

# Ivona Buddies



IVONA MiniReader is a software application which sits on a computer screen as a floating toolbar. It allows the user to highlight text in Word documents or on websites and then have the text read aloud. The pace of reading and also the voice to be used can be changed. IVONA MiniReader is a very useful tool as it allows the user to read information which they may have found difficult to read by themselves.

The Ivona Buddies are responsible for raising awareness of this software across the school and launching its use with each class. These buddies are selected from Primary 7 volunteers and they present an information session with each class about the IVONA software.

## Primary One Buddies

All our Primary 7 pupils act as Buddies to our new Primary 1 pupils, starting on the Induction days before the summer break. As Primary 6 pupils they meet the nursery children who will be starting school in August and go with them to visit and work in their classrooms.

The Buddies are then on hand at the start of term as a friendly face around the school and particularly in the playground. The Buddies will often be seen still playing with their Primary 1 charges right up to the end of the session.



## Giffnock Primary Support Buddies



**Article 29:** Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.



# Reading Buddies



The Reading Buddy system supports early literacy development. Primary 7 volunteers buddy with children from Primaries 2 and 3 and meet with them several times a week. They listen to the children's reading and talk to them about the text. The volunteers are paired with individual pupils and they work together over the course of a term.

The volunteers participate in a training session led by a teacher which focuses on the skills and strategies the children are learning as early readers. The Reading Buddies then support their buddy in reading sessions and help them to understand the text as well as simply reading the words. The Reading Buddies meet regularly with a Support for Pupils teacher to discuss their support.

I really enjoyed helping my Primary 3 buddy and she liked to read to me.

Ariba

My Buddy helped me to read the hard words and she asked me questions.

Matthew



# Dyslexia Buddies

DYSLEXIA

Our Dyslexia Buddies support younger pupils in school, who have been identified through assessment as being dyslexic. The Dyslexia Buddies are Primary 7 pupils who have applied for the role and may either be dyslexic themselves or have experience of dyslexia by having a close family member who is dyslexic.

The Dyslexia Buddies are paired with younger pupils to support and initially each pair meet together with the Support for Pupils teacher. Further meetings are arranged throughout the year and the Dyslexia Buddy will also approach his/her buddy in the playground to 'check in' at regular intervals.

Raising awareness of dyslexia throughout the school is also undertaken by the Dyslexia Buddies, who organise and present an upper school assembly during Dyslexia Awareness week in November each year,

I liked to speak to my Buddy about the things which helped him at school.

Peter

Being a Dyslexia Buddy meant I could chat to my buddy at break times and check they were okay.

Emily

