



Thank you so much for expressing an interest in volunteering your time to support the children at Fairmeadows Primary School with their learning. Volunteers in schools make a remarkable difference – they change children’s lives! Choosing a book together, listening to readers and talking about books is an incredible gift that you can offer our children. Having time to support children, connecting with them, talking with them and really getting to know them as learners is rewarding and will leave you feeling you have made a difference!

### **Why are we looking for volunteers?**

The disruptions to school life over the last two academic years have had a huge impact on children across the country. All children’s learning, play and development has been interrupted in some way. Undoubtedly, there have been some children who will have benefited from learning alongside adults at home and having a wealth of opportunities while there are many other children who have not had such enriching experiences during lockdown and it is really important that we ensure we do all we can to support these children with getting back on track. The coming months and years will see the school working even more closely in partnership with parents and the wider community, to support the children with their learning.

### **Who are we looking for?**

We are looking for adults who value learning and enjoy spending time with children who can consistently volunteer at least an hour a week to being in school. Ideally.

### **Can I volunteer in the class with my child or grandchild?**

Once we get a sense of the number of volunteers interested in getting involved we will be able to look to place our volunteers in appropriate classes. This won’t necessarily be with your own children or grandchildren. We know some children thrive with parents and grandparents supporting their learning in school but every child is different and so this is something we will be able to talk about on an individual basis!

### **What will I be asked to do?**

Initially your role will be to listen to children who are reading aloud, either by themselves or in very small groups. You will be aligned with a year group and work consistently with the same groups of children over time which will enable you to build up a rapport with them. Occasionally, you may be asked to work with a small group on a simple task in which case the teacher will brief you on what you will be doing and may give you some notes to follow. You may have a special gift that emerges during the time you spend with us and we may talk with you about how you could utilise this to make our school a better place to be – you may enjoy making displays, baking with groups of children, playing board games or many other activities that in time would greatly enrich school life.

### **How will we ensure you are ready to take on the role?**

We are asking our volunteers to attend key training sessions designed to support you in being an effective and confident volunteer in our school community. It’s really important to us that we know we have done all we can to support you to support our children.

### **I'm interested in volunteering, what happens next?**

Brilliant news! The next step is to complete the application at the end of this letter. This includes several questions about why you would like to volunteer at our school, some basic information and two references who we will approach to ask about your suitability for a voluntary role at our school.

### **Do I need to have a DBS?**

Yes, we seek Disclosure and Barring Service certificates for ALL adults who come into our school, including parents who volunteer their time in school and on school trips. We need to apply for a DBS certificate, this certificate will contain details of convictions and conditional cautions that are considered to be unspent under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974. All volunteers working in schools need to have a DBS. In order to apply for this, you will need to provide the school with three original documents that we have to confirm that we have seen as part of this process. Information about which documents you can use is outlined here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/documents-the-applicant-must-provide>

### **I've volunteered before, do I have to go through these steps?**

We will be asking for all previous volunteers to renew their DBS certificates due to the extended period of time that the school has been closed to volunteers. We would warmly welcome you to join us for the training sessions as this may be a helpful way of getting involved again. If you have any questions relating to this, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

### **When can I get started?**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to give me a ring and I would be delighted to help further. Please do return the slip enclosed as rapidly as you can and we will be in touch to make arrangements for the training sessions.

With every best wish and all our thanks,

Mr Boulter

