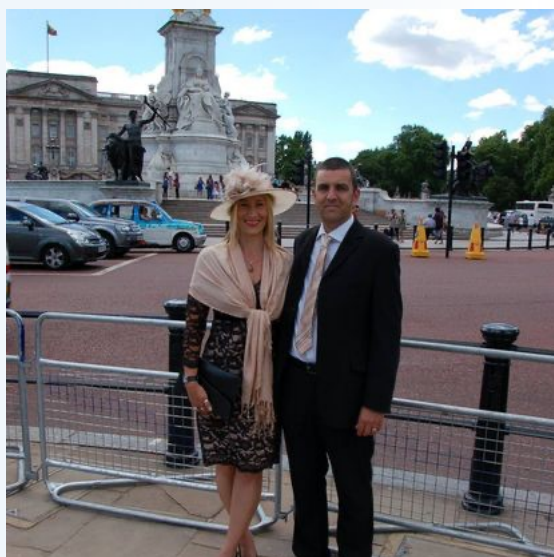


June 2022



Dear all,

We hope you all enjoyed taking part in and celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in your own communities. We have been reminiscing and remembering what an honour it was for me to represent ABC to read and to be invited to attend Buckingham Palace to collect our Queens Award in 2014. It is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK and was a memorable day.



We have carried out our AGM this year with our trustees via Zoom. The aim of our AGM is to provide trustees with the opportunity to vote on business items and approve the accounts. We were hoping to follow the AGM with a general meeting for our volunteers and supporters so that we could share the highlights of the year and present certificates however, due to circumstances, we decided to postpone the general meeting and we hope to combine it with another meeting or training later in the year or share highlights with you at your coffee mornings this term. We recently sent out our annual report to you all and to our supporters electronically and hard copies will be available to you at the next coffee mornings and book exchanges. However, here is a short clip below showing Marcia's message and a brief from the report.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aj41ZHkWGII&ab_channel=ABCtoread

This term the trustees have adopted and approved a risk register to help fulfil regulatory compliance and to stay on top of issues that may or could arise.

They have also reviewed risk assessments, whistleblowing, and staff policies. All major policies are available to view on our website.

BOOK EXCHANGE DATES

WINDSOR - 28th Sept

10.30 - 11.30am

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

READING - 22nd Sept

10.30 - 11.30am

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

BRACKNELL - 27th Sept

9.45am - 11.15am

Jennett's Park Commu-
nity Centre, Tawny
Owl Square, Bracknell
RG12 8EB

WEST BERKS. - tbc

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.





Our volunteer success!

We are delighted to be able to share with you that we are back to where we were with the number of volunteers visiting schools before the pandemic hit us! We are full of hope again that we are returning to more normal times, so we look forward to seeing more of you at our book exchanges, coffee mornings and events this year. We do still have many children waiting for our help and are on our usual recruitment drive so please help us to spread the word about the wonderful work you are doing!

Can you help with your IT skills?

Do we have any techy volunteers amongst you that would be able to create a very simple video clip, perhaps animated, to help with our volunteer recruitment drive? The clip would need to be about a minute long and is for use over social media platforms.

New volunteer roles!

We are looking for School Ambassadors to help us identify and engage with more primary schools to deliver our high-quality service.

We are also looking for Volunteer Ambassadors to help us to advertise and engage with more volunteers to join our team.

