

Case Study

“Fresh Start opens so many doors for children who have had so many closed on them already.”

We spoke to Reading Leader, Kimberley Cross.

“Fresh Start has had a massive impact in our school. This year we had 49 students on the programme, 14 of whom had English as an Additional Language and 21 with Special Educational Needs – our needs were diverse. Fresh Start has worked for everyone.

“Reading is a focus in our school – you can’t access other areas without it. After introducing Fresh Start, we have seen widespread benefits for our children, across the curriculum. We’ve seen children regularly in the library who wouldn’t have stepped a foot in before Fresh Start.

“A crucial part of our successful Fresh Start teaching has been teamwork. Many children in our school come from challenging circumstances. The area has high deprivation – children don’t have as many opportunities as we’d like. I am from the area and relate to their situation. It is important to me that we do the best we can for the children. I’m lucky to work with such a passionate team. The team and I go above and beyond to enable understanding and enrich the children’s learning. The team is united and supported by our head who introduced Fresh Start; her passion has captivated and inspired us all.

“One boy in Year 4 was struggling to answer word problems in Maths. After being on the Fresh Start programme, he can easily read these questions and his Maths teacher has been impressed with his progress. Another girl started Fresh Start knowing only a few graphemes, but between September and March, she transformed. She recently wrote an amazing letter – she would never have attempted to do this before Fresh Start. Once you remove the barriers for children, they fly.

“You need to teach Fresh Start like clockwork every day to see the impact. Children enjoy coming to Fresh Start sessions – they understand the process and routine. It gives them strength and confidence. As soon as the children see their own progress, they know they can succeed. Their work just keeps improving.

School Name: **Ebor Gardens Primary Academy**

Location: **Leeds**

Pupils on roll: **457**

EAL: **8%**

SEN: **5%**

Age range: **3-11**

“Fresh Start hasn’t just been beneficial for our children. The strength of our staff team has grown and we now have a real culture of CPD, which feeds back into ensuring we give the children the best possible education.

“Communication between our staff is open. Concerns and anxieties can get in the way of good teaching, so we deal with them straight away and move forward on a positive note. Once a week, our Reading Leader observes each of the staff and gives immediate feedback and coaching. We have longer coaching sessions regularly to make sure we are the best teachers we can be.

“Our Consultant Trainer is incredibly supportive of our school. She is always available at the end of the phone and visits regularly.

“Fresh Start is inclusive and it caters for all. It opens so many doors for children who have had so many closed on them already.”

