

# Welcome to Doorstep Library

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# Why does Doorstep Library exist?

We want to see a world where **all children are thriving** in homes where **books are celebrated** and a **love of reading is embraced**.

**BUT.....**

A background image showing two young children, a girl on the left and a boy on the right, sitting and reading books. The image is dimmed and has a dark purple overlay. The girl is looking down at her book, and the boy is also looking down at his book.

# One in four 11-year-olds leave Primary School unable to read well

It's very difficult to enter secondary school if you're not a confident reader and children in that position can find it very hard to ever catch up.

Unfortunately, educational inequality continues to be a growing problem, with four in every ten children living in households in poverty.

A young child with curly hair is shown from the chest up, holding an open book and looking down at it with a smile. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting. The entire image has a semi-transparent dark purple overlay.

# Reading for pleasure is the strongest indicator of a child's future success in life

According to UNESCO, the biggest single indicator of whether a child is going to thrive at school and in work is whether they read for pleasure.

Young people who read outside of class are **13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age.**



# How is Doorstep Library different?

- We're directly in the home bringing the reading directly to them whether in person or virtually.
- We instil a love of reading for pleasure rather than focusing purely on attainment. It's not only to improve children's future life chances, but to ensure all children are enjoying reading as part of their childhood.
- We encourage the whole family to get involved in the session and provide additional support for parents as we build relationships with them over time.





# Our Reading sessions



# What happens in an Online Reading session?

You will:

- Meet with your volunteer partner online at the beginning of your shift to plan the sessions and chose the right books from our online resources.
- Visit 3 families online using Doorstep Library Zoom account
- 20-minute sessions
- Have fun!
- Engage parents and build relationships

\*If you are a regular Online Reading Volunteer, you may need to ring your families if they are running late to the session. This means you will be sharing your number with families for the purpose of the sessions only.





# Becoming a Reading Volunteer

# What makes a Doorstep Library Volunteer?

**Non-  
judgemental  
and empathetic**

**At ease with  
children**

**Respectful and  
patient**

**Creative**

We welcome people from all walks of life and children we read with really benefit from a diverse team of volunteers. You don't need any teaching or childcare qualifications. You need to be confident speaking and reading English. Our youngest volunteer is 21 and our oldest 78, so age is never a barrier.

# Regular Volunteers

Visit 3 families

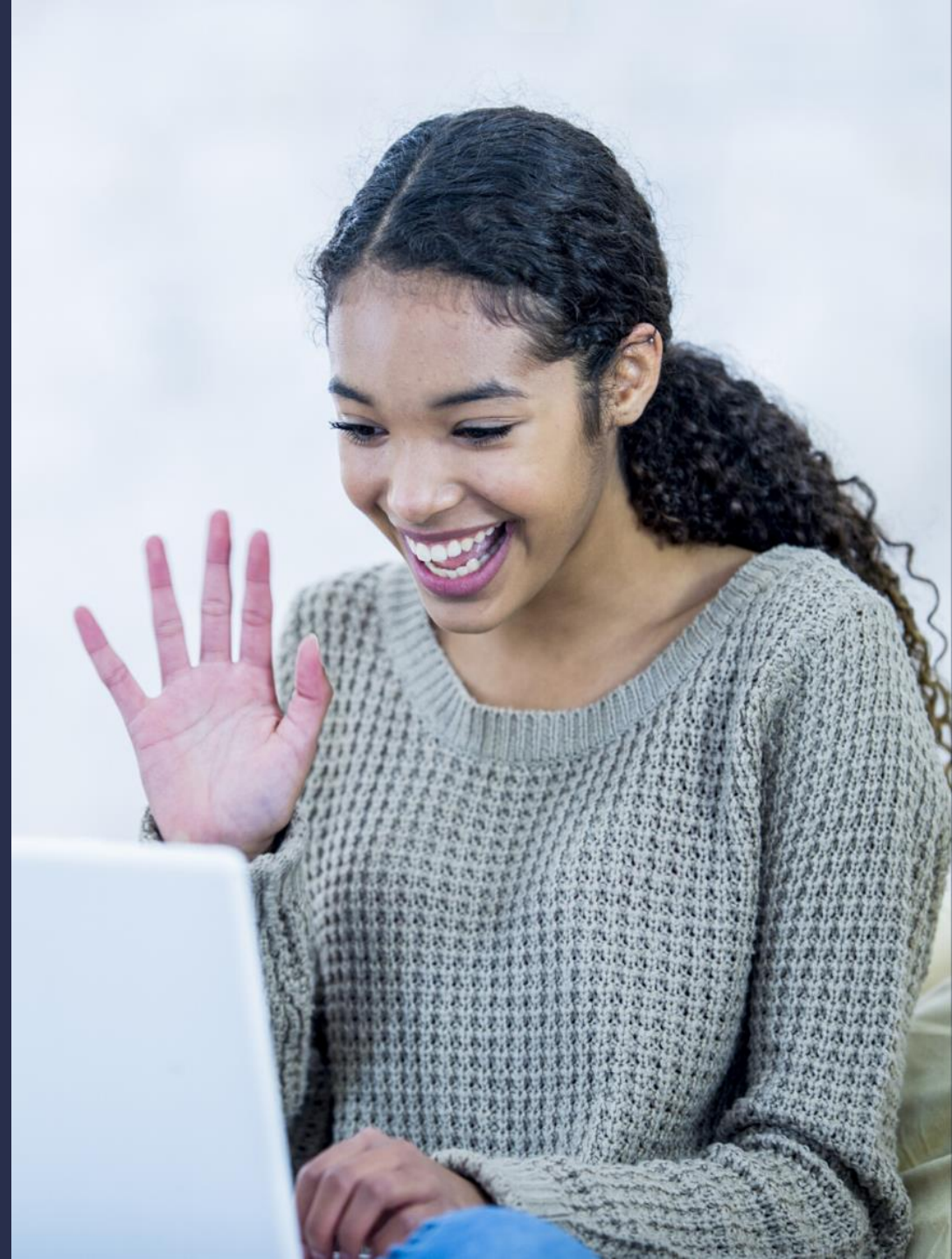
Same day and time every week (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday)

