

WHAT OUR TEACHERS SAY

Click on the names of our teachers below to find out what they have to say about Chapter One.



[Eddi Miller, Assistant Headteacher, Harbinger Primary School, Tower Hamlets](#)



[Melissa Allen, teacher, Globe Primary School, Tower Hamlets](#)



[Lydia Girdham, teacher, Globe Primary School, Tower Hamlets](#)



[Olga Down, teacher, Sacred Heart Primary School, Middlesbrough](#)

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TEACHER
EAST SUSSEX

More often than not, the first thing the children do in the morning is check the Chapter One laptop in hope that today is their reading session. They all treasure and enjoy their sessions, this has reflected in wonderful progress for the pupils.

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TEACHER
CUMBRIA

A huge thank you for providing us with a seamless intervention which runs as a huge success across our school. The one-to-one reading support that your volunteers provide to our children is like gold dust!

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TEACHER
DONCASTER

The children are thoroughly enjoying Chapter One and we are already seeing such a difference with their confidence. Thank you for offering us the opportunity - we really do appreciate it and don't take it for granted!

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TEACHER
LONDON

I see the impact every week. The children look forward to their sessions, reading and playing games with their volunteers. Chapter One helps build reading confidence, self-esteem, and a love of reading. It's an amazing programme to be part of.

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TEACHER
KEIGHLEY

Honestly, the children absolutely love it. I hear them giggling and really getting involved with their conversations about what they're reading too.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF MALE VOLUNTEERS

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TEACHER
LONDON

All of the reading volunteers have been incredible and have had a great impact on the development of the children's reading which I have been able to assess as they continue to progress through the reading levels. One area in which we've seen a significant impact is through **the involvement of male volunteer readers**. These volunteers, who give their time to read with male pupils, have been a powerful and positive presence in our school community.

Many of our students are from homes where they may not have a male figure who reads with them or supports their literacy development. In these cases, having a male volunteer reader helps fill an important gap, **offering them a different perspective and a sense of connection to a male role model they might not have at home**. For many, this experience is incredibly meaningful, giving them an opportunity to engage with someone who can relate to their experiences and interests in a way that may be different from a female teacher or caregiver.

While our school is fortunate to have a wonderful and dedicated team of teachers, most are female, the presence of male volunteer readers offers a refreshing and vital contrast. It helps **break down the barriers** that some male students may feel when they see so many of their teachers as women, creating a more balanced learning environment. The relationships formed through these reading sessions allow for more individualised, trusting connections, which can positively influence students' **academic engagement and self-confidence**.

The impact on our male pupils is undeniable. Not only do they benefit from improved literacy skills, but they also develop a deeper understanding of healthy, positive male involvement in their educational journey. The male volunteer readers provide valuable insight into how men can be involved in their learning and development, helping to challenge stereotypes and set a lasting example of what it means to be an engaged and compassionate individual.

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TEACHER
CUMBRIA

For many of the children accessing Chapter One, this is the only time they get half an hour of attention focussed on them and we have found this has a positive impact on their reading improvement.

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WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS SAY

**JULIE LAWTON-KELLETT
DELOITTE**

I truly recommend Chapter One to anyone who is interested in supporting children to read. It is so rewarding and I have taken part for the past three years. Every child is individual, they have their own personalities, and each one makes the Chapter One initiative so enjoyable and worthwhile.

**ROB MCBRIDE
AMENTUM**

When volunteering or more broadly doing something extra is mentioned, it's easy to say 'I'm too busy' or 'I'll never find the time'. Chapter One makes the scheduling process so simple, it quickly becomes part of the working week. My reading session is my favourite meeting of the week!

**JESSICA WILLIAMS
ALFRED H KNIGHT**

Volunteering for Chapter One has been incredibly rewarding and offers a refreshing break from my usual working day. It feels genuinely meaningful to play a small part in building a child's confidence.

**VICTORIA BURDETT
JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS**

I started as a Chapter One volunteer this year, and it has undoubtedly been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. I read for 30 minutes a week with my student, and hearing them improve in their literacy and confidence skills every week is incredible.

It's easy to think you're "too busy" to get involved in opportunities like this. But 30 minutes out of a 40-hour work week is only 1.25% of your time. Please think about it this way next time you hear about volunteer opportunities.

**STEVE BROWN
UNUM**

You can just tell you're making a difference. Getting feedback from the teacher that your pupil wouldn't be spending this amount of time reading if it wasn't for the programme is very rewarding, and it gives you a break from the working day too.

**REBECCA A.
SERCO**

Today, was my first Chapter One reading session. My Year 2 pupil joined the call briefly before dropping off, only to return a few moments later (with what I believe was a quick cameo from a friend!). Once she had (somewhat) settled, we had a lovely chat about her favourite animal, lions and our shared love of pizza. Somehow, I ended up being the story reader today! 'The Frog', what a wonderful story. We finished the session with some lion impressions. I am so pleased to be part of this initiative. For the joy, for the cause, and for the rediscovery of the magic I once found in these lovely, simple, reading books.



**Watch this video to find out
what our volunteers from
Wavenet have to say about
volunteering with Chapter One.**