For a role description contact info@abctoread.org.uk



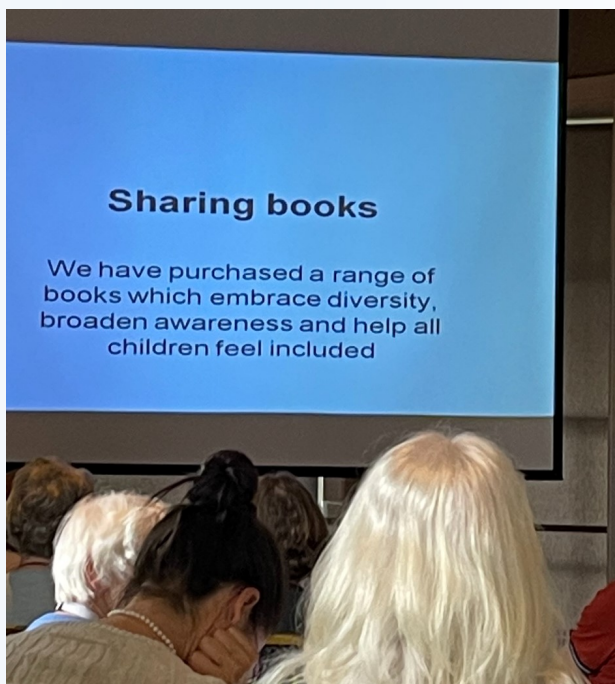
Helping Ukrainian families

Below are a couple of photos from our involvement in organising the Windsor ARK Group (After-school Reading



group for Kids) with the aim of building relationships and providing support to Ukrainian families and their hosts. It was a lovely atmosphere with volunteers from the local community coming along to support. Thanks to our Trustee, Pauline, and ABC Fieldworker, Lindsey, for their involvement in the running of the sessions.

If you would like to help our project by purchasing a bilingual story book for the children we are supporting please contact us for our 'wish list' at info@abctoread.org.uk. Or perhaps we can help with any of your local projects that you are aware of to help Ukrainian children settle into their new schools.



Volunteer workshop

It was wonderful to see so many of our volunteers come along to our training which was based on how to get the most from books with the children they support.



Pupil survey

Our pupil survey has now been sent out to our partner schools, and we hope to be able to share with you all the wonderful feedback we will receive so you can see the impact that we are having as a charity. We may be able to share some of the feedback with our individual volunteers, but we will evaluate the impact and send a full report out to everyone in due course. It can be a hard task in arranging for schools to return the surveys even though the form is a short simple form. Could you please help us and encourage your teacher to return the form to us asap?

Volunteer survey

Thank you to those of you have completed the volunteer surveys which have also been sent out this term. We will evaluate those soon and share the results with you. The main aim of conducting a volunteer survey is to gather feedback from you all so that you can help us guide future decision-making and ensure that our volunteers gain a positive experience with ABC to read.

Amazing feedback from a parent whose child received support from an ABC volunteer!

We rarely hear from parents, so we were particularly pleased to receive this:

"After struggling with his reading in class, my son was allocated a reading tutor from ABC, who spent time with him on a one-to-one basis. This was a real help, and after a few sessions my son suddenly looked forward to his ABC sessions each week. He became very enthusiastic about reading and thoroughly enjoyed the sessions he had. His reading improved so much in the time given and we could see a noticeable improvement in his confidence. I was very grateful he was able to receive such great support and tuition, and really thank ABC for their dedicated tutors who really do make a difference."



A Wokingham thank you!

One of our longest serving volunteers, Cilla, along with other charities, met The Mayor of Wokingham, Cllr Keith Baker MBE, and joined him for tea and cake as a thank you to those who have volunteered throughout the borough. Your support is so valued.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR THE SUMMER AND AUTUMN TERMS

The summer term is always a busy one in schools with lots of events and trips organised for the children. It is a good idea to ask at school, or check the school website and newsletters, for any dates that may affect your children. You may even like to volunteer to help on the trips!!

It is always a good idea to add a note to your diary at the end of term to find out when your school would like you to restart with them in September. You will probably work with new children and a 'Child Details Form' can be requested from your fieldworker.

We hope you find the Special Certificates rewarding when presenting them to your children at the end of term. If you do not have these then please request them from your fieldworker or the office. They can also be printed directly from our website under Volunteer Resources. Just a reminder to please keep your DBS certificate in a safe place. Schools often ask to see our volunteers' certificates, particularly when they are about to undergo OFSTED inspections and the DBS will not produce copies once a certificate is over 3 months old.



Thank you on behalf of the schools and the children that you are supporting.... you are making a real difference to the children's' ability and confidence. Reading is improving and confidence is increasing. We would like to wish you all a very restful and hopefully sunny summer, please remember to mention that you will be back after the summer term.