

## Research Study Information - **GROUP 2 SCHOOLS ONLY**

### **What on Earth! The impact of using non-fiction magazines in school literacy lessons on children's enjoyment, engagement and choices when reading for pleasure**

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A research project is being run at your child's school by The Open University looking at whether using the non-fiction magazine for children 'What on Earth!' in Year 5 school literacy lessons can increase children's interest and enjoyment of reading. Please follow this link to the magazine website to see examples of content: [What on Earth! Magazine](#)

This research project has been reviewed by, and received a favourable opinion, from The Open University Human Research Ethics Committee.

Your child is being invited to take part in the research study. Before you decide whether or not you would like them to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Taking part or not, will have no impact on your child's marks, assessments or future studies.

Encouraging children to read for pleasure is incredibly important for achievement in reading and therefore how well children do at school. However there has been less research into whether alternative reading materials, such as magazines or non-fiction reading materials can enhance children's interest and enjoyment of reading. The benefits of the project include furthering our understanding of the role of non-fiction materials and magazines in children's enjoyment of reading. In addition the children will be able to interact with these exciting and interesting magazines which are being provided to the school free of charge.

Schools participating in the project have been allocated into one of three groups who will be asked to use the magazine in different ways during the Autumn term. Your child's school has been asked to provide a weekly time-tabled slot of 30 minutes to engage with the What on Earth! magazine in a literacy lesson. Four issues of the magazine will be gradually introduced throughout the term. Each child will have their own personal copy of each issue to keep (completely free of charge) and they will be stored in a named folder in the classroom. Children will independently read and interact with the magazine during the lesson. Children will be encouraged to discuss the content of the magazine with their teachers and peers.

The research around the use of the magazines will be carried out in the following way. All children will be asked to complete a short 10-minute online questionnaire in September and again in December. They will be asked about their enjoyment of reading and what they like to read. Comparing the children's answers at the start and end of the term will show if the magazine has had any impact on enjoyment and interest of reading. These questionnaires will be completed as part of a class activity and staff can support children in filling in their answers if necessary.

Your child may also be asked if they would like to talk to me about what they think about reading and the use of the magazines when I visit the school mid-way through the project in October and again in December. I will be interviewing a group of four children in a recorded session for about 15-20 minutes.

Your child's teacher will be asked to complete a short online questionnaire in September and December about how they usually teach reading for pleasure in literacy lessons, what reading materials they tend to use and their experiences of using the magazine in literacy lessons. I will also be interviewing them when I visit the school mid-way through the project and at the end. Finally, we would like to collect the following information about your child; age, gender, ethnicity and whether they have English as an Additional Language.

We very much hope that your child would like to take part in completing the questionnaires and group interviews (if asked). The purpose of the questionnaire/group interview will be explained to your child and they will be asked if they wish to participate. If they do not, then they will take no further part in the questionnaire/group interview.

The identity of the school and the children will be anonymised. We hope the findings will be published in academic journals and used in presentations. We may take photographs of your child/your child's class looking at the magazine to be used in academic journals, presentations and the What on Earth! website for promotional purposes and show how the children choose to interact with the magazine. However your child's face will not be shown and their identity will be anonymised.

The data from the research will be stored on a secure server and password protected laptops. Once the data has been analysed it will be fully anonymised (your child's name will not be shown anywhere) and securely stored on the Open University server until 2035 when it will be destroyed.

You have the right to withdraw your child's questionnaire/interview data at any time until the end of December 2024, and their data will be destroyed on your request. You can do this by emailing me on the email address provided above.

If you are happy for your child to take part in the questionnaires and interviews (if asked) then please complete the accompanying consent form, including one question about your child's enjoyment of reading and return to the class teacher.

Please contact me on the email address below if you have any questions. Or you can also contact Dr Alison Fox at the Open University if you have any concerns on [alison.fox@open.ac.uk](mailto:alison.fox@open.ac.uk).

Thank you very much for reading this information. We hope that you will agree to your child taking part in the research, and that they will enjoy the activities.

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