



FIRST NEWS. PROVEN TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S READING ATTITUDES AND SKILLS.

An independent National Literacy Trust evaluation of the First News activities 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 Activities also provide teachers with differentiated comprehensions, word puzzles, quizzes and debates all based on the week's news. These Key Stage 2 and 3 activities are designed to develop pupils' knowledge, ideas, opinions, vocabulary and core reading skills.

"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, PERROTT HILL SCHOOL



FirstNews 
EDUCATION

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 and deduction reading comprehension 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 more likely to read newspapers in their free time
- 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/nlt



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

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 ACTIVITIES PACKAGES

First News activities support 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 Key Stages 2 and 3).

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

- Comprehension questions to develop understanding of specific news stories
- Puzzles to build vocabulary within the context of a news story
- A weekly poll on a topical issue
- Fortnightly topical debates to develop reasoned opinions
- Quizzes to locate topical information within the newspaper

The iHub, our digital literacy platform, builds on these activities to create a highly engaging and motivating tool to use in class or at home.

Find out more and subscribe at:
www.firstnews.co.uk/schools



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, FITTLEWORTH 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/schools



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to the pupils and teachers at the following schools that took part in this research project:

Aldersbrook Primary School, Redbridge
Amherst Junior School, Kent
Charmouth Primary School, Dorset
Fittleworth C of E Village School, West Sussex
Newbury Park Primary School, Redbridge
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Redbridge
Parish C of E Primary School, Kent
Perrott Hill School, Somerset

EMAIL: SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK

PHONE: 0203 195 7256