

The Literacy Hubs

Impact Report: 2023/2024



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, in collaboration with the NMRN. In January 2024, we started our two-term pilot programme for Key Stage 1 aged young people called The Little Buccaneers. 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 another pilot space within a local Infant School, and provides support to to approximately 100 children from Portsmouth and Gosport (who are referred via their schools). This report will discuss our Pompey Pirates' and Portsea Sailors' progress. Our Little Buccaneers pilot report will be following soon.

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 and funders, who enable us to continue to support young people in the city of Portsmouth to thrive.



SUPPORTED BY



The LiteracyHubs

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Whole Cohort Highlights



87 children attended The Literacy Hubs this academic year. 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

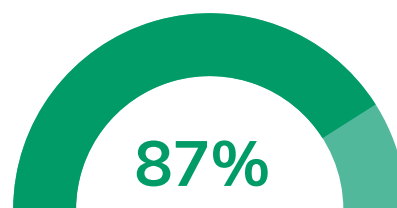
15 months

over the course of the year.

59% of students made an improvement of

13 months or more

in their reading, with some making as much as 26 months progress over the whole programme.



87%

of students felt their ability to ask for help had improved since joining The Literacy Hubs. 56% felt they were 'much better' in this area.

91% of students felt increased confidence in their reading and writing following their time on the programme.



65% of children on the programme are now meeting or exceeding their Age Related Expectations for writing, compared to just 11% at the start of their time with us.

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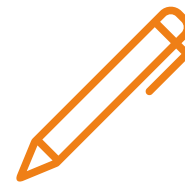
Pompey Pirates

63 children attended Pompey Pirates this academic year. 59 joined the programme in September and completed a whole academic year, with the remainder starting in January 2024 to complete two terms on the programme.



87% of students felt **increased confidence in their reading and writing** after attending Pompey Pirates.

62% of Pompey Pirates improved their reading age by more than a year, **with some making as much as three years progress.**



According to our own and school writing data, **62% of students** who attended Pompey Pirates improved their **writing by at least one 'writing band'.**



82% of students feel more confident to persevere when they come across a challenge, compared to just 34% at the beginning of the programme.

“The people around me [have helped me the most] because they are always giving me amazing ideas.”

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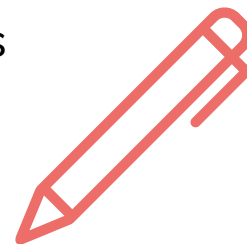
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Portsea Sailors

14 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.



58% of Portsea Sailors improved their reading age by more than a year, **with some making as much as three and a half years progress.**



According to our own and school writing data, **62% of students** who attended Portsea Sailors improved their writing by at least one 'writing band'.



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

“I like doing the different projects. I get to learn new things in cool spaces. The ships are my favourite.”

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Parental Feedback

"You have helped [my child] so much. She has come out of her shell more and has really enjoyed the exciting things you've done there and wouldn't have got to do at school."

"You have all been fantastic, your support and encouragement has made a massive difference to Iris. She has loved it all (especially the film)."

"Portsea Sailors has been the best thing that happened to Sienna."

"He thoroughly enjoyed the time he spent at Portsea Sailors especially the naval setting."

School Feedback

"They do not give up as much as they did previously and see tasks through to the end."

"The children were over the moon with their book and film, it brought excitement into English and when the book arrived all of the other children really wanted to read it."

"Lots of them now have a real love of reading that they did not have before."

"Parental feedback has also been positive."

"A great intervention. Thank you so much!"

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2023/24 Highlights

Ethan (Year 4)

When Ethan joined us at the beginning of the year, he was quite reserved and rarely joined in. By the end of the year, he became much more confident working in a group and speaking out when he needed help. He made a big improvement in his reading; improving by 2 years. At the beginning of the year Ethan was reading below his expected level and now he is working at his expected level.

Ethan has grown in his writing stamina and has said that he really enjoyed projects where he worked in a team. He attended our Summer Club and his new confidence shone.

"I really like Pompey Pirates."

"[My favourite part of the project was] making people change to something better."

"Think, write on a whiteboard, then write on paper."

"I actually like reading and writing now. I've moved up two book bands too."

Jia (Year 5)

From the outset, Jia 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 reading times has been amazing to see. This passion has led to Jia improving her reading age by 2 years and 8 months! She is now reading at the expected age range and has grown in her comprehension and fluency.

Reading her story on the Kids Stage at The Victorious Festival gave the opportunity to share her progress and shine.

Harry (Year 7)

Harry began the year reluctant to share his ideas but soon grew in confidence. During his time with us, he has developed a confidence that extends into teamwork, projects and his reading. His focus and commitment to both his reading and writing has led to him making good progress.

By the end of year, Harry's determination and perseverance paid off. He is now an enthusiastic and confident reader, making over a year and 10 months progress across the year.

"A FOREST acronym helped me be persuasive."

"I don't want to leave."

"You're good teachers."

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Community Impact Statement

87 families

have been supported by The Literacy Hubs this academic year.



Between September and July,
an incredible

1,100 hours were volunteered

across our two hubs, with 48 volunteers providing **an average of 32 hours** each across the year.

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

- **Students, (28% of our active volunteers)**
- **Retirees (24%)**
- **Working professionals (36% with 22% working full-time)**
- **Self-employed (10%)**
- **Unemployed (2%)**

"Starting a new academic year with a new group of children was an amazing experience. Being able to watch their confidence and literacy skills grow as time went on was incredible. The projects the children complete are unlike anything I had ever experienced, by the time the Pompey Pirates graduated (in a ceremony hosted by The University of Portsmouth) they were published authors, movie stars, and radio presenters, and along the way they would have made some amazing memories, improved their reading and writing skills, and have spent time in one of the most amazing places."