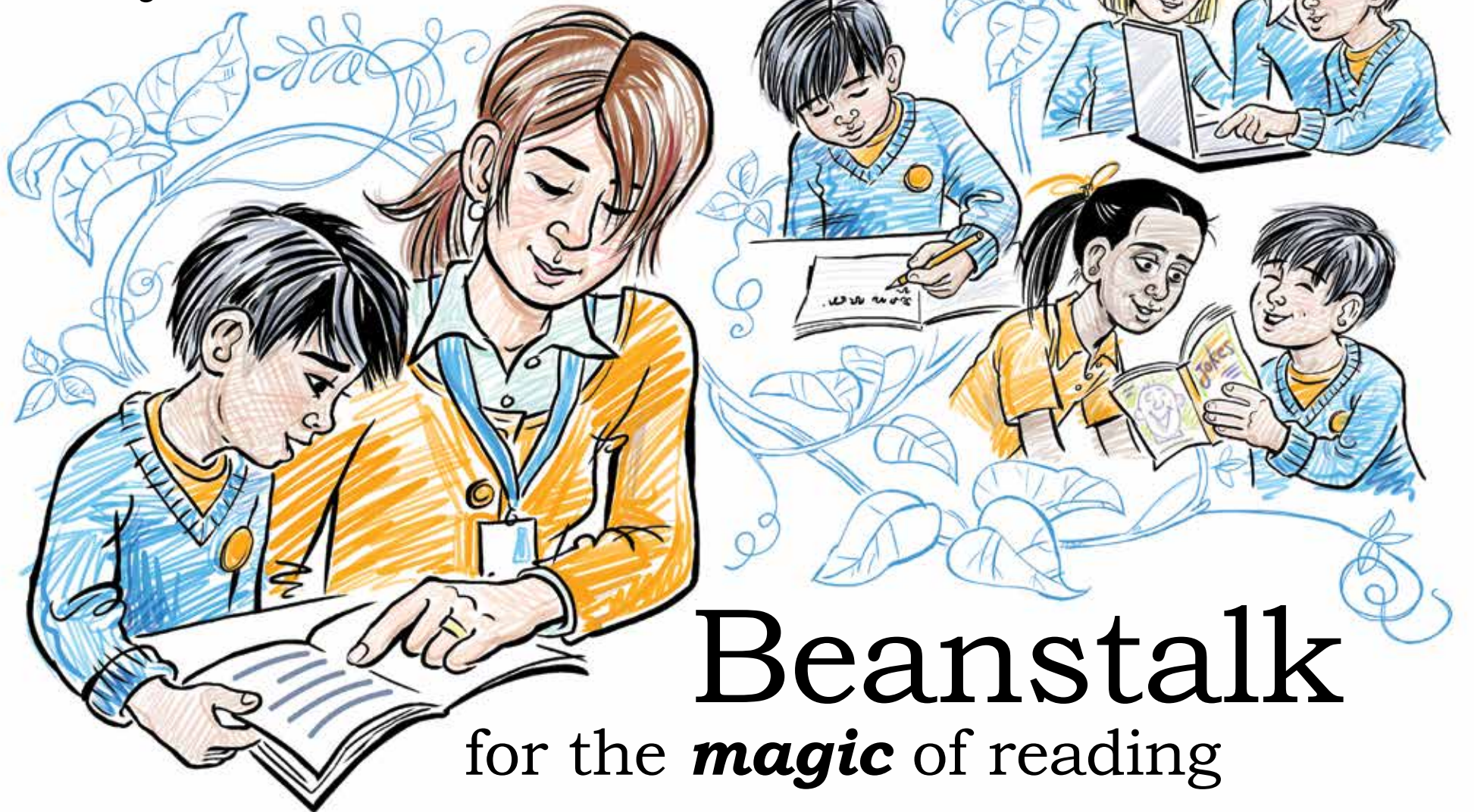


When a child **wants** to read,
you can do the rest.



Beanstalk

for the ***magic*** of reading





Beanstalk: Our story is your story too

For those of us that can read well, and who read for the sheer pleasure of it, a book is more than a story – it is a doorway. A doorway that leads, like Jack's beanstalk in the traditional tale, to a world of fabulous characters, unforgettable adventures, amazing facts, tears, laughter... a world where time stands still and we can relax and learn.

