

Quest for Learning

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



QuestforLearning
inspiring young minds

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Unsurprisingly, the Corona Virus pandemic was the defining feature of Quest for Learning's year in 2019-20. However, prior to COVID, a total of **184 children** at local primary schools benefitted from expert teaching delivered by our tutors and we also delivered CPD training to **245 teachers and teaching assistants** between September 2019 and March 2020.

In March 2020, our teaching activity stopped overnight with the announcement of school closures, face-to-face training courses were postponed or cancelled, and tutors were furloughed. Our normal ways of working were suddenly impossible and this opened the door to new possibilities as well as unforeseen challenges.

In addition to producing free activities to support lockdown learning and running the **#KeepOxOnReading** campaign to buy books for children we'd supported (both of which are featured below), we successfully piloted our first ever online training courses for teachers and teaching assistants, which are continuing in the new academic year. We also capitalised on the growing awareness of the disproportionate impact of school closures on the most disadvantaged children to launch a collaborative third-sector forum – the **Oxfordshire Educational Disadvantage Group**, to tackle local issues together.

I've been extremely grateful for the flexibility and generosity of our supporters, both old and new, which has meant that the financial impact of COVID on Quest for Learning has been much less severe than it might have been.

Our work will be needed more than ever in the coming years. **COVID-related school closures have widened the attainment gap**, with disadvantaged pupils falling further behind in their learning than their peers (National Foundation for Educational Research). Nationally, disadvantaged pupils end primary school on average 9.2 months behind their peers. Here in Oxfordshire, the gap between the poorest children and their classmates is even higher, at 11.5 months, and 29% of Oxford's children live in poverty.

I couldn't have imagined at the start of the year what challenges we would face, but I'm immensely proud of the flexibility, resilience, dedication, and unwavering optimism of the Quest for Learning team which have allowed us to successfully weather this storm and to confidently anticipate a successful (and hopefully less eventful) 2020-21.

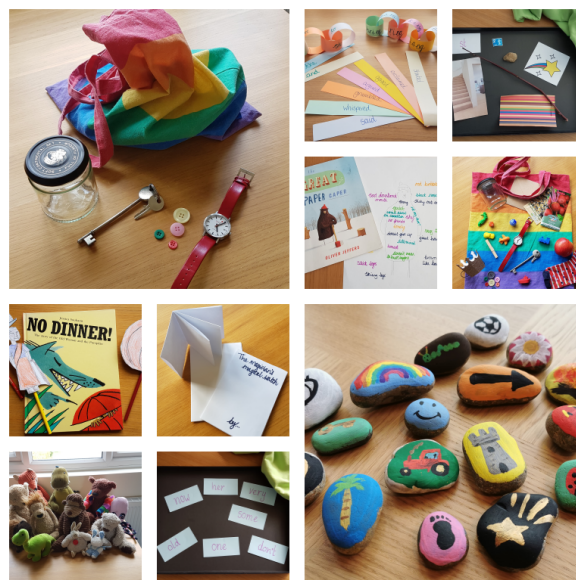
Siân Renwick

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THANKS TO YOU IN 2019-20

#KeepOxOnLearning

Our Head of Teaching created some amazing activities to help parents who were managing their child's home learning during the school closures. They're all screen-free, don't need any specialist knowledge or kit, and can support maths and literacy learning! Check them out at www.questforlearning.org.uk/content/home-learning



#KeepOxOnReading

£5,070 raised

98 individual donors

510 books given out

We were overwhelmed by the amazing support for our first ever crowdfunding campaign to provide books so that children like Shay (left) and Shaequan (front page) could keep reading during lockdown!

THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATIONS

"Quest for Learning has worked with Windale Primary School for 5 years and the support we have received has enabled our children to make good progress in Reading, Writing, and Maths."

Katie Geran-Haq, Head Teacher

95% of teachers expected pupils to achieve better assessment results as a result of doing NumSkills

97% of pupils felt confident in their reading ability as a result of doing BookQuest

79% of pupils felt more confident in using phonics to read a new word as a result of doing ReadingQuest

Our pupils made up to

32 months progress in reading accuracy

and

41 months progress in reading comprehension

in just six weeks!

"When I came from Jamaica to the UK, I had support from your charity and it made me determined to better myself. Thank you!"

Former ReadingQuest pupil, now a paramedic

CONTINUE SUPPORTING US

About us

At Quest for Learning we're firm believers in the power of education. Learning expands our horizons, fires our imagination, and gives us pleasure and opportunity in life. But not all children flourish at school and sadly one in five children can't read well by the time they leave primary school. Typically, it's children from low-income families that struggle the most. That's not OK and together we can change that.

Without good English and maths skills, children struggle in school and can have more limited life chances. For 24 years, Quest for Learning have been supporting Oxfordshire primary school children who need extra help to reach their potential. We have two literacy programmes (ReadingQuest and BookQuest) and one numeracy programme (NumSkills). We also run a suite of continuing professional development courses for primary school teachers and teaching assistants.

Thank you

A huge thank you to the individuals, organisations, companies and Trusts who have supported us this year. Following the national lockdown in 2020, our programmes are in more demand than ever as we help those who struggled the most to catch up with the education they missed.

There are a number of ways you can support us:

Donate today A donation to Quest for Learning is the gift of education and opportunity for the children we support. Just £25 could pay for a teaching session for a disadvantaged child: www.localgiving.org/charity/questforlearning

Support a project If you are a organisation, business or a Trust interested in supporting local children, please do get in touch to hear about the projects we are running this year and how you can be involved.

Leave a legacy A gift left in your Will which supports a brighter future for local children is a wonderful legacy. For more information on how to leave a gift please get in touch.

Anne Bajorek, Fundraising Manager

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