

FRED testimonies, 2014

From children

These testimonies were written by Y4 children at Holy Trinity Primary School:

“FRED has changed my reading. Some spelling that was hard for me to do, it is now easy. FRED has change my life because now I read every day. FRED made me become better at reading. It made me grow in confidence.” Babatunde Kuforiji – 4J

“I have enjoyed FRED because when we got the reading log my dad rather did it on Facebook. I have enjoyed FRED because I now understand why reading is good and makes me a super reader. I have enjoyed FRED because I understand new words” Yemi – Y4

“I have enjoyed FRED because my dad reads with me and sometimes he reads to me with funny voices. I have been reading for 4 weeks every night before I go to bed, we read for 10 minutes.” Sebraiah - Y4

“I have enjoyed FRED because I’m improving my reading and writing. I can fully understand why reading is so important. I enjoy reading with my dad a lot more. FRED is special because my levels in reading are levels I’m happy with.” Esther J - Y4

From fathers

These quotes come from exit forms, in answer to the following questions:

What if anything did the FRED programme do for you and/or your children?

“We have more quality time reading 1 to 1 time which was great”

“My children are much more motivated to spend reading time with me and are keen.”

“Spent more time with Ronnie – had more laughs.”

“Enabled us to get a close relationship and to understand how they learn.”

“Encouraged me to read routinely rather than at any random time.”

“My daughter enjoyed the focus as she is very task driven.”

“I learnt how to read much much better and clearer.”

“I read more times with my children.”

What did you like most about FRED?

“it helped improve child’s desire to read which ultimately is affecting her reading and writing.”

“it can be on going”

“Encourages me to read with my children”

“Improves my daughters’ ability and become a better English language reader and speaker.”

“Helped me become more involved in my child’s education”

“More insight into his way of being at school – otherwise a secret world”

“It’s a good way to put father and child together”

“It is a wise and robust idea for us as a father.”

From staff

“We have just had an open evening to celebrate the children’s learning and parents were invited to look at their children’s work. I felt that there were a lot more dad’s attending and children were able to talk and show off their work. The relationships seemed to be much better between dads and children.”

“Children had said they had enjoyed spending extra time with their dads, especially children who didn’t get to see their dads that often through work or commitments or separation.”

“Some of the pupils now pick more challenging literature from the library and book corner rather than always going for humour (eg David Walliams or Diary of a Wimpy Kid) or Jacqueline Wilson! Also some of the pupils are able to sustain a longer period of personal, quiet, independent reading.”

“Children seem more focused and enjoy quiet reading time.”

“Fathers have asked more questions about how they can support their child at home with their learning. Children are more enthusiastic about reading and often re-enact story time”

“Fathers seem more comfortable approaching me to ask questions on what work they can do at home with their children.”

“[Children who participated in FRED are more] Confident in class always happy to attempt question and improved reading and writing.”

“All the training sessions and support have been brilliant.” Holy Trinity – scored 5 on the report scale

What do you think was gained from FRED?

For the children

“Feeling more loved by their dads.

“Quality reading”

“New books to read”

“Access to quality children’s reading books to read/share at home”

“A sense of inclusion – many of the children really wanted to be part of FRED”

“A sense of achievement for those who completed FRED”

For fathers

“Understanding their children more”

“Spending more time with their children has been positive for a lot of dads”

“Better links with school – for some, FRED was their first experience of engagement in their children’s learning”

“An insight into how they can easily support their children’s learning & development”

“A sense of achievement for those who completed FRED”

“Knowledge that all reading is valuable (you don’t need to be a great story teller to support your child”

“A reason to come into school”

For the school

“Getting dads more involved in the education of their child”

“Setting up relationships with the Fathers”

“Supported parental engagement”

“Promoted family reading and reinforced the message to make time to read, if nothing else, with their children”

“Helped raise parents aspirations – some parents have asked for more of the same as they found it easier to get their children to read during the FRED project!”

“Positive male role models”

“New books”

General comments

“You can get support from fathers you least expected.”

“Great way to involve fathers in children’s’ education.”

“Many of the children presenting with challenging behaviour in our school are living and growing up in households facing complex issues, such as poverty, and the stresses of living in poverty. This can make it difficult for parents to make themselves emotionally available to their children. However, initiatives such as FRED can help to invigorate the link between home and school, and in turn this supports the emotional bond between the parent and the child. The parents who sign up appear to do so because their child wants to be part of the project.”

“We’re exploring how we might create a FRED legacy within the school starting with a FRED working party, involving the children who really helped champion FRED this year. Initial thoughts are to apply the same four week timescale and target a Key Stage a term.”

At least 4 of the participating schools intend to continue to run FRED in the coming years, Holy Trinity have included FRED in their school improvement plan. Jubilee school as you see above have recruited a Y4 student as a FRED ambassador to promote FRED for next academic year.