

well  
together

# ARCH

(ASSISTED READING  
FOR CHILDREN)



ARCh received £11,934.00 to recruit, train, resource and support volunteer reading helpers from the local community to provide one-to-one literacy, mentoring and wellbeing support to children living in Blackbird Leys.



ARCh is dedicated to demonstrating to children the joy of books, by giving them positive experiences to boost their self esteem, and increasing their confidence so that they feel able to enjoy books by the end of a year's support. ARCh also looks to reduce children's reliance on screens and give them all the many wellbeing benefits of reading for pleasure.

## ADDRESSING ONGOING CHALLENGES

All of the children that ARCh are working with in primary schools have been negatively affected by the disruption caused during the COVID-19 pandemic. Children may be struggling and not see themselves as readers, they may not have reading role models in their lives, and have little or no home support for many reasons. Some children have English as an Additional Language. In many busy homes there are few opportunities for chatting or sharing books and games with an adult.

**“You give things, and you get back. Sometimes the teachers will say thank you so much and I try to tell them that actually I am enriched by what I'm doing.”**

Anne, Volunteer





## BUILDING CONFIDENCE TOGETHER

Hearing directly from volunteers highlights the powerful, two-way impact of the programme, on both the children and those supporting them. One volunteer shared that, following the pandemic, she had lost much of her confidence and had not been socialising. Through her involvement, she has not only reconnected with others but is now “shining with pride” at the difference she is making in the children’s lives. She speaks with joy about moments of shared learning - children enthusiastically teaching her football techniques, discovering new words together, and supporting a once-reluctant speaker who now chatters with confidence.



**“Each child gets 20mins reading and 10mins playing. They always bound into the room and ask what are we playing today? And I tell them we have reading to do first.”**

**“It’s fun for the children and fun for me”**  
Kathryn, Volunteer

**“The children have hugely benefited from the ARCh readers and I think they are enjoying it too!”**



**“All the pupils who have had ARCh reading support this term have made accelerated progress compared with their peers so this is having a really powerful impact.”**

Headteacher, Orchard Meadow Primary