend their funding just a few weeks after applying.

We only have funding for about another 20 schools this academic year, so if you know of any schools who may benefit from our support and funding towards phonics, reading and early language, please encourage them to fill out a self-referral form and we can get their audit booked in. You can find the self-referral form on our website.

### Did You Know?

Since 2019, Roade English Hub have:

- Supported **78** Partner Schools
- Have supported **362** schools with an audit and/or funding
- Hosted **131 free training events**
- **4635** people have attended our free training events
- Received **100%** Good/ Outstanding feedback

If you are hosting any upcoming events for NPQLL, ECTs, conferences and more, and feel you would benefit from our literacy specialists giving a free talk on phonics, reading for pleasure or early language, please do get in touch.



## Preparing For The PSC



I'm Sally Currell and I've been a Literacy Specialist for 6 years working at Roade English Hub. Being the English/Reading/Phonics Lead in a school has been a big part of my career too and as you will know, a big part of this job is to ensure that children learn to read. Our aim is to teach them to read words so that they can gain meaning and currently this is tested by the PSC in June. Every year since the PSC began I have prepared the teachers and children for it and here are my top tips...

1. Analyse assessments – Which sounds are common errors?  
-Is it real or alien words that have the most errors?  
-Which children are not on track to pass?
2. Practice, practice, practice – 'Make the most of every moment!' Keep sound cards, real and alien word cards with those tricky sounds on, on you at all times. Flash sounds and cards at moments throughout the day e.g. when lining up for break or lunch, getting ready to go home.
3. Add in additional afternoon practice sessions, 10 mins a day, and use these to teach to the gaps
4. Daily 1:1 interventions for those not on track to pass
5. Ensure you have checked and read the administration guidance and know what support can be given to pupils with SEN as long as it is part of normal classroom practice
6. Carry out regular PSC practices so you know who is on track to pass and can address common errors. Scores out of 40 that show children are on track to pass: Nov – 19, Feb – 25, April – 35. This will also make the children familiar with the test format.
7. Challenge children to improve the number of sounds and words each week.
8. Make it fun!



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## Close Up On Comprehension



Hi, I'm Jess Steele. I've been a Literacy Specialist for 5 years working at Roade English Hub but I've worked as a Reading Specialist for a huge part of my career for Local Authorities and Academy Trusts. I'm absolutely passionate about the learning and teaching of all aspect of reading. I'm running a session in March on one of the topics I'm often asked about - comprehension. In the session I'll cover recent research, the content and guidance from The Reading Framework as well as lots of practical tips and ideas to use in your classroom. Places on the course are free and all you have to do is book one on the Hub website. Hopefully I will see you there!

## Talk Through Stories

We are delighted to be able to offer free Talk Through Stories training in March. We love Talk Through Stories because it uses fantastic real books to expand children's vocabulary alongside developing their love of stories! This is what Talk Through Stories has to say about it, "Talk Through Stories is for all children, but it is especially for children who do not come from a language rich home. It is designed to extend and deepen children's vocabulary so that they can understand the books they will soon be able to read for themselves. Time is not on their side. That is why it has been so important to plan specifically and systematically - step by step - to develop their vocabulary.'

Free places available to book on our website!



## Book PR

Fantastic books to read with upper Key Stage 2 pupils.

