

**Annual Report 2023**

**DORSET READING PARTNERS**



**May 2023**

**Registered charity no. 1116404**

# Charity Details

## Objectives

- 1) To advance the education of children in Dorset, particularly by helping with their reading development,
- 2) To advance the education of volunteers, by the provision of advice and training.

## Activities Undertaken for Public Benefit

Dorset Reading Partners recruits, trains, supports and equips literacy volunteers who provide regular, sustained, one-to-one support to local children in order to help them with their reading development. Reading partners work in primary schools with children, aged between 4 - 11, identified by their teachers as requiring extra support or nurturing. Our focus is on increasing children's motivation and confidence and improving their wellbeing, as well as developing their language and reading skills.

## Trustees

The board of trustees oversees the management of the Charity as well as providing support & guidance to staff, and meets four times a year.

Alison Debenham

Heather Maddox

Bryan Stubbs

Heather Shore

## Honorary Treasurer

Jackie Taylor AAT

## Staff

Staff work part-time, during term-time only.

Volunteer Services Manager:

Juliet Ruddick

Volunteer Coordinator:

Bonnie Stevens

Volunteer Support Worker:

Mary Randall

## Office

The Little Keep

Barrack Road

Dorchester DT1 1SQ

01305 458515

[www.dorsetreadingpartners.org.uk](http://www.dorsetreadingpartners.org.uk)

# Review

This has been a period of relative stability for the Charity after the disruption caused by the pandemic over the past few years. Volunteer numbers have increased and we continue to see demand for our service from schools across the county.

Like all charities we have experienced a rise in costs in recent months, and so we will be making a small increase to the schools' subscription charges for the next school year. We will also be seeking new funding streams in order to subsidise our service and maintain its affordability.

We will continue to invest time and resources into our remarkable team of volunteer reading partners. They are, quite simply, our greatest asset, as the feedback below clearly shows:

## What Schools Say

"We love having our reading partner as part of the team and the children always enjoy a chat with her (they get so much more than that but they see it as a social too!)"  
Headteacher, Pimperne Primary School

"Our reading partner has made great relationships with the children and it is a wonderful experience for those that have time out of the class to not only read, but to have rich conversations too." Class teacher, Milldown Primary School

"Our reading partner is amazing - we feel very lucky to have her!"  
Headteacher, Thorners Primary School

"We love working with our reading partners and truly value all the work we do with Dorset Reading Partners. Long may it continue!"  
Headteacher, Prince of Wales First School

"Our reading partner's professionalism and encouragement are so impressive. The children love coming to her and are so happy to read with her. We are very lucky to have her."  
Class teacher, St Catherine's Primary School

"Thank you for all your wonderful Reading Partners who are just brilliant for our children!"  
Headteacher, Sherborne Primary School

# Annual Accounts

## DORSET READING PARTNERS Receipts and Payments to 30th April 2023

	30th April 2023			30th April 2022	
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Contributions from schools	8230	0	8230	4810	0
Grants/Donations	16443	1200	17643	13103	450
Other	0	0	0	2184	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>	24673	1200	25873	20097	450
<b>Payments</b>					
Employee costs	18645	0	18645	15665	0
Travel Expenses	1135	0	1135	692	0
<b>Office Costs</b>					
Stationery/Postage	493	0	493	530	0
Premises costs	2068	0	2068	1841	0
Telephone/Internet/Subscriptions	864	0	864	978	0
Equipment/Furniture	30	128	158	356	450
<b>Operational Costs</b>					
Resources	185	550	735	763	0
Volunteer expenses	804	0	804	861	0
Meetings/Training/Events	829	97	926	788	0
Insurance	189	0	189	183	0
<b>Total Payments</b>	25242	775	26017	22657	450
<b>Net of Receipts/ (payments)</b>	-569	425	-144	-2560	0
<b>Cash funds last Year end</b>	<b>13973</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13973</b>	<b>16533</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cash funds at the period end</b>	<b>13404</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>13829</b>	<b>13973</b>	<b>0</b>

## Donations & Funding

We are grateful to The Valentine Trust, The Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Foundation, National Education Union (Dorset), The Delamere Foundation, and other generous private donors for their support.

# Activities May 22 - April 23

During the year the Charity has:

- \* Recruited and trained sixteen new volunteer reading partners
- \* Started working in four new schools
- \* Delivered in-school Parent Helper and Reading Buddy training sessions
- \* Supported volunteers with regular contact and school visits
- \* Held book exchanges in venues across the county
- \* Hosted informal volunteer coffee mornings in various locations
- \* Organised Phonics, Dyslexia and Using Resources workshops for volunteers
- \* Issued 320 personalised end of year certificates to our supported pupils (July 22)

At the end of April 2023, the charity has 80 volunteer reading partners in 58 schools across Dorset, supporting around 350 children.

## What children say about their sessions

We play games first before we read, so by the time I look at a book, I feel nice and relaxed.

It's fun!"

That book's 10/10 . . . no it's not, it's 100/100!

I've started reading quicker now

"I like it because I can choose

## What our volunteers say

"Thank you for all the support you give. It never feels like I'm on my own."

"My husband says he can tell how much I enjoy *(being a reading partner)* because my face lights up when I talk about it."

"I have great fun with my pupils and can't wait to be entertained each week!"

"I really enjoy helping the children to open up and chat and to encourage them to love reading, especially the reluctant ones!!"

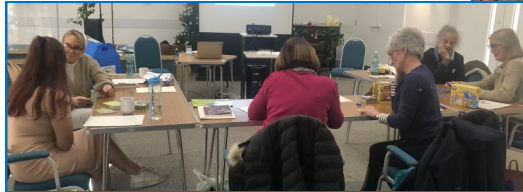
"I think you might be able to tell that I absolutely love being a DRP volunteer." 😊😊😊

# The Year in Pictures 2022 - 2023



## Initial training days

For new recruits



## Coffee mornings



## Library visit for volunteers



## Book exchanges



## Reading Buddy training

for our schools



## Our new ambassador Lucy Volpin

Guest speaker at our 2022 AGM



And again at our Dyslexia workshop in March 23



## Lovely new resources

thanks to The Delamere Foundation



## Long Service awards

for our wonderful volunteers





5a Shitterton,  
Bere Regis, Wareham  
Dorset BH20 7HU  
01929471480

4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### **Independent Examination of the Accounts of Dorset Reading Partners**

An Independent Examination of the accounts of the Dorset Reading Partners, charity registration No.1116404, for the financial year 2022/23 was carried out by Ian Ventham FCIF under section 145 of the 2011 Act. The examination was conducted in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity Commission.

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting records kept by the charity and found that the records agree with the Accounts presented in the Charity's Annual Report and Accounts.



Ian R Ventham