English Hubs

Lacey Green English Hub

Funded by Department for Education

Hub Update 14th September 2026

Welcome to the new academic year!

EMPOWERING EARLY LITERACY

Transform your school's Literacy and Language culture with our Empowering Early Literacy event.

Wednesday 23rd September 2026 9am-1pm Village Hotel, Ashton

Early literacy is the foundation of every child's educational journey. Grounded in the Department for Education's Reading and Writing Frameworks, this half-day event offers a comprehensive overview of the fully funded support available through the Lacey Green English Hub from Reception right through to Key Stage 2.

Join us to explore evidence-based strategies to sharpen early language, master systematic synthetic phonics, embed robust reading, and raise standards across your school.

Book now!

CPD offer 2026-2027



We are excited to launch our fully funded CPD offer for 2026–27.

Spanning Reception through to Key Stage 3, our upcoming events, reviews, and showcase sessions provide practical, high-impact strategies to elevate literacy across your school. **Click the booklet to find out more!**

Lit in Colour

Supporting schools to teach more books by authors of colour

My Name is Leon Spotlight!



Play a vital role in shaping guidance on the teaching of My Name is Leon by Kit De Waal

We are working with AQA on the Beacon Programme, an incredible opportunity for schools who have been teaching *My Name is Leon* (either at KS3 or KS4) for at least a year.

This is a chance to support more schools to teach texts by authors of colour ahead of preparing for the **2028 curriculum changes** the Government are set to announce.

Alongside other teachers of the text, AQA and Penguin's Lit in Colour team, you will have the chance to **contribute to a Framework of guidance for schools**considering or already teaching *My Name is Leon*. You will receive:

- Expert-led online training
- Copies of the novel and of the recently published study guide for your school

- A selection of books to complement and enhance your teaching of My Name is Leon

You'll also be invited to an **exclusive** in person event at the Penguin UK offices later this year! More details to come.

If you are an English teacher and interested in this opportunity, please email litincolour@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk.

Coming Up Next



National Literacy Trust's Inclusive Libraries Conference

24th September (Sheffield)

30th September (London)

We will be delivering a workshop focused on how schools can encourage young people to read books by authors of colour for pleasure and by choice.

Both events are now fully booked, the waitlist for London is also full, but you can add your name to the Sheffield waitlist.

The Black British Book Festival

4th October (London)

We will be running a stall at The Black British Book Festival celebrating books by Black writers and talking to attendees about how they can get involved in Lit in Colour.

Outside of Lit in Colour, Penguin will also be running a panel titled **How to Publish a Children's Book:**

*Whether you're dreaming up your first picture book or polishing a middle grade adventure, join Penguin Books to discover **what it takes to bring a children's book to life**. Hear from publishing professionals and authors as they discuss what makes a standout manuscript, how agenting works, what editors are looking for and how the journey from first draft to published book really unfolds.*

The panel will be curated by the WriteNow team, Penguin UK's **award-winning programme** to seek out, nurture, and publish new writers (aged 18+) from under-represented communities in UK and Irish publishing.

Free poetry party for Michael Rosen Day 2026

Register your school for the event

Join more upcoming Read for Good events

Secure your place at our fabulous and free author events, a great way to inspire your pupils and discover new books. Upcoming events not to be missed include ***The Neverland Thieves*** by Kevin & Katie Tsang and ***The Worst Thing That Could Possibly Happen*** by Guy Bass & David Roberts.

Find out more and secure your place

Run Readathon® and get free books for your school!

Schools who run our sponsored read, **Readathon, receive book vouchers worth 20% of whatever they raise**. Flexible to run whenever you like, pupils read for fun and raise money to bring the magic of books and stories to children in hospitals and schools across the UK. A great way to create a reading buzz in the autumn term and keep the National Year of Reading going!

Order your FREE Readathon kit here

The Open University Reading Schools Programme

Finding the Reader Within: Free Teachers' Reading Challenge Webinar

What do children really mean when they say, "*I'm not a reader*"? Join The Reading Agency and The Open University for a practical webinar on 24th September, 4-5pm, exploring how teachers can help children find their pathway into reading, with research and practical ideas focused on three powerful routes: choice, role models and interests.

Could your School become a RfP Centre of Excellence?

Discover how the UKLA/OU RfP Quality Mark recognises schools creating thriving reading cultures. Join our online briefing on 8 October, 1–3pm to learn more about the Quality Mark and get expert guidance on putting together a strong application. The QM was highly profiled in the Education Select Committee's RfP recommendations.

