



# **First News. Proven to improve children's reading attitudes and skills.**

A National Literacy Trust evaluation of the *First News* Reading Package in schools found that children made *'significant progress in reading and their motivation to read more widely increased.'*

*First News* is the award-winning weekly national newspaper for children aged 7 to 14, with over two million readers every week. Experienced *First News* journalists provide up-to-date, insightful and dynamic articles on a range of subjects from entertainment to politics, sport to science, as well as all of the major news stories from the UK and around the world.

The *First News* Reading Package also offers teachers weekly downloadable, topical reading activities to engage pupils and support their reading development, including questions, quizzes, puzzles and a debate resource.

#### **FIRST NEWS:**

**"Using *First News* and the reading activities has been so productive and rewarding both for the pupils, who thoroughly enjoyed it, and for those of us who have seen their confidence and interest in reading soar."**

STITCH BYRNE, TEACHER, PERROT HILL SCHOOL



National  
Literacy  
Trust

**FirstNews**  
the weekly newspaper for young people

# The impact of *First News* activities in schools.

The National Literacy Trust evaluated the impact of taking part in *First News* activities in schools. An online survey and reading test conducted among over 500 children in Years 3 to 6 before and after participation in classroom activities showed positive changes in both reading attitudes and attainment.

## Significant improvement in reading skills:

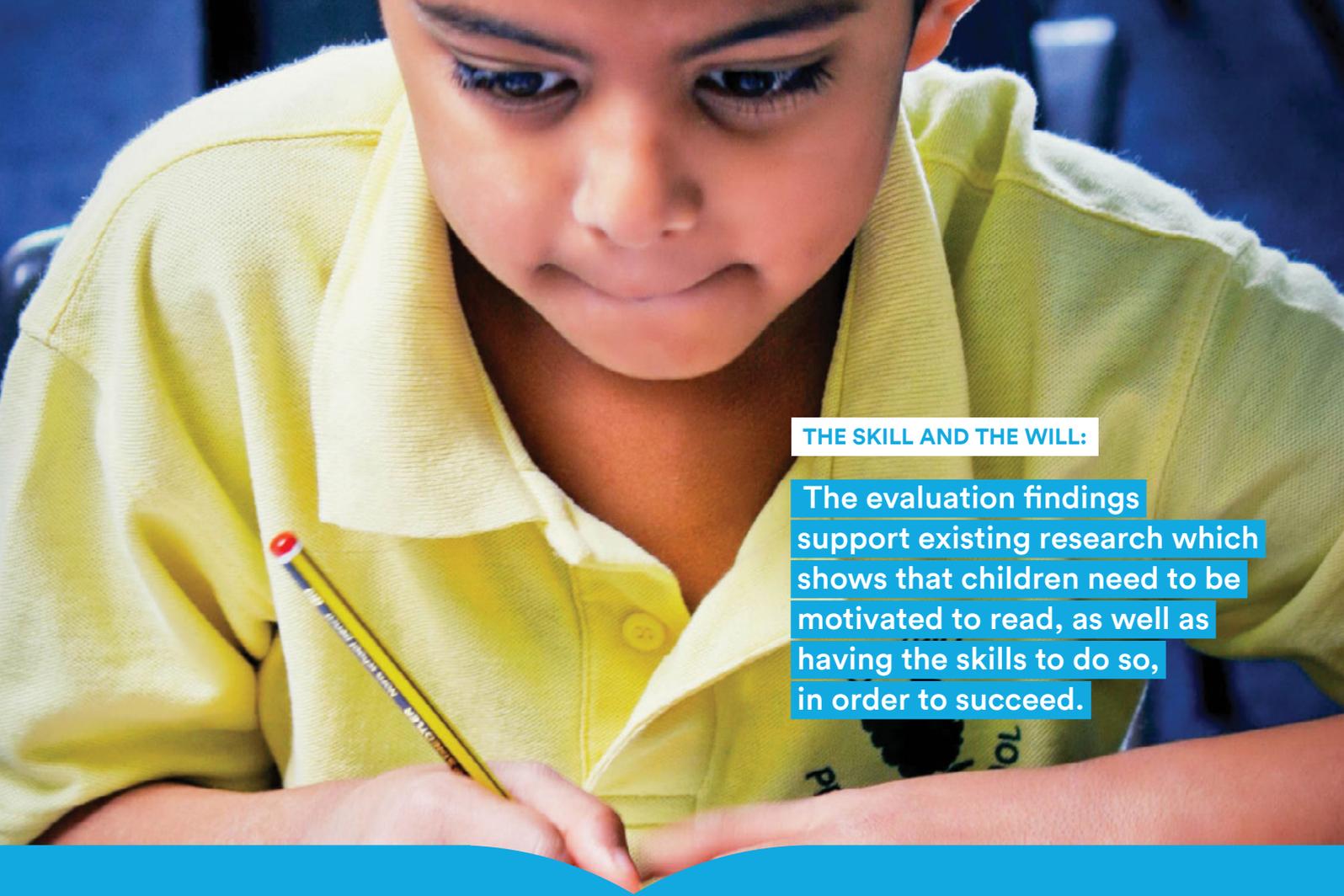
- Participating children made significantly more reading progress than expected during the eight-week period (measured using the New Group Reading Test)
- There were particular improvements in children's inferential knowledge and deduction skills
- Children had or developed more confidence in their own reading abilities