Same volunteer partner

2 hours a week during school term time only. Altogether you will volunteer **32 weeks** of the year

Nine months commitment: benefits of the reading sessions really start increasing over time when children get used to the same volunteers, and you get to know your families.

80% of school term: we understand that you might be on holidays or feel unwell, so we expect regular volunteers to be able to attend 80% of the scheduled sessions





# Stand-in volunteers

## Online

Volunteer when a regular reader can't attend a session. Being a stand in volunteer is a great opportunity to meet and work with different volunteers and families and provides you with more flexibility as you don't need to commit to weekly visits.

Visiting 3 families

Choose the day (or days) when you can volunteer

Volunteer Coordinators will get in touch with you as and when opportunities arise to volunteer.

Stand-in volunteers should be able to do one reading session every 3 weeks on average during the school year (you are always welcome to do more)



# When are our sessions and what is the time commitment?

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
ONLINE READING 4.30 to 6.30pm	✓	✓	✓

You must be able to commit to the whole time slot. Unfortunately, volunteers are not able to start later than 4.30pm as we only offer reading sessions to families once children have finished school and before the family has dinner.



# Volunteer benefits



# Why volunteer with us?

“

- It's incredibly fun! You get to explore your inner child and share your passion for books and reading.
- You will be a part of the Doorstep Library community of families, volunteers and staff members.
- You can make a real difference to the lives of others.
- You give back to the community you live in or the community you visit every week.
- You build your confidence and improve your self-esteem.
- You develop skills and enhance your C.V.

”



# Building relationships

“

In six months the children have grown up in so many ways. They are such a fabulous group of people. It's such an interesting experience and so much love comes back to me.

- Leonida

”



# As a Reading Volunteer you can make a difference

Click on the link below to watch a video of some of the children we read with speaking about what they like about Doorstep Library:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLYzvmNJf\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLYzvmNJf_Q)





**How do you get involved?**

# Application process

**Application  
form**

**Interview**

**DBS  
check**

**Online  
training**

**Trial  
sessions**

**Full  
volunteer**

- The email you have received contains a link to an application. You can choose only one of the roles on the application.
- After you've completed your application, our Volunteer Recruitment Officer will be in touch to arrange an online interview. The interview gives us the opportunity to find out more about you and gives you the opportunity to ask any further questions you may have.
- We will then send you instructions to complete your DBS. This is a criminal record check, and because we work with children, we do an enhanced checked check. You must have a permanent UK address so that we can process a DBS check for you. It is okay to join an online reading session from abroad if you are away temporarily.
- When filling in the application, you will be asked to provide names of two referees, and these will be contacted and asked to provide a reference.
- You will then do your training, which is a mixture of pre-recorded sessions to be done at your own time as well as a live interactive session on Zoom where you can ask questions and speak to our Projects team in person. The training includes an in-depth safeguarding section as well as sections on what books to choose, how to access the online sessions, how to engage with children and parents and everything else you need to know before you start your sessions.

# Thank you!

**If you have any questions or comments, please contact:**

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