[sample invitation to adapt for inviting participants in RR Read Aloud for use by TLs and RRTs. Add school or LA / Organisation header]

February 2021

**Reading Recovery Read Aloud 2021 – ‘Tell me a story’**

Reading Recovery Read Aloud is an annual event to celebrate the success of children and the work their teachers do each day to overcome the children’s literacy difficulties.

***How can you help?***

You can be part of the Reading Recovery Read Aloud during March 2021. The goal is to champion the efforts and achievements of children being taught in Reading Recovery. We are inviting you to spend five to ten minutes watching and listening online, either through a live link or in a recording, to a child who has overcome their reading difficulties showing you what they can do now. If the link is live, you may be able to talk with them about how much fun reading can be or even reciprocate by sharing a children’s story.

We want to publicise the importance of reading and of Reading Recovery so we may ask your permission to share your photo with a child, or to share a comment that you are willing to offer about the great work of Reading Recovery. If you mention Reading Recovery Read Aloud on social media, please also use #ReadingRecovery .

The theme of this year’s Reading Recovery Read Aloud is ‘Tell me a story’.

Listening to stories being read aloud plays an important role in early reading and language development. Shared story time teaches new things about people and about the world, introduces new ideas and language, fires up the imagination and most of all, creates a sense of closeness and well-being. Everyone loves listening to stories!

The children’s author SF Said (@whatSFSaid), recently shared this view about stories: *‘When I re-read the books that I loved as a child, I am connecting with some of my oldest, deepest, most powerful and profound influences, Children’s books shape us forever. They help us learn who we are and how to live in the world. Never, ever underestimate them!’*

Reading Recovery children read new and familiar books in every lesson and usually develop some firm favourites – Read Aloud is a great opportunity for them to share and talk about their books with parents, teachers and the special people who support Read Aloud.

Everyone can help to prioritise and support children’s literacy development. Just ten minutes reading a day with a child makes a huge difference and helps them fall in love with reading.

For further information and to join this event please contact:

**About Reading Recovery**

Reading Recovery (based at the UCL International Literacy Centre) is a school-based literacy programme for the lowest achieving children aged five or six. Research shows that at more than four out of five children who take part in Reading Recovery go from being the lowest attaining in literacy in their class to catching up with their peers in less than 20 weeks. Children who completed a Reading Recovery programme at age six are shown to be still working at age appropriate levels of literacy in national assessments at age 11, five years after the end of the intervention.  <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/international-literacy/> Gains are maintained as recent research showed, when it was found that academic achievements in school Years 9 and 11 (age 14 and 16) were significantly improved as a result of the intervention. https://home.kpmg/uk/en/home/insights/2018/11/the-impact-of-reading-recovery-ten-years-after-intervention.html

Reading Recovery Europe is a not-for-profit organisation. We believe it is the right of every child to be literate because literacy opens doors, breaks down barriers and reduces the chances of a lifetime of poverty. All children should receive the support they need to become effective, efficient and enthusiastic readers and writers and for some, literacy will only be achieved through special support such as Reading Recovery.

Thank you in anticipation of your support, we know your participation will help us raise awareness of the importance supporting those children who struggle to read at an early age.

Yours sincerely