



#### Hotspur Primary School

“I have been involved in the Reading Scheme as a volunteer since December 2016. I have enjoyed supporting up to 6 primary school children each week with their reading skills.

On a personal level, I have enjoyed the experience of working with younger children (ages approx. 10 years old) and providing encouragement and feedback to help them develop their reading skills. I have enjoyed being able to give something back to the local community and deliberately picked a small school that was struggling to get volunteers.

On a career level, I have found it hard to juggle the weekly commitment with work deadlines and it has challenged my time management skills. It has made me think about giving feedback and motivation skills, as positive encouragement is so important, whatever your age.”



#### Chillingham Primary School

“I do feel as if I am making a huge difference, as some of the children do need the extra support and others have parents where English is not their first language which can prove hard for them to get support at home. This in turn makes me feel as if I am giving something back to the community.”



#### Ravenswood Primary School

“The scheme helped me to enhance my skills in working in partnership with other business areas and developing different skills in communication and mentoring which have been beneficial to me. I loved the experience so much that when my volunteering time ran out I have continued to provide support for the Primary Reading Scheme in my own time.”



#### Benton Park Primary School

“The experience I get from volunteering helps me with my learning and development as it makes me feel valued as a member of the local community and I often help people who are thinking of volunteering by sharing my experiences with them. If I was to go for promotion I would use this as an example of working collaboratively and time management.”

“From a career point-of-view, the Reading Scheme has allowed me to develop more interpersonal skills for situations when colleagues require my assistance; my role in HMRC is largely IT-based and I am often my office’s go-to person when a machine or a system develops a fault. The scheme has reminded me that each person has a different way of learning and remembering information and instructions, and that a patient, and sometimes personalised, approach is required when advising others as to how to avoid further issues.

All-in-all, my time spent at the school has been nothing but pleasant – even though the child-sized furniture isn’t doing much for my back.”