Sadly, as you know only too well, for the many thousands of children who struggle with reading that door remains firmly closed – and entry to success across the curriculum and in life is severely restricted.

Like you, we know that life is better when everyone can read well and express themselves with confidence.

That's where Beanstalk comes in. We recruit, vet, train and support volunteers to provide one-to-one support to children in primary schools who are struggling with reading and confidence.

We help schools to:

- 1 Achieve their targets.
- 2 Enrich children's learning and help every child fulfil their potential.
- 3 Make the best use of time and resources and demonstrate value for money for each child.
- 4 Give children the time to talk about their reading, the time to discuss books with an adult and the time to be a child with a good book.

Over the last forty-plus years we have made giant strides.

- 1 Last year, almost 3,000 trained reading helpers supported nearly 11,000 children in over 1,200 schools in England.
- 2 93% of those children made significant improvements in their reading ability.

Giant impact

“Beanstalk provides an invaluable service to our school. There has been a clear impact on the children in their reading ability as well as a boost in confidence and their engagement in reading.”

Claire Higgins, Inclusion Manager,
St John Fisher RC Primary School





Beanstalk: Our approach

Beanstalk knows that children learn to read through a long process of preparation and skilled professional teaching.

We know that when children actively want to read - when reading turns from a chore into joy - children learn better across the board.

We understand that there isn't always time in school for teachers and teaching assistants to provide continual one-to-one support. And that's where Beanstalk can help.

Our approach is simple but highly effective:

- ① We work closely in partnership with each of our Beanstalk schools to ensure we understand the needs of each child we support.
- ① Each of the children supported by our trained reading helpers receives one-to-one support in two 30-minute sessions a week during term time for a whole year.
- ① Our trained reading helpers create an unpressured environment, away from the classroom, taking time to listen to and get to know each child – a bit like the very best parenting skills on tap for the children who need that kind of help.
- ① We use each child's wider interests to engage them in a variety of materials to find purpose in reading, build their vocabularies, increase reading accuracy and fluency, read with more understanding and increase their motivation to read.
- ① We provide our schools with impact data gathered by our trained reading helpers.

Beanstalk's magic ingredients

Trained reading helpers:

- Use conversation and play purposefully to help children progress along the literacy path.
- Read to children, read with children, support children to read...so they keep improving their reading performance and so that reading becomes a pleasure.
- Introduce the child to an extending range of contemporary, traditional and classic stories, and to non-fiction materials structured in different ways.
- Encourage children to 'have a go', to keep trying when it's difficult, to enjoy achievements... all further increasing their motivation to read.



“ We have been very lucky to have an amazing reading helper who is totally dedicated to our children. She has a deeply, intuitive relationship with the children and quickly understands their specific needs and responds appropriately to them. **”**

Christina O'Malley, SENCO, Our Lady of Grace Junior School

We know what we do works. Our recent school survey showed:

- ① 98% agreed that Beanstalk reading helpers helped the children they support to increase in confidence.
- ① 98% agreed that Beanstalk reading helpers helped the children they support to improve their attitude to reading.
- ① 94% agreed that Beanstalk reading helpers helped the children they support to increase their enjoyment of reading.
- ① 94% agreed that Beanstalk reading helpers helped enrich the learning of the children they support.





Beanstalk's magical one-to-one support

Our recent survey of schools using Beanstalk trained reading helpers showed:

- 🔵 97% of schools would recommend Beanstalk's service to others.
- 🔵 94% agreed that the trained reading helpers in their school delivered a high-quality service.
- 🔵 89% agreed that the trained reading helpers in their school were reliable.
- 🔵 89% agreed that the trained reading helpers in their school were well-trained.



“Before you came I used to read two pages of my book and now I read ten!”

Child to a trained reading helper at St Mary Magdalene Primary School

We are most effective with children who:

- 🔵 Arrive at school with low prior attainment and are not closing the gap or have a widening attainment gap.
- 🔵 Are making less than expected progress or are progressing significantly more slowly than their peers.
- 🔵 Are no longer matching or improving on their previous rate of progress.

Our training ensures reading helpers have the skills to engage, motivate, inspire and encourage children who will benefit from a higher-level of informal adult support.