## Increased motivation to read more widely:

- There were significant increases in the number of pupils reading other materials in their free time including both fiction books and non-fiction books
- Children became 50% more likely to read newspapers in their free time (42% versus 28%)
- Three quarters of children now think newspapers are interesting and more than half think they are fun

To view the full report visit [www.firstnews.co.uk/go/nlt](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/go/nlt)





**THE SKILL AND THE WILL:**

The evaluation findings support existing research which shows that children need to be motivated to read, as well as having the skills to do so, in order to succeed.

# First News Reading Package – Supporting the National Curriculum.

The Reading Package supports statutory requirements of the National Curriculum for children to read a range of non-fiction material, discussing what they have read and asking questions to improve understanding. Schools can subscribe to get copies of *First News* delivered to their school and online access to the accompanying teaching activities for Years 2 to 9.

Teachers can spark early engagement in current affairs with their pupils and get them excited about reading different texts with:

- Comprehension questions that focus on specific news stories
- Puzzles to build vocabulary and understanding of a news story
- A weekly debate resource on a topical issue
- Quizzes to encourage pupils to find topical information

A subscription costs from £295. Find out more and subscribe at [www.firstnews.co.uk/forschools](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/forschools)

**BECOMING A COMPLETE READER:**

Skill	Will
Phonetics	Interest
Fluency	Motivation
Comprehension	Engagement
Semantics	Attitude
Syntax	

From 'Igniting a Passion for Reading: Successful Strategies for Building Lifetime Readers' by Steven Layne



# Feedback from teachers and pupils.

## IN THE WORDS OF TEACHERS...

**“**We have lengthy discussions about what pupils read in *First News*. I've had reports from parents about the discussions that are taking place at home, round the dinner table, in the car on the way to and from school, walking the dog!”

ISABEL PORTER, YEAR 4 TEACHER, FITTLESWORTH PRIMARY

**“**I've seen so many positives from using the newspapers and resources during our Guided Reading sessions. Particularly with reluctant readers who enjoyed being able to be in control of what, and where, they started reading the newspaper from. The stories became great conversation starters and really supported the children in developing their justification and opinion-giving skills.”

EMILY WARRICK-BAKER, YEAR 3 TEACHER AND READING LEADER, ALDERSBROOK PRIMARY

## IN THE WORDS OF PUPILS...

**“*First News* changed my thinking of news.”**

**“It's amazing and helps me find out more about what is going on in the world.”**

**“I love the interesting stories and feel comfortable reading everything in the newspaper.”**

**“I enjoy it and I like it when we do different activities.”**

For more information, visit [www.firstnews.co.uk/forschools](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/forschools)



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