



April 2022



Dear all,

We hope you have all had a wonderful Easter and not over indulged with all of those Easter treats!

ABC to read has been nominated for many local authorities awards this year for the work we continue to do in helping raise literacy attainment and I am so pleased to be able to tell you that we have been shortlisted for The Great British Awards, The Charity of The Year Award! This is a huge achievement as there were over 1600 nominations and 127 entries within this category! It is a massive achievement to have been shortlisted!

WE'VE BEEN SHORTLISTED



THE GREAT BRITISH AWARDS
BUSINESS & COMMUNITY
Celebrating the Best of Achievement

**Charity
of the Year**

Join in our Bracknell book hunt!

Have you run out of ideas to keep the children occupied at the weekends?! Join in our Book Hunt...we are hiding books around Bracknell to find.

Find a book, read a book, hide a book!



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, Berk-
shire RG26 4XX

BRACKNELL - 3rd May

9.45am - 11.15am

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.



Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards 2022

Our Wokingham & Bracknell Fieldworker, Claire Tootill, recently attended the Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards 2022 and, on behalf of ABC to read, accepted the Silver award for the 'Lockdown Stars Award' which celebrates those individuals and groups who have gone above and beyond to help their community during the pandemic.

We would not be able to achieve awards such as these without our wonderful team of volunteers, staff, and trustees.



Be a Book Critic competition

We had an overwhelming response to our 'Be a Book Critic' competition and the children clearly learned about critical issues that are relevant to them. We hope to be running further competitions later in the year to help encourage more children with reading.

Below: Volunteer, Lynn, presenting the prize to one of the competition winners



Below: East Berkshire Fieldworker, Lindsey, presenting a certificate and prize to one of the runners-up



Volunteer Position - Grant Writer/Fundraiser

By offering your time to ABC to read, you will be helping our charity gain resources needed to continue to help and support children gain a life skill. The role is crucial to the continued and growing success of the charity.

You will be supporting Marcia to assemble/submit grant requests including writing letters and proposals. The role will consist of Identifying grant opportunities and keeping records.

The role is flexible, candidates must possess excellent written communication and IT skills and the ability to work independently and as a part of a team.

Whilst you will be given the knowledge of the charity fundraising sector, best practices and strategies from Marcia, the role will be based at home.

If you are interested in applying for this role please contact the office: info@abctoread.org.uk

AGM & 'Highlights of the year' meeting

We are holding our AGM via Zoom this year but will also be holding a general meeting showing the highlights of the year on 21st June, 11am—1pm, at the Wokingham Waterside Centre. In addition to the annual highlights the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire will be attending to present certificates to volunteers and one of our patrons will also be performing, the hilarious poet, AF Harrold! You are welcome to come along, and invites will be sent out shortly.

Volunteer workshop

We look forward to seeing many of you at our next Volunteer Meeting in May. If you have yet to register your attendance then please do so by registering online. The link is included in the body of this email along with the password that you will need: workshop2022

Below: Our trustee, Adrian, sat in a 'B Radio Get Involved' studio helping to promote ABC to Read during our recruitment campaign, looking the DJ!



Our volunteer coffee mornings are a great way for volunteers to share ideas with other volunteers and meet new friends.

Below: Wokingham and Bracknell volunteers sharing a coffee!



Pupil survey

We will be sending our annual Pupil Survey to schools this term. This is a simple form that schools complete in respect of each child who has received ABC to read support during the year. Results will be analysed by the office, and we look forward to reporting on the feedback in the autumn. Schools and teachers are very busy and often we need your help to give them a gentle reminder to complete the forms so we can share with you the impact volunteers are having in schools!

ABC to read services

We are fortunate to be well placed to offer additional services to our schools to help with boosting children's reading. These services are:

- ◆ Buddy Programmes - Children being trained to help other children for whom reading is a challenge
- ◆ Workshops to Parents - Showing parents how they can support children at home
- ◆ Parent Helper Training - Giving schools' own army of volunteers the confidence to support struggling readers, making sessions for children fun and enjoyable

If you think your school would benefit from additional support from ABC to read and you can advise your school contact, then do ask them to contact us in the office for further information.

As mentioned in our recent newsletters we are still very much in need of recruiting more volunteers. Please do let us know if you are able to help with our recruitment campaign and place flyers on any of your local noticeboards and we will arrange to get some posted to you.

Please take note of the upcoming book exchange dates at the top of this newsletter and please note the change in times for the Bracknell session.

Despite the extreme pressures of the pandemic for not only the voluntary sector but for ABC to read, we have been able to provide the support that our children need which is fundamentally as a result of our incredible supporters, volunteers, trustees and staff who have continued to work with passion and commitment.

Thank you!



Please note that the office will close for the half-term break on Friday 27th May and will re-open on Monday 6th June

