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To: Emily Evans
Subject: Your Friday three - 16 August 2024

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International Longevity Centre UK

Latest news

ILC Friday three

- **Reasons for optimism** - libraries throughout our lives
- **Blog from outgoing Head of Programmes** - a booming baby recession?
- **Blog on older workers** - what strategies can help maximise an ageing workforce?

Reasons for optimism - libraries of the future



This week's Friday 3 theme of reading is inspired by the annual Summer Reading Challenge, which offers children an incentive and reward for reading books. Over 2 million books have been logged on the Summer Reading Challenge system, which

means children have spent millions of hours reading books and building on this crucial life skill. Hopefully they have also spent hundreds of hours in their local library, for free, soaking up an atmosphere of community and meeting people they otherwise might not have met.
The reading theme is also, in part, inspired by Esther (ILC's Senior Health Policy Lead) having the opportunity to support children with their reading, at her local primary school during term-time; she would recommend this anyone with a couple of hours to spare in the week!
While school is where most of our literacy education takes place, libraries are an irreplaceable and pleasant public space for leisure, study, and building community. The Summer Reading Challenge programme claims to get over 700,000 children into libraries over the summer. At the same time, we have seen libraries underresourced and some have closed in recent years - a Lords debate on the future of libraries and related strategy is scheduled for 12 September this year.
This strategy is good news amidst reports that our much-needed librarians are increasingly replaced by technology. Not only do librarians inspire and support children to read a wide variety of books and stories, they are amongst the professions most trusted by the public. We know that 1 in 4 11-year-olds are not reading at the expected standard, and this can have far-reaching consequences for the rest of their education and potentially their working lives.
We all know that being taught to read requires time, space, and effort from whoever your teacher might be. The summer reading challenge presents an annual opportunity to improve childrens' reading, helping them become familiar with books and libraries that could last the rest of their lives. A new library strategy could help to ensure that this resource and infrastructure is available to all who want to use it.

A NEW LIBRARY STRATEGY

Farewell to our Head of Programmes - and a booming baby recession?

We recently said goodbye to ILC's Head of Programmes, Isabelle Gillespie, who will be returning to her home country of Australia.
From Team ILC: thank you Issy for your hard work and contributions to the team, you'll be greatly missed!
Our now-Head of Partnerships and Programmes, Paul Goulden, will be taking over some of Issy's work so congratulations Paul on this new role!

Before her departure, Isabelle has written the following blog exploring some of the unexpected consequences of demographic change. One of the most well-known and striking statistics around demographic change is that in Japan, more adult incontinence pads are now sold every year than babies' nappies. When we extrapolate what this means for school and nursery places, and other social infrastructure across our lives, it paints a varied picture that contradicts many of our assumptions about ageing and demographies, particularly between generations.

READ THE BLOG HERE

Unlocking the potential of an ageing workforce: six strategies for success

Many thanks to Yvonne Sonsino, one of ILC's Insight Experts, for writing the following blog on the socioeconomic opportunities of an ageing workforce. In an ideal world, 'thriving after 50' would be an imperative instead of an ambition, given that more of us will need to work for longer to maintain the current balance of workers to retirees. ILC received a lot of coverage earlier this year, when we pointed out that the State Pension age would have to increase to 71 to maintain current ratios. Yvonne's blog sets out how we can make this happen and support people to age well in work, while maintaining economic activity which is vital to the future of the economy.

READ THE BLOG HERE

During July and August we will be sending this newsletter out every fortnight. Your next Friday three will arrive on 30 August 2024.

To keep up-to-date with ILC events throughout the year, please continue to check our website on a regular basis.

Please follow us on social media via the links below for our latest news and event updates.

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