

# Literacy Volunteers



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## 1,000 sign up to reading scheme

By **CLAIRE CARTER**

A CHARITY which helps children at primary and secondary schools with their reading and writing has recruited its 1,000th volunteer.

The honour has gone to Rachel O'Mara, who will help children at St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School, in Bestwood Park, with their reading and writing skills.

It is estimated in the East Midlands that more than six per cent of children leave school without an English GCSE, while 56% of adults across the country have literacy skills below GCSE level.

Coun David Mellen, the city council's children's services spokesman, said: "The work that Literacy Volunteers do in schools across Nottinghamshire is invaluable."

The charity has 300 active volunteers who help about 1,200 children each week in 150 schools in Notts.

Service Director at Literacy Volunteers Richard Wray said: "The assistance given by our volunteers does make a real difference to a child's life. Through the one-to-one help our volunteers give they impart their joy of reading to the children they help and contribute so much to them achieving their full potential in life."

The charity has added extra courses to its programme which include family reading at home, sixth-form mentoring where sixth formers learn how to help year seven students with literacy, and a community course



**DOING HER BIT:** Aysha Ahmed, Rachel O'Mara, Ellis Argyle and Cameron Hill.

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where people are trained how to work as literacy volunteers in their local areas.

As the 1,000th volunteer, Ms O'Mara received a certificate from the school. Head teacher Christine Reilly said: "Rachel comes into school for a morning every week. She works on a one-to-one basis, helping to boost the child's confidence with reading and com-

munication. Her commitment and enthusiasm is highly valued by pupils and staff."

The charity is looking for more volunteers and will be holding training courses in November in Arnold, Mansfield Woodhouse and Kirkby-in-Ashfield. Visit [www.literacyvolunteers.org.uk](http://www.literacyvolunteers.org.uk) or call 0115 915 0820.

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Registered Charity Number: 1055942 Literacy Volunteers in Nottinghamshire Schools

