



# Onslow Infant School

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Head Teacher: Katherine Donlon

1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Reading Rocket Project

Would you like to be a part of our project named Reading Rocket where we train volunteer parents and carers in how to support children developing their reading skills. These parents commit to short, regular sessions of reading with children who would benefit from this boost. Thank you to those parents and carers who have taken part in our Reading Rocket project in the past - the impact on both progress in reading and self-esteem has been fantastic. The volunteers felt that being part of the project increased their confidence in supporting their own children and could clearly see the difference they were making to the children they read with in school. We really value the time they were able to give to support the children in their learning. Reading is a skill that develops best when practised 'little and often'. Children have lots of opportunities to be heard read throughout the week including reading with a staff member individually or during their phonics lessons. We set up the project to supplement this provision for those who need a little extra practise.

Once the basic skills are in place and children grow in confidence, we see them 'take off' as readers which is why we named our project *Reading Rocket*. We are looking for volunteers to hear children read for 15/20 minutes two/three times per week at drop-off (08:45-09:05) or just before pick-up (14:40-15:00). Reading fits well with the learning activities planned to take place at this time (early work and story time or assembly) and would hopefully be manageable for some of you to coordinate with dropping/collecting your children without having too much impact on the rest of your day. Consistency supports this process so we would like to allocate specific children to volunteers so that they develop rapport with the children and can see the impact of the support that they are providing. Please note that you will not be allocated children in the same class as your child.

At this stage we would like volunteers to register their interest in taking part and give some indication of their availability. We will then be arranging training sessions in the next few weeks to share with you the strategies that we use in an individual reading session to ensure you feel confident in carrying out the role. Volunteers will have support from class teachers throughout the project to see if you need any further training or support.

We are really excited about the impact this project could have again this year so if you think you may be able to take part, please complete the attached form and return it to the school office by **Friday, 17th October**. Volunteers taking part in the project will need to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in order to work with individual children. Further information will be sent to interested volunteers once the expressions of interest have been received.

With thanks from,

**Mrs Pardoe**

**Deputy Head and English Lead**

