

VOLUNTEER READING HELP

One in four children in Oxfordshire is leaving school without the basic skills to cope with the world today. These children go on to be the most at risk from unemployment and trouble with the law. The tragedy is that just a little one-to-one help at an early stage can radically alter a child's prospects. The most important skill is being able to read. Class teachers do not have the time to give the necessary individual help some children require to overcome the problem.

VRH gives you the chance to help these children in your local school. Our volunteers are men and women aged 18-80 from all walks of life, who are patient, flexible and non-judgemental. They also like children, enjoy books and have sufficient spare time. Volunteers must commit themselves to working for one year and many stay a lot longer. Every volunteer works with the same three children individually for half an hour twice a week in a local primary school. They talk, read, play games and help build each child's confidence and interest in books.

Volunteers work in partnership with the class teacher. The teachers continue to teach. The volunteer gives the child the confidence to learn. Volunteers are carefully selected and attend a short training course before being introduced to the school in person. They receive regular support by telephone and visits from staff. All volunteers attend regular refresher courses and are kept up to date with a termly newsletter. The West Oxfordshire Branch currently has 60 volunteers working in 33 schools and we are very keen to recruit more.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a volunteer, please telephone or write to Helen Webb at Volunteer Reading Help, Behind the Old Police Station, Church Green, Witney, OX8 6AW. Tel. 01993 771294

W.O.D.C. SKIPS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Ascott	2nd August	Maple Way
	20th September	Church View / Heritage Lane
Milton	30th August	Church Rd. layby; Reade Close
Shipton	13th September	Ballards Close