

# Supporting Teachers and Librarians to Engage Children in Reading and Learning

Gillian Harris MBE

Head of Tower Hamlets Schools Library Service



# What do Schools Library Services do?



- Advise schools and provide training on
  - creating, managing and developing school libraries
  - teaching information literacy skills to enable children to become independent learners
  - creating a reading culture.
- Lend carefully chosen resources to support teaching and learning in the classroom and to support wider reading for pleasure and enjoyment.
- Organise a range of creative literature events to promote reading for pleasure



# Tower Hamlets Schools Library Service



All of the above – plus

- Provide schools with a primary school librarian for a few hours each week

Why?



# A Primary School Librarian will:



- **Support children's learning by**

- Promoting enjoyment of, and excitement about, reading
- Establishing skills for independent learning and assist in the delivery of information skills teaching in the school

- **Support the teaching staff by**

- Identifying and buying quality resources for the school library and classroom libraries to deliver the wider curriculum
- Assisting in the delivery of information skills teaching in the school
- Selecting resources from the Schools Library Services

- **Support the school by**

- Managing and promoting the school library and teacher resources, ensuring consistency and maintaining quality



# Contract details



- Contracts are for a minimum of one year
- Can be from half a day to three days a week, term time only
- SLS manages the employment and training of the librarian
- School provides day-to-day management



# What can be achieved in half a day a week?

- Library is in good working order so that children can use it all week
- Librarian brings information into the school about reading programmes and events the school can take part in, and potential sources of funding
- Librarian has detailed book knowledge to advise teachers on what books to have in class, backed up by librarians at SLS
- Librarian ensures the school gets value for money from their SLS subscription
- With good liaison with e.g. literacy lead, annual programme of reading events can be developed



# Reading Clubs

- An ideal way to target children
  - Gifted readers who need more stimulation
  - Reluctant readers who need encouragement to pick up a book
  - Children who have fallen behind
- With careful liaison with the literacy lead, a series of book clubs can be established
  - Lunch time
  - After school
  - In class time
- The Reading Agency's Chatterbooks model is a good model to use



# Issues that can occur

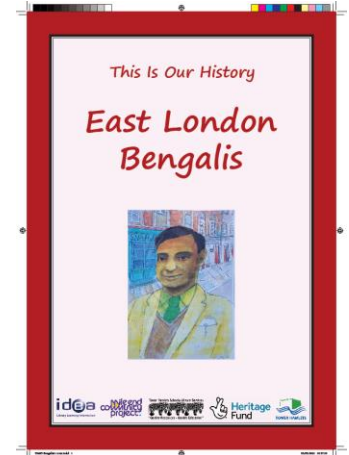


- There is much more than 3.5 hours a week's worth of work to do!
- Can be difficult to find time to liaise with teaching staff / literacy lead
- Money for buying new books is not forthcoming





# Lending Quality Resources



**Not just books!**



# Costumes – world and history



Costume dolls from around the world



# Story puppets and story sacks



## Story Tents



# and...



- Artefacts
- Posters
- Picture Packs
- Science artefacts
- Musical instruments
- Multi-sensory stories
- Braille books
- Literacy and numeracy games



# Global Learning London



- **You Me Story** – non-binary storytelling
- **Storysilience** – collecting covid / lockdown stories
- **Shared Ground** – migration and refugees
- **Anti-Racism in the Classroom**
- **The Linking Network** – linking mainstream and special school classes

[www.globallearninglondon.org](http://www.globallearninglondon.org)



# Events

- Tower Hamlets Book Award
- KS2 and KS3 Poetry Slams
- Creative Writing Competition
- Author / poet workshops

# Advice / training



- School libraries
- Information skills / digital skills
- Creating a reading culture
- Stock audits / book buying
- Library software support



# SLS-UK



Consortium of schools library services in UK (well, England, but we're in touch with Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland)

Aim is to ensure any school anywhere can access a schools library service

<https://sls-uk.org>



# Inside Sparks

The development of independent learners starts with inside sparks – igniting classroom curiosity, supporting literacy skills, creating a reading culture and fuelling digital fluency.

Run by experienced qualified librarians, our mission is to be a catalyst for learning by providing teachers and schools with the ideas, research and resources they need to deliver





# INSIDE EDITION

Listen. Nurture. Enthuse. Question. Debate.



## Promoting Peace and Resilience in Times of Conflict

Coverage about Ukraine is everywhere for children to hear and pick up; TV and news programmes, parents and carers discussing at the school gate. Dhru Runtun suggests the



## Picture books for maths

This article by Wanda Gajewski from Wandsworth SLS contains some ideas how to teach young children mathematics. ...

READ MORE →

STEM



# Webinars



WEBINAR – 26 JANUARY

People, Plot & Place  
Using intrigue to engage readers  
An author's perspective



Guest Speaker  
Sharna Jackson

## Webinar: Sharna Jackson

Sharna will explore how she uses intrigue to engage readers. For the start of 2022 this webinar is open to everyone (members and non-members)...

[READ MORE →](#)

WEBINAR

WEBINAR – 9 MARCH

Curriculum & Collaboration in Schools  
How librarians create change



Guest Speaker  
Elizabeth Hutchinson BEM

## Webinar: Elizabeth Hutchinson

This webinar will look at how collaboration between teachers and school libraries can further the aims of the school and ensure it becomes an integral part of the education process. We will look at ways teachers can work with libraries...

[READ MORE →](#)

BOOKING OPEN

WEBINAR

*Banish the boredom: Engaging with reluctant readers and writers*

*With Lisa Williamson*

*22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022*



# Enquire

Easy-to-use, interconnected and efficient, we've taken the hassle out of procuring the right library services for your school.



Thank you

[gillian.harris@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.harris@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

[towerhamlets-sls.org.uk](http://towerhamlets-sls.org.uk)

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