

17<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Volunteer Reading Angels

Dear parents/carers,

We would like to invite any interested parents, carers or grandparents to join us as regular volunteer readers in school. It is a great way to show your support for the school and get to know us too. Schools that have a strong volunteer base tend to perform better. Research has also shown that children of a school volunteer are better behaved and have good attendance. In addition, there are so many demands placed on schools with limited financial resources. Any volunteer effort can help bridge that gap at no additional cost. Crucially, taking tasks away from staff frees them up to do what they do best—educate our children.

*'Reading is fundamental to education... Pupils who find it difficult to learn to read are likely to struggle across the curriculum, since English is both a subject in its own right and the medium for teaching... Reading also offers important emotional benefits, enabling pupils, through listening to and talking about stories, to talk about their ideas and feelings and to lose themselves in books.'* The reading framework: Teaching the foundations of literacy, DfE, July 2021.

Research also shows that daily practice of reading is one of the best ways to help children make progress and build their confidence, both in sounding out and blending words, and recognising familiar 'tricky' words. At Wisborough Green, we aim for every child to be a confident reader by the end of Year 2. Teachers and teaching assistants do their very best to prioritise 1:1 reading, particularly for those children who may fall below expected levels but will always welcome additional support for this valuable activity. For that reason, we would love to invite more volunteers to become 'Reading Angels'. This role involves hearing children read 1:1, preferably for an hour slot or more, any time 9:00-11:45am or 1:00-3:00pm, Monday to Friday.

Please be aware that you may not be allocated to your own child's class.

If you would like to volunteer, please email the office, indicating your preferred day and time. We will then contact you to confirm which documents you will need to bring in as part of our safeguarding protocol (DBS). We ask that, if you volunteer, you are able to make a weekly commitment for a half-term at least.

We look forward to seeing some of you around school soon.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards,



Caroline Bennett  
Headteacher