



Freedom for the
next generation



CHRISTIANNA
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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Together we can bring joy and
education to the children of Nigeria

WORKING WITH TEACHERS TO CHANGE THE CULTURE AROUND READING

April/May was a time to focus on the new 5 schools who needed extra attention to get the most out of Book Box Library Club. Some teachers in the original cohort of 5 schools were beginning to get more involved and were demonstrating a desire to use the resource to the best of their ability. Some teachers were spending their break times doing 1-to-1 mentoring with pupils who needed extra support and were proving very helpful to the BBLC team when it came to reminding children about book return dates and how to care for books. Our mobile library facilitators were keen to develop this same level of engagement in the 5 new schools and spent time developing relationships with teachers and pupils.

Annual refresher training on how to care for books was conducted in all 10 schools in June. Repetition of this message is important in a community that has little exposure to books and how they need to be treated. This is all part of 'changing the culture' around reading and books.

By June Telling Our Tales, the book production company we have partnered with, had developed the first book in the series of levelled readers for trial in schools. We decided to choose one small school for initial testing. We had our own facilitators teach the materials in a workshop setting. They would conduct 3 workshops, one every two weeks to see how the children would respond to the new materials and phonics instruction. Feedback from these workshops would help us shape the new books, ensuring they were the right books at the right level for the children they were aimed at.

The outcome of this very short trial was encouraging. By the end of the 6-weeks the children could read simple 3-letter words by decoding and had learnt many sight words. Our workshop facilitators had strongly recommended that we offer these materials to all 10 schools, focusing on the children who needed them most. We decided to start a formal 2-year pilot of the materials and workshops starting in the new academic year.

