

## **Language and Literacy**

### **Main activities and events of the SIG in the past year.**

Appointment of Dr Barbara Skinner, Senior Lecturer in TESOL teacher education from Ulster University as co-convenor. Podcast - Pupils with English as an Additional Language, their families and COVID-19: current challenges and finding a way forward Webinar – Is Phonics the only game in town?

### **What are the key issues currently affecting your Special Interest Area?**

The impact of COVID on the teaching and learning of literacy and language across the board.

### **Are there any particular developments for your SIG on the horizon, e.g. newsletters, publications, blogs, events, projects?**

Newsletter: to include i) new BERA SIG convenor and current BERA SIG convenor team biographies, complementary areas of interest and some info and what they bring to the SIG. ii) Review of the Phonics webinar - outline, speakers, effectiveness, where to find the recording, iii) review of the Podcast - outline, speakers, effectiveness, where to find the recording, iv) Upcoming plans for 'Literacy in lockdown' podcast and 'Literate lives matter' webinar events v) Call for submission to papers for webinar event Vi) date and agenda for SIG meeting

### **What other organizations does your SIG collaborate with?**

UK Literacy Association. Potential to work with BAAL (British Association of Applied Linguistics); BALEAP (British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes); NALDIC (the National Subject Association for EAL); Literacy Association of Ireland.

### **How has your SIG worked to encourage diversity amongst your membership? How do you plan to encourage diversity in the future?**

We plan to ensure that there are speakers from across four nations/international involved in future SIG events.

We have done this in the past by inviting speakers from Australia to participate in the Phonics webinar. We intend to hold a SIG meeting to ask members for ideas on events and also on ways in which we can grow diversity in our SIG membership.