

## Headteacher's Blog January (2) 2021

### **Covid Catch-up Funding**

In our English Policy we state: 'We want to make learning vivid and real. We want to show children the way to this magical world and to open other doors as well! English is the key to a world of new experience. It can unlock the imagination and open the door to untold knowledge. It is a foundation stone of learning. We aim to:

- To provide a language rich environment that promotes a culture of reading and writing;
- To develop in pupils an interest in, and a love of, books and literature that will not only support their learning across the curriculum, but also enrich their lives;
- To teach children the craft of writing, in order to develop the confidence and skills to write well for a range of purposes and audience;
- To teach the basics - spelling, handwriting and punctuation - to liberate creativity;
- To foster in pupils, the confidence, desire and ability to express their views, opinions and imagination, both orally and in writing;
- To value and celebrate diversity in culture and language.

Due to the challenges of repeated lockdowns, we have decided to spend the majority of our Government allocated 'catch-up' fund (£80 per pupil) on **all** pupils to support access to e-books, and the 'Accelerated Reader' programme for Key Stage 2 pupils for at least the next 3 years.

Having looked at a range of options for maths interventions, we believe that using class teachers to deliver pre-learning and consolidation work is the best way forward, as well as using existing interventions, such as IDL Maths, rather than remote tutors, which we have tried once before. This is in-line with the National Maths Hub approach. We have already been delivering teacher led catch-up sessions for Year 6 pupils, as well as adapting the continuous provision for Year 1 pupils.

### **E-book Access for All**

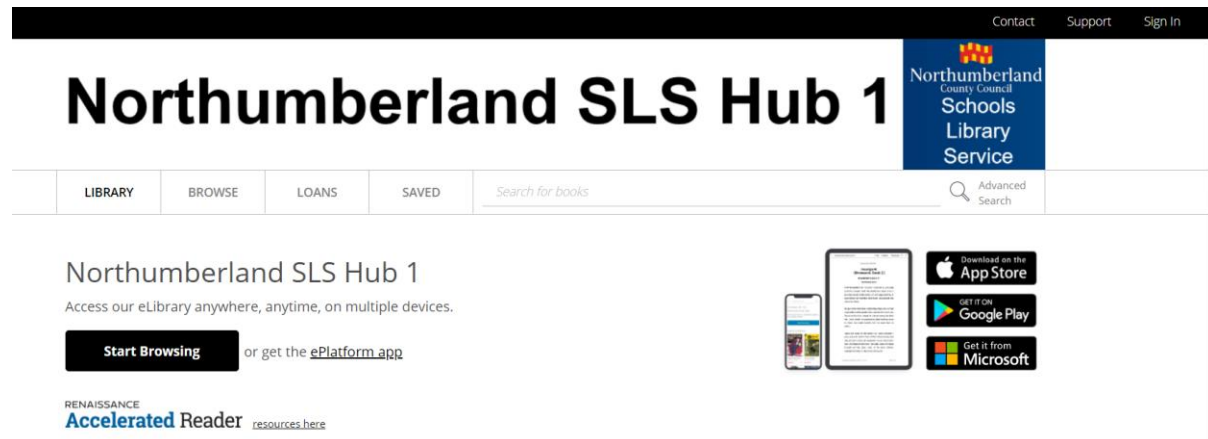
I am delighted to let you know that all Ellingham pupils will be given login details for access to our new 'e-book Hub' via the Northumberland Schools Library Service. Individual login details will be sent out on Friday. Pupils can then login via the link below.

You can access this site on a range of devices and there is a mobile app too.

<https://northumberlandslshub1.eplatform.co/browse/accread>

Pupils will need to 'sign-in' on the top right of the login page, as seen below.

Pupils can be supported to change how books look on their device, such as font size, text and background colour, to make access easier, especially for pupils with additional needs.



Pupils are able to choose two books at a time. These can be ones they can read independently, or share with an adult. The system logs the books read, so we can keep a check on the variety and breadth of pupil reading choices.

As we have purchased a 3-year subscription to 'Accelerated Reader', this can be seen on the e-books login page, however, this will not start until the end of the current lockdown. It will take us a while to organise and log our Library stock on the AR system. Also we need to have pupils back in school to carry out initial reading assessments, before this can be fully rolled-out to all key Stage 2 pupils. I will let you know as soon as this is fully operational, so just ignore the link at the moment.

### Google Classroom

I am loving the ability to have rapid interaction, feedback and marking with this system. It was lovely to see KS1 'virtually together' on Tuesday during their 'meet'. There is superb home learning evidence on tapestry too!

Thank you for all you are doing to support learning at home. Hopefully, we can all be back learning together soon.

Keep staying safe!

Diane Lakey