

Love to Read



Spring Updates

It feels like a long time since our last newsletter back in January and so much has happened on the project since then! We have finished Phase 1, interviewing 59 children from four different schools, transcribing what they said and analysing it with a technique called Thematic Analysis. The children gave us some fantastic insights into their own reading practices and experiences and we'll be ensuring these are incorporated into the rest of the project. A huge thanks to all children and schools involved.

Contents

- Spring Updates
- Phase 2: Meet the Team!
- Illustrations

Phase 2: Meet the Team!

This month, we have started Phase 2, working with six teachers to co-design the Love to Read project. This month and next, we'll be introducing you to our new team members and learning about why they love to read.

Chereen Rain is an experienced primary school teacher in East Scotland who spent a childhood adoring fiction. She spent most of her childhood in a library and is still struggling to get through her ever growing pile of 'to read' books. Her favourite reads as an adult are the Poldark series by Winston Graham, as well as anything by Margaret Atwood or Jessie Burton. Aside from classroom teaching, Chereen has most recently been working on the Building Racial Literacy programme with Education Scotland. Linking with this, she has created the Primary Anti-Racist Teaching Project (PART) to share resources created to help teachers decolonise the curriculum. This is a work in progress but can be accessed at thepartproject.co.uk. Chereen is excited to contribute to the Love to Read programme to help pupils see their different identities reflected in literature.

Chereen Rain



Carol Ann Neil



Carol Ann is an experienced Primary School Teacher in Central Scotland. Her love of reading for pleasure stems from a very young age as her mother immersed her in fairy tales. She particularly loved being read tales from the Brothers Grimm anthologies. Carol Ann is part of a Literacy Improvement Team in her school and in line with her determination and passion to improve Literacy outcomes for children, has organised many exciting reading events, activities, writing projects and author visits. Relentless, to close the attainment gap and engage as many children as possible in reading and writing for pleasure. She continually strives to create and promote a strong reading and writing culture within her school. She enjoys writing her own stories and poems which she uses as writing models with the children. She is passionate about ensuring children are exposed to careful book choices that are inclusive, representing the diversity, differences and interests of all.

Claire Sleath is an experienced Primary School teacher, primarily teaching Year 6. Her love of children's literature stemmed from her father reading to her as a child, particularly horror stories and poetry. She leads Literacy and Reading at her school and has developed a book-centred writing curriculum, striving to create a strong reading community. Claire is part of the 'Review Crew' at Booksfortopics.com and uses her extensive knowledge of children's literature to inspire children to read and write for pleasure. Claire finds and shares high quality author examples on her Instagram and Twitter page @pagetopen, which she uses as writing models in the classroom. Her favourite children's books are 'Orphans of the Tide' by Struan Murray and 'Fireweed' by Jill Paton Walsh.

Claire Sleath



Illustrations

The very talented illustrator Katie McPherson and graphic designer Chris Brodt have been working hard to finalise our 'Powerful Portals' illustrations and we can't wait to share them with you soon. We hope you love them as much as we do!

All the best,
The Love to Read team
Twitter: @_Love_to_read.

Sarah McGeown (PI), Emily Oxley (Postdoctoral Researcher), Jessie Ricketts (Co-I), Laura Shapiro (Co-I), Christina Clark (National Literacy Trust), Megan Dixon, Helen Fairlie (Education Scotland), Katrina Lucas and Katherine Wilkinson (Scottish Book Trust).
Co-design team: Katie Jukes, Carol Ann Neil, Claire Sleath, Chereen Rain, Emily Weston, Chris Youles.

