

Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire NEWSLETTER Issue 4 April 2009



We hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break and are feeling revitalised for this term!

We welcomed over 70 volunteers to the celebration of our 1st birthday as ARCh on 26th March. A very enjoyable afternoon

was had by all, from the pictures you can see we have now have a bigger team of staff who were all identifiable by ARCh T shirts! Our newest team member, Bev Alexander, started as Field Worker for Faringdon at the beginning of March.



The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Susanna Pressel, attended and helped us to celebrate and congratulate some of our most long standing volunteers. Pam Andrews is pictured receiving her certificate for assisting children to read in Oxfordshire for 20 years. Several other volunteers received a long service certificate.



Janet Money, our Abingdon Fieldworker, ran a Brain Training workshop giving us plenty of ideas on how to stimulate and enliven sleepy children. There was a lovely selection of new games bought with

donation from the Red Lion in Kidlington and each volunteer was encouraged to take one game away with them for their sessions.

Handouts from the meeting are available, please call the office if you would like a copy.

We are delighted to report that we have recently received funding from Sir Martin Wood, Sibford Gower Parish Council, Finmere Parish Council, Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, Dragon School, Bloxham Parish Council and Oxfordshire's Children's Fund.

The summer term is always a busy one in schools; there are SATs tests, sports days and day trips being planned so do check what is happening in your school. It is a good idea to get hold of a copy of the school newsletter too. And check with your children and the staff so that you do not have a trip to school only to find your children are not there!

Come July the children and staff will of course be looking forward to their summer break. For volunteers sometimes this is a sad time as they say farewell to their children. This is understandable as over the past year a good friendship and a strong mentoring relationship has been built. Unless the children are moving to a new school, remind them you will still be around the school and that September is a time of change (they will probably have a new teacher also). Also that it is time for other children to have their turn with your sessions.

Although we cannot give presents or rewards to the children we work with you may like to use the attached "Star Reader" certificate, designed by the son of one of our volunteers. Perhaps your children would like to colour in the star and you can add their name and give them to keep as a memento.

Thanks!

...to our loyal supporters at the Red Lion in Kidlington for their sponsored bungee jump which is going to result in more money being donated to ARCh!



Pictured with Jane are Adam and Emma, Managers of The Red Lion, with some of the games bought with proceeds of their last fundraising event.

Ideas for your sessions:

Welcome to our new Faringdon Fieldworker

Quick Football Quiz:

Football alphabet a is for Arsenal etc.

Football hangman.

Name 5 teams with the letter x in
(Crewe AleXander).

5 teams that begin and end with the
same letter (Charlton Athletic).

Spend 10 minutes making 10 anagrams
of football clubs/stadiums/countries.
Swap with a friend and see if you can
decipher them.

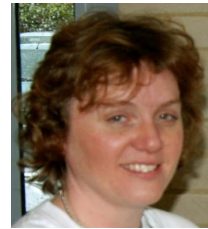


Let us know about your good
ideas so that we can share
them!

The words madam, kayak and
level are the same whether
they are read left to right or
right to left (palindromes)

Learn something new everyday!

'Stewardesses' is the
longest word typed with
only the left hand



Bev Alexander Tel. 01793 782550 email:
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We are pleased to introduce our new field worker for Faringdon/Witney area Bev Alexander. Many of you will have already seen Bev at the termly meeting. Bev has had lots of experience volunteering in Pre School and Primary education as a Chairperson of both the local Shrivenham Mother and Toddler group and then the Pre-school and more recently as fundraiser for her children's school PTA. In fact it was the secretary at the school who encouraged her to apply for the field-worker job as she felt it was the perfect job for Bev – luckily for ARCh she did apply!



I am Bev Alexander, married to Andrew and mother to our 4 children. That may sound a bit grey so maybe I should say that I am happily married for 16 years to my husband, and we are extremely proud of our 4 very lively children - Rebecca (8 - yellow) and Edward (6 - orange) who are extremely full of life, whilst Megan (12 - green) and Jessica (9 - purple) are the more thoughtful ones. We also have 2 dogs, a 14 year old Rhodesian Ridgeback who has been a true friend to us all, and a 1 year old Great Dane who doesn't appear to understand yet that he is a dog and not human!

Now if I was to liken myself to a colour I obviously would say a rainbow of colours! Actually this is what I would like to be, as field worker for Faringdon/Witney, a rainbow bridge between the treasure chest of volunteers and schools at the other end of the rainbow. Being different colours will enable me to support all, to the best of my ability.

Having met lots of you already I know I share your enthusiasm and commitment to ARCh and I am really looking forward to, along with you all, bringing a little bit more colour to many children.

2008 SATs

You may have seen the recent article in the Oxford Times revealing that the county's schools performed only just above the national average in last summer's Key Stage Two National Curriculum Tests. These are the tests Year 6 pupils (10/11 year olds) in their last year at primary. The Government expects every child to have reached level 4 in English, Maths & Science at this stage.

Michael Waine, the council's cabinet member for schools improvement, although pleased with the general results, said " **With Oxfordshire's overall social background and academic heritage, we feel the county should aim even higher and we have a firm commitment to do better and raise standards even further.**"

The results show that more than 1 in 5 children failed to reach Level 4 in English in 60 Oxfordshire primary schools.

There is obviously a lot more work for ARCh to do!



Footballers' reading habits to inspire a love of reading...

A new study on young people and reading, by independent charity, the National Literacy Trust, has revealed as reading role models. most powerful public figures read are not film stars, musicians or even authors, but sports people. Footballers Carragher are among 20 influence for good through (PLRS), an initiative that to inspire a love of reading. The study also asked young people about the relationship between reading and future success, and found 24% were unsure or did not see a link. Most young people felt that being successful means being happy, having a good education and having a good job. Reassuringly, only 25% said that being successful means having lots of clothes, being famous, having a flash car or being good at sports.



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Jonathan Douglas, Director of the National Literacy Trust, said:

"Football is such a huge cultural influence in this country, and this study confirms that many young people aspire to be like footballers. Premier League Reading Stars help us to harness this power and change attitudes, getting the message across that reading is important and valuable to the lives of footballers and to success."

There is a list of footballers involved in the campaign: if your children are football fans why not find out what the player from their favourite club has enjoyed reading.

You can find more information on websites www.literacytrust.org.uk or www.premierleaguereadingstars.org.uk



Thank you to all our volunteers for the help you are giving your children. Also for the assistance you give us in all sorts of ways ~ help with publicity, fundraising, book sorting, speaking to new volunteers, talking to schools, helping at our meetings etc. Please continue to support us in any way you can!



Bicester Village to support ARCh

Bicester Village have offered the use of their VIP Lounge for our summer meeting! One of their representatives will talk at this meeting to us about how they hope to work with ARCh in the future to benefit the local community. This will help us fulfil one of our aims this year of building relations with local businesses.

Please

return any books and games which you haven't used in a while ~ come to book exchanges and refresh your supply and allow all our lovely books and games to circulate!



We have been busy in our 1st year we have increased in size from 119 volunteers to 146.

Almost 25% increase!

Potentially helping 80 more children



Our child protection policy states that we will undertake CRB re-checks and your Fieldworker will contact you to arrange for this form to be completed if this applies to you.

If you missed the meeting in March we are enclosing our new Safe from Harm card and name badge.