

Children telephone a Silver Listener and then read a short story or poem to them. This not only helps the children to become more confident in their reading skills but also links our children to the elderly community in Torpoint and helps diminish their chances of feeling isolated.



Thank you, that was wonderful!  
You have really made my day!

I loved that story!  
Hearing you read has put a big smile on my face. Thank you!



The comments and feedback that we have received has been so positive from both the children and our Silver Listeners.



I enjoy reading to the Silver Listeners because it helps me to feel more confident in reading and use expression.

## Our Silver Stories journey so far...

We began by approaching the local churches in our community. The response about Silver Stories was positive and we immediately had potential Silver Listeners.



Firstly we telephoned the potential Silver Listeners and arranged to visit them in their home to discuss the Silver Stories process and to arrange an appropriate day for the children to read to each of them.



Meanwhile, we obtained consent for the children who wanted to become Silver Readers from parents. We also gathered appropriate books for the children to read to the Silver Listeners.



Now, during lunchtimes, a member of our staff and the Silver Readers make calls to the Silver Listeners reading to them and...

***brightening up their day!***



There are some people who don't have the benefit of conversations and contact with younger people. I hope that this concept will spread, so once people hear about it, I'm sure it will spread. Silver Stories is a wonderful idea.

Dame Esther Rantzen D.B.E



Our first group of Silver Readers and Listeners meeting Dame Esther Rantzen who launched Silver Stories



ITV REPORT 9 February 2016 at 5:26pm

## Children befriending the old & lonely in nationwide first



Children from Torpoint Infant School reading to Dame Esther Rantzen. Photo: ITV West Country

Young children are helping the elderly and vulnerable cope with loneliness in a groundbreaking initiative here in the South West.

In a nationwide first, six and seven year olds from Torpoint Nursery and Infant School call local pensioners under supervision, have a chat with them and then read them a short story or poem.

When Dame Esther Rantzen heard how the pupils were reading over the phone to the elderly in their community, she's given the scheme her network of support.

### Torpoint pr breaks rea

By Plymouth Herald | Posted: February 11, 2016

Reporter: @cljordano

Picture by Lucy Davies



Children at Torpoint Nursery and Infant School read to older people over the phone as part of their Silver Stories scheme. Dame Esther Rantzen visited the school to officially launch the scheme and open the new Year 2 nursery.

#### Comments (0)

CHILDREN at a primary school have been developing their reading skills while reading to older people in their community.

Year 2 pupils at Torpoint Nursery and Infant School have been reading aloud to elderly people over the phone during their lunch break every week as part of the school's Silver Reading scheme.

The scheme - which is the first of its kind - is the brainchild of the school's headteacher Elisabeth Carney-Haworth who believes it has benefits for both the younger and older generation.

The headteacher says the scheme helps to improve the confidence of children while reading aloud - and is also beneficial to older people in the community who are often alone without anyone to talk to.

Pupils read very well. They are confident and readily use their phonics knowledge to decode words. They read regularly at home and are enthusiastic about different authors and types of books.

Ofsted April 2015



Could you or someone you know benefit from weekly telephone contact?  
Would you or someone you know enjoy hearing a child read?

Please contact us to find out if we would be able to help.

If you are a school that would like to start Silver Stories then please use our logo and strap line (on our website)....if you want to talk about how we set it up then please contact the Head Teacher or Claire Harkin via the school email on the number below



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Communicating across the generations



Silver Stories is a new project created by the Head Teacher of Torpoint Nursery and Infant School, Elisabeth Carney-Haworth, to support both the children and elderly people in the community of Torpoint. On Tuesday 9th February Dame Esther Rantzen who is the founder of both ChildLine and The Silver Line came to our school to officially launch our Silver Stories initiative and called it:

**"A genius idea"**



All you need is a telephone, a comfy chair and a good listening ear!