

# Literacy Today No. 95

April 2021

## News

### 1 Four-year COVID catch-up plan

Over Easter the media reported on leaked speculation that the Government was planning to introduce a plan for a four-year catch-up programme for children.

### 3 FETL publishes new Skills for Life action plan

The Further Education Trust for Leadership has published its *Skills for Life: A New Strategy for English, Maths, ESOL and Digital* action plan.

### Early years language intervention

The Government has announced that it will invest a further £8 million in the roll out of the Nuffield Early Language Intervention to support oral language development in the early years.

### 4 #Literacy Works Week 2021

Unionlearn has organised the fifth Literacy Works Week to celebrate reading, writing and language.

### 2021 Books Unlocked reading list

The Government has announced that tens of thousands of adults will be able to benefit from almost 400 free courses in 2021.

### 5 Overcoming adversity through literacy

A 7-year-old non-verbal girl overcomes extreme conditions through literacy.

### The Phonics Screening Check

An FOI request forces the DfE to reveal more about the Phonics Screening Check.

## Research

### 6 Families Connect supports families and the home learning environment

Families Connect has been subject to an efficacy randomised control trial.

### 7 Analysis of primary school performance in reading assessments

Analysis examined Year 2 pupils' performance in maths and reading tests in November 2020.

### 8 Lower attaining children's learning threatened by performativity culture

Lower attaining' children's learning is threatened by a systemic culture which focuses on performance rather than learning.

## Feature

### 9 Frank Smith: A tribute

Margaret Clark writes a tribute about the renowned literacy academic Frank Smith, who has died.

## Document reviews

### 10 English language and literacy in Wales

*English Language and Literacy in Settings and Primary Schools: Government response.* The Welsh Government's response to Estyn's report and recommendations.

### 11 Skills for Life: A new strategy for English, Maths, ESOL and Digital

*Skills for Life: A New Strategy for English, Maths, ESOL and Digital - Learning from the past to improve the future. Next Stage 2021-2031*, from FETL.

## Parliament - Debates

### 12 Prison education programmes

During questions to the Ministry of Justice, Ministers were asked what funding had been provided for technology to support prison education programmes.

### Restrictions on prison educators

The UCU has complained about COVID restrictions on its prison members.

### Early years settings

During DfE questions a question was asked about early years settings post COVID.

## Parliament - Committees

### 12 White working class deprived pupils

The Education Select Committee continued taking evidence for its inquiry.

## Parliament - Questions

### 12 Oral parliamentary written questions

Answers to oral questions in both Houses.