We offer full training to reading helpers to support, improve, stretch and nurture children. Our reading helpers can help children:

- 🔵 Find reading less of a struggle.
- 🔵 Enrich the reading experience.
- 🔵 Ensure they reach their full potential and develop a love of reading.
- 🔵 Have the confidence and self-esteem to make the most of themselves.

We offer further training for reading helpers who need to:

- 🔵 Support children with Early Years needs, children with English as an Additional Language, Looked After and other groups of 'vulnerable' children or children with more challenging behaviour.
- 🔵 Engage reluctant readers, bridge the actual age vs. reading age gap or assist children ahead of transition.
- 🔵 Deal with sensitive issues or handle cultural diversity.

You will know best which children in your school would benefit most from sustained, one-to-one support from a trained reading helper. And we can work with you to help them.



Perfectly packaged, on target and fun!

Considering that Beanstalk's trained reading helpers are so often the catalyst for the giant strides children make in their reading engagement, ability and confidence, they make very few demands on your time and resources.

- 🔊 Beanstalk takes care of the safe recruitment of volunteers - including DBS checks.
- 🔊 Beanstalk's staff are always available to encourage and support their trained reading helpers and to guide them if they have any concerns.
- 🔊 Our trained reading helpers bring their own resources, including brilliant books and games, and of course topics of conversation to get the children speaking and listening.
- 🔊 We have our own child-friendly reading records to track the child's progress and attitude towards reading. These are completed by the child with the support of their trained reading helper at the beginning and end of the programme.

Becoming a Beanstalk school means that as well as the support of trained reading helpers you also get:

- 🔊 Regular updated lists of brilliant books.
- 🔊 The chance for the children we support in your school to enter the Golden Ticket prize draw to win a dazzling day out to somewhere very special to read such as the Houses of Parliament.
- 🔊 Author visits and other special events if you sign up as a Beanstalk Champion School.
- 🔊 The chance for your children to become judges in the new Beanstalk Children's Book Award.

Our costs

- As a charity, we keep the costs of our trained one-to-one support to a minimum. We match school contributions with other fundraising to enable us to reach more children.
- The school's contribution for the year is **£214 per child**.
- Each of our trained reading helpers supports a minimum of three children with one-to-one support.




“Having found that the impact on reading levels, confidence in reading and self-esteem was so significant in our academy with one Beanstalk volunteer, we decided to continue to pay for a second one and now we have three who visit our school weekly. What a great resource!”

Amanda Chalk, Assistant Principal and SENCO, St James the Great Academy

Our recent school survey showed:

- 🔊 94% agreed that Beanstalk's service was good value for money.
- 🔊 97% agreed that because Beanstalk carries out all the recruitment, DBS-checking, training and support of its volunteers their staff's valuable time was saved.
- 🔊 86% agreed that Beanstalk reading helpers enabled them to offer one-to-one support to children that would be difficult to provide otherwise.



“ It’s all about the quality of the reading helpers ... they sprinkle our children with magical fairy dust and open up the wonderful world of books to them.

Jacqui Lampport, SENCO, Michael Faraday Primary School

”

“ Beanstalk offers reading support in a way that introduces a magic around books to children who might previously have seen them as something difficult to access and introduces to the phonics-entangled child an understanding of the real magic of reading.

Mary Cooper, Head of School, Bushey & Oxhey Infant School

”

“ Beanstalk is about getting that special magic back into reading, encouraging children to read for enjoyment and relaxation. There is a unique bond between the reading helper and the child where they spend quality time talking and playing games to enrich children’s everyday language.

Mrs E Bourdillon, SENCO / Inclusion Manager,
Brunswick House Primary School

”



“ Once upon a time there were 3 children who were not very good at reading. Then one day a beautiful fairy called Pat came to help them. They are very happy now because they can read brilliantly. Thank you Pat. ”

Call us today on
020 7729 4087
to find out more!



Save the Children

Beanstalk and Save the Children working together to support children's literacy

Beanstalk 6 Middle Street, London, EC1A 7JA

T: 020 7729 4087 E: info@beanstalkcharity.org.uk

W: www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 296454 Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

Beanstalk is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and requires all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

A PDF of this document can be downloaded at: <https://www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk/why-become-a-beanstalk-school>