Ready, Set, Read! Free Reading Resources

Start the new school year with a burst of reading excitement! Ready, Set, Read! is a free collection of resources from Reading Rocks, Teacher's Pet and Picture News. It brings authors and illustrators into classrooms through videos, activities and live sessions, with pupil choice, social reading and opportunities to discover brilliant new books.

Sibling Readers: An Untapped Potential – Free Online Event

Join us online on 11 November, 2-3pm, to explore the powerful role siblings can play in supporting reading and learning. Discover how brothers and sisters can influence one another's reading experiences and consider the implications for both school and home. This OU Literacy and Social Justice Centre Seminar is free.

Celebrate World Kid Lit Month this September

World Kid Lit Month celebrates international books for young people. Discover stories from or set in other countries, explore books translated into English, and encourage pupils to broaden their reading horizons. Find reading lists, recommendations, challenges and resources to help your class get involved.

#OURfPResearchBite: Repeat Re-readings: The Personal, Social and Emotional Aspects of Revisiting the Same Text

In this #OURfPResearch Bite, Dr Lucy Rodriguez Leon explores the value of repeat reading and why returning to familiar texts matters. Discover how re-reading can offer children comfort, connection and confidence, while supporting the personal, social and emotional dimensions of RfP.

Join the Reading Rebellion this Book Club Day UK!

Celebrate the power of shared reading on Book Club Day UK on 11 September. This year's theme, *Be a Reading Rebel*, celebrates how book clubs bring people together and spark conversations. Explore the Book Club Hub for inspiration and resources for children's and young people's reading groups.

National Poetry Day 2026 – Wonder!

National Poetry Day takes place on Thursday 1 October, with this year's theme, Wonder. Explore poems, resources and events to inspire your celebrations, and encourage children to read, perform, share and write poetry. Get your class or whole school involved and celebrate the wonder of words together.

Want to know more about the UKLA?

Join UKLA members on Tuesday 22 September 4–5.30pm for their Special Interest Group and Research Showcase. Hear about recent UKLA research, the new Early Years SIG, and funded projects exploring nature-based literacy learning, AI in writing and neurodivergent book groups for secondary pupils.

Oracy North West offer for 2026-27

What to Expect This Academic Year

This year, we are excited to expand our reach to offer 100% free professional development and local networking across four key hub regions in the North West.

Whether you are looking to embed a whole-school oracy culture or seeking practical classroom talk tactics, our sessions are designed to be interactive, research-informed and directly applicable.

- Free Termly CPD Workshops: these focus on leadership of oracy and touch upon classroom practice, curriculum, inclusion, Early Years and pastoral support.
- Four Regional Hub Localities: in-person events hosted across our four North West hubs so you can connect with colleagues nearby:
    - Wirral / Chester / Merseyside (based at Fender Primary)
    - Manchester (based at Crab Lane Primary and Pioneer House)
    - Pendle (based at Pendle Primary Academy)
    - Blackburn (based at Lammack Primary)
- Local Peer Networking: dedicated time at every session to share best practice, troubleshoot challenges and collaborate with like-minded local schools and leaders.
- Resource Sharing & Toolkits: access to our hub padlet.

Please see dates below and use the google forms to sign-up for the sessions:
Wirral/Chester/Merseyside (Fender Primary)
08.10.2026 2pm-4pm
28.01.2027 2pm-4pm
17.06.2027 2pm - 4pm
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHvjy_M8XasYyh2JrGGcJpXzAUZcVYgI3BWYz1uwv4G6QwxQ/viewform?usp=dialog
Manchester (Crab Lane Primary / Pioneer House)
22.10.2026 2pm-4pm (Crab Lane)
04.02.2027 2pm-4pm (Pioneer House)
27.05.2027 2pm-4pm (Pioneer House)
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDrSatHNNW2FWi9_aKCDsyrRbJMlsME2k-EYZY82aLVI6BgA/viewform?usp=publish-editor
Pendle (Pendle Primary Academy)

17.11.26 2pm - 4pm
02.03.27 2pm - 4pm
15.06.27 2pm - 4pm
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScx_oJjDDRRYWZ5QqDAbtNbLHsoNNAYK4Trk7REIT5HQYlI1A/viewform?usp=publish-editor
Blackburn (Lammack Primary)
12.11.26 2.00-4.00pm
02.03.27 2.00-4.00pm
15.06.27 2.00-4.00pm
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4_Otfz-ddFrdr-nQYXYHI8_driNWBbYmZ1r3QCIOJ1nGdtA/viewform?usp=publish-editor
We will once again be running our free CPD event this year and should have a date and more information very soon.