

PALS UPDATE: Opportunity Extended to Mixed Age Classes

Dear Headteacher

Nottingham Trent University and the University of Birmingham are working together to trial a reading comprehension and fluency intervention entitled **Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS-UK)** in the academic year of 2022/2023. The trial is funded by the Department for Education Accelerator Fund and the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and will be independently evaluated by Manchester Metropolitan University.

Please see note below from Dr Emma Vardy

PALS is a structured whole class paired reading intervention developed by Vanderbilt University in the US to train reading fluency and comprehension (<https://frg.vkcsites.org/what-is-pals/>). Existing research suggests that PALS can benefit schools in multiple ways. We wish to build on this evidence-base and have developed PALS-UK for the UK context. For the trial PALS-UK will be delivered to Year 5 classes for 20 weeks (3 x 30-35 minute sessions each week) beginning Autumn 2022, in those schools allocated to the intervention group. All the resources and training will be provided to schools that wish to take part. This intervention is currently only available through this trial. We are currently recruiting schools in the local area. You would have been previously informed that mixed classes are not eligible for the trial, we are now recruiting schools with mixed classes to the trial. Therefore we hope you can join us on **Tuesday 3rd of May at 8am** to hear more about the trial. To book a place please contact Dr Emma Vardy via emma.vardy@ntu.ac.uk.

Best Wishes

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