



March 2022



Dear all,

We are deeply saddened by news of the conflict. Our thoughts are with our Ukrainian friends, and everyone affected.

The government's plan for removing the remaining legal restrictions while protecting people most vulnerable to COVID-19 and maintaining resilience is:

From 21 February, the Government removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing.

You are longer legally required to self-isolate if you test positive for COVID-19, but it is strongly advised you do.

Unvaccinated close contacts of those testing positive do not need to isolate.

From 1 April, the Government will no longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the public in England.

From 1 April, there will be some limited ongoing free testing:

- a. Limited symptomatic testing available for a small number of at-risk groups - the Government will set out further details on which groups will be eligible.
- b. Free symptomatic testing will remain available to social care staff

Should your school insist on you continuing with Lateral Flow Tests please do ask them to provide you with the tests allocated to their school staff and to include you as part of their school team should they require you to take the tests. If you do come across any difficulties with schools not providing you with a test, please do let us know.

Dates for your diaries - Invites to follow nearer the time

- * AGM - 21st June 2022 11am - 1pm Guest speaker and patron, fabulous and funny poet AF Harrold. Venue: Wokingham Waterside Centre, Reading. Car parking at the centre is short of spaces but you can park on the road to the side of the building and there is also a pay and display at the entrance to Thames Valley Park
- * VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP - 10th May 10am-noon Theme: 'Choosing Books and how to make the most of them with the children you support'. Venue: Mansion House, Prospect Park, Reading. Plenty of car parking but vital you register your number plate on arrival
- * SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP - 13th September TBC. Invitations will be sent to those due for a refresher session.

BOOK EXCHANGE DATES

WINDSOR - 3rd May

10-11.30am

Redwood House, 9
Queen Annes Road,
Windsor SL4 2BJ

READING - 5th May

10.30 - 11.30am

St. Marks Church Hall, 94
Cranbury Road, Reading
RG30 2TA

WEST BERKS. - 4th May

10.00 - 11.30am

4, The Oaks, Tadley,
Berkshire RG26 4XX

WOKINGHAM - 3rd May

12.15pm - 2.15pm

Jennett's Park Communi-
ty Centre, Tawny Owl
Square, Bracknell
RG12 8EB

Social media

You can view all our news on our social media accounts: twitter @abctoread. Face-book <https://www.facebook.com/abctoread2>

Please 'like' these and 'follow', 'share' and/or 'retweet' our posts as this helps us to raise our profile.



Secondary school Buddy workshops

We are excited to announce that we have had a successful pilot of our secondary school Buddy workshop with an enthusiastic group of Year 6 primary school children. If you think your school would be interested in having older children support younger children in school with our workshop, then do please pass them our Buddy Workshop flyer or give them our details so we can chat to the school about how we can support further. It is a wonderful way for students to benefit from taking part in a role with responsibility and improving literacy and school cohesion. Projects such as ours are a hot topic now and Ministers are planning equivalent projects to tackle what has been described as a reading crisis among young children in schools after the pandemic.

Despite being the fifth richest country in the world, the UK comes only 14th in international league tables for reading, with one in five 11-year-olds moving to secondary schools in England without being able to read to the standard expected. So, workshops such as our Buddy workshop will be a great move forward for us as a charity to help more of those struggling readers.



Competition update!

Thank you for the entries that you have helped children complete during your sessions, many of you may have used this as an activity or as part of World Book Day on 3 March. Please remember the competition closes this Friday, 11 March. There are some fabulous prizes to be won for both the child and the school!

Be a book critic for the day!

Competition
time!

Win book
vouchers!



Create your own wordsearch for your sessions!

<https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/word-search>

This is a wonderful resource for making your own personalised word searches – all you do is list words you would like included – they could be any theme e.g. words from a book you have been sharing with a child or the names of players in a child's favourite football team – and the size of the grid you require and then the wordsearch magically appears for you to print!

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021

This important document is revised each September and we ask all volunteers to read the new edition: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1014058/KCSIE_2021_Part_One_September.pdf

Welcome to our new volunteers!

Judith Lane, Judith Neale, Jill Drury, Kathleen Smith, Caroline Fox, Annette Larder, Peter Von Bergen, Hannah Vincent, Claire Corfe, Radwa Abouhegga, Rebecca Jones, Natalie Radmall-Quirke, Caroline Troup, Karen Brill, Linda Clarke

Thank you for joining ABC to read, we hope you will enjoy the time you spend supporting the children.



Recruiting new volunteers

Thank you to those of you who are helping with our recruitment campaign for new volunteers. If you do require leaflets to put up on local noticeboards, please let us know as we still have many vacancies to fill across Berkshire to meet the demand of our service, as well as to fill those places where volunteers have left. Please feel free to print off the flyer (p4 and attached). Supermarket, coffee shops and library noticeboards are a perfect place for us to attract new volunteers! Thank you

As you know, the service ABC to read provides to Berkshire schools is unique in this county. There are other charities offering a similar service in other parts of the country; for example, Oxfordshire has ARCH, Dorset has Dorset Reading Partners and other areas of England are covered by Coram Beanstalk (formerly Volunteer Reading Help). We all provide fully vetted, trained, and supported volunteers to schools along with the resources to use with the children.

We have come across an organisation called School Readers causing confusion amongst some schools and volunteers. School Readers' offer is entirely different to ours at ABC to read, as with School Readers it is the school's responsibility to carry out DBS checks, as well as any training including safeguarding training, support and to provide resources for School Reader volunteers who listen to children read. This contrasts with the in-depth and comprehensive service provided by ABC to read and our volunteers as School Readers merely matches interested volunteers with schools. The organisation is based in Bedford and only match anyone that is interested in listening to children read to their local school.

To avoid confusion, can you please remember to where you ABC to read lanyard in schools so that you are recognised as an ABC to read volunteer.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED URGENTLY

Help a child find the fun in reading...



Tel: 0118 951 1336

Email: info@abctoread.org.uk

www.abctoread.org.uk



Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1184698



Please note that the office will close for the Easter break on Thursday 7th April and will re-open on Monday 25th April

