

# The Literacy Hubs

## Impact Report: 2022/2023



## Who We Are

The Literacy Hubs is an educational charity helping communities gain the literacy skills they need to thrive. Our hubs provide unique, creative and adventurous learning environments that inspire young people, from the least advantaged communities, to improve their literacy skills and fall in love with reading and writing. We support young people aged 8-13 in the crucial years between the end of primary and secondary school when progress can slow significantly.



We collaborate with local communities to create bespoke learning environments, designed to best support the literacy needs of the community it serves. Our first hub, The Pompey Pirates, launched in the heart of the Charles Dickens Ward, Portsmouth in September 2020. Portsea Sailors, our second hub, launched in January 2022, based in the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Through offering engaging and high quality after-school learning opportunities, our targeted literacy intervention helps young people to catch up and develop the skills necessary for a positive academic experience. We believe that by taking coordinated action at a local level to drive up literacy levels, we can support increased educational attainment and employability skills leading to long term improvements in public health and economic engagement.

The Literacy Hubs currently has two sites in Portsmouth, and provides support to to approximately 120 children from across the city (who are referred via their schools).

The Literacy Hubs programme has been written by literacy experts using the latest literacy pedagogy. It is based on evidence-based strategies for learning, thinking and understanding. The result is that pupils grow in confidence and perseverance, while they catch up on the learning lost during lock down.

With thanks to all our partners, who enable us to continue to support young people in the city of Portsmouth to thrive.



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## Whole Cohort Highlights



120 children attended The Literacy Hubs this academic year. A further 10 students were late starters who accessed part of the programme. Weekly sessions host an average of 15 students from 6 schools across the city.



On average, students attending our programme have improved their reading age by

**12 months**

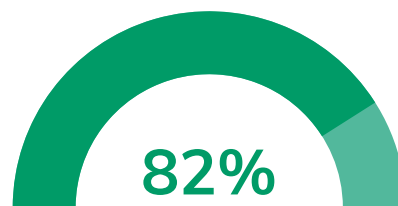
over the course of the year.

By the end of the year,

**42%**



of students were **working at or above their age related expectations in reading**, compared to just 12% at the start of their time with us.



**82%**

of students felt their ability to persevere had improved since joining The Literacy Hubs. 52% felt they were 'much better' in this area.

**83%** of students felt increased confidence in their reading and writing following their time on the programme.



**45%** of children on the programme are now **meeting or exceeding their Age Related Expectations** for writing, compared to just 10% at the start of their time with us.

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## Pompey Pirates


106 children attended Pompey Pirates this academic year. 92 joined the programme in September and completed a whole academic year, with the remainder starting in January 2023 to complete two terms on the programme.



**83%** of students felt that The Literacy Hubs had a **clear, positive effect on their work at school.**

**36%** of Pompey Pirates improved their reading age by more than a year, **with some making as much as three years progress.**



According to school writing data,   
**1 in 3 children** who attended Pompey Pirates were **working at or above their age related expectations in writing**, compared to just 8% at the start of their time with us.



**86%** of students reflected that they enjoy reading, with 25% saying that they 'really enjoy reading'.

“When I am doing my work, [Pompey Pirates] has helped me carry on, and think about what we learnt there and use that in my work.”

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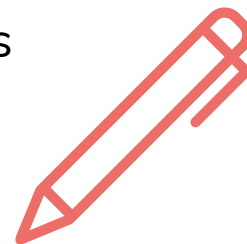
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## Portsea Sailors

26 children, from 2 schools, attended our Portsea Sailors programme for the whole academic year.

**2 in 3 children** who attended Portsea Sailors were **working at or above their age related expectations in writing**, compared to just 10% at the start of their time with us.



42% of Portsea Sailors improved their reading age by more than a year, **with some making as much as two years progress.**



According to school assessments,

**65%**

of students **improved their writing skills** by at least one 'stage' of their assessment frameworks during their 6 months at Portsea Sailors.



**78%** of students felt that their **writing confidence had improved** since joining Portsea Sailors.

“I can write stories so much better. I got a head teachers award for one.”

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## Parental Feedback

"His confidence has grown a lot with the attendance of Pompey Pirates and he was always happy to attend. I'm sure he will miss the team. "

"[My child is] more enthusiastic about learning in general."

"You brought Penny on leaps and bounds from when she started which we are very thankful."

"Thankyou. Clemence has really enjoyed her time overall at Pompey Pirates. It's a great opportunity for the kids."

## Student Feedback

"It's a lot easier to keep trying."

"They made my dreams come true."

"It has made me write more in English and made me more confident!"

"Everything was helpful. It was one of the best things in this whole year. Thank you for letting me go. It was so fun."

"It has shown me different vocabulary."

"I can read more words or words that I did not know before."

"It's helped me because I feel more confident with reading out loud."

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## 2022/23 Highlights

### Albie (Year 6)

When Albie joined us at the beginning of the year he told us that he didn't like reading. This soon changed. He worked extremely hard to overcome the challenges that reading used to present and, by the end of year, his determination and perseverance paid off. He is now an enthusiastic and confident reader, making over two years progress over the course of the year.

Albie's commitment to learning also shone through during both the filming project and his persuasive speech for the radio.

"If you try your hardest, you will go far."

"It has helped with my progress in my writing skills and my ability at reading books."

"Don't worry, everything will be okay. It's not as scary as you think. It's the most fun thing you'll ever do in Year 4, trust me. Your first day will be amazing!"

### Lola C (Year 5)

From the outset, Lola demonstrated her confidence and enthusiasm. During the story writing project, she started off with so many ideas, but soon understood the importance of planning to ensure her ideas could be developed and her story made sense to the reader. Her engagement and enthusiasm during the filming project was amazing and she showed herself to be a natural director.

Reading her story on the Literacy Stage at The Victorious Festival gave the opportunity to share her progress and shine as she read her exciting pirate story. During her time with us, Lola has made over two years progress with her reading.

### Aland (Year 5)

Aland began the year reluctant to share his ideas but soon grew in confidence. During his time with us, he has demonstrated that he can lead a group. This was very evident during the filming project with him regularly taking over the role of director. He now understands the importance of planning to ensure his writing is always clear and aimed at his target audience. His focus and commitment to both his reading and writing has led to him making good progress. By the end of his time with us, Aland made over 16 months of progress with his reading.

"I used to not be brave enough to share my ideas but now I am."

"I can read more words or words that I did not know before."

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## Community Impact Statement

**142 families**

have been supported by The Literacy Hubs this academic year.



Between September and July,  
an incredible

**1,800 hours were volunteered**

across our two hubs, with 41 volunteers providing an average  
of 47 hours each across the year.

Our volunteers come from a range of backgrounds, and from different sections of the Portsmouth community, including:

- **Students, (20% of our active volunteers)**
- **Retirees (32.5%)**
- **Working professionals (45% with 22.5% working full-time)**
- **Self-employed**
- **Part-time workers**

*"Pompey Pirates has been great for me. I'm naturally quite logical and focussed and I'm forced to break out of that a lot. I feel like I'm doing something that will have an enduring positive impact, and it's fun: the children's enthusiasm (whether it's for literacy or not!) is infectious and I always leave feeling happy to have spent the afternoon with them."*