

Is there enough time to set up the project and complete it by Easter 2012?

Yes! Mellow Lane, a Teach First School, was one of our most successful participants last year – they set up the project in January and completed it by mid-March. It can definitely be done! Our university volunteers will be trained at the end of September, so you can expect their first visit during October. This gives you September to set up the project – getting any permission required from the Senior Leadership Team and informing sixth formers of the opportunity to gather initial interest. Ideally a READ staff member would visit you during this time to discuss the project and meet the members of staff involved. We'd be more than happy to meet young people interested in the project for an informal chat too!

I'm concerned that we won't be able to hit the targets of 5000 books and £2000...

If you are a small school, a cashless school, or a school in a low income area then we would hate for this to exclude your involvement. We encourage all those taking part to engage their local communities where possible; including other primary and secondary schools, to support you with fundraising and books totals. We have found that if efforts are put into publicising the collection of resources from home, friends and relatives, books come flooding in! Those who have fundraised by putting on an event, such as a talent show, have found staff, students and parents love attending an event that engages the whole school community. READ will offer support too in the form of a fundraising pack, through a trained volunteer mentor for the Young Leaders and a staff member at Head Office.

How much time will I have to devote to this project?

We have been working with teachers for over six years now and we know how hard school staff work. Therefore one of the key criteria for this project was to ensure that it didn't put a high demand on staff time. As with most things, the more you put in the more you get out, but this project is about youth leadership and the five sixth form leaders should be the ones in the driving seat. The main responsibilities of the Lead Teacher would be; recruiting the young leaders, attending some of the Young Leaders' meetings, offering support when it comes to organising events to be held at school, championing the Young Leaders and the project by spreading the word around the staff team, organising for READ volunteers and staff to come into the school and acting as a point of contact with READ Head Office. The Lead Teacher can be any member of school staff.

Can students in the lower school get involved?

A Young Leaders project that engages the lower school will have a much greater chance of smashing their targets. Whether it be helping to box up books, organise fundraisers, or merely attending events, the lower school can become heavily involved in the project if they so wish. All five of the young leaders should be sixth formers, but there is no reason why they can't recruit volunteers from the lower school to help out.

I'm interested in running the project – what do I do now?

Great news! There are three next steps:

- 1) Please register your interest via our website - this provides us with all the information we need to get in contact: http://www.readinternational.org.uk/schools/young_leaders_programme/
- 2) Ensure that the Head of Sixth Form (or equivalent) has given their permission for the project to run.
- 3) Identify a member of staff (this may be yourself) who is happy to act as Lead Teacher for the project.

READ will then be in contact at the beginning of term to confirm your place, to gather the contact details required and book in a staff visit to the school!

If you have any further queries please contact emma.piper@readinternational.org.uk

We look forward to working with you!