

31 MARCH 21

**Tritax Big Box's charity partner Schoolreaders launches 'RACE FOR READING' campaign,  
to address the 'lockdown illiteracy surge' and raise vital funds to  
support reading in primary schools**

Tritax Big Box's charity partner Schoolreaders, a national children's literacy charity, has launched [\*\*RACE FOR READING\*\*](#), which invites people to come together and travel the 25,000 miles around the world. Between 31 March and the 19 June 2021, you can take part as an individual, or as one of a team, by undertaking a sponsored challenge of any form. From running, walking, cycling, or swimming - whatever your preferred activity is - join in to help Schoolreaders circle the globe in 80 days and raise vital funds to support reading in primary schools.

Schoolreaders, which places volunteers in primary schools to provide one-to-one reading sessions with children, is now needed more than ever, with one in ten primary schools in England asking for Schoolreaders support. The charity has also seen a huge rise in volunteer registration this year and hopes to be supporting more than 20,000 children with a one-to-one reading session each week.

Before the pandemic, one in four children was leaving primary school unable to read well and school closures have worsened the situation considerably, with disadvantaged children suffering the most. According to unpublished government figures reported in this weekend's [\*\*Sunday Times\*\*](#), following the latest lockdown, this has increased to one in three children or more than 200,000 pupils who will now move from primary school to secondary school this autumn without being able to read properly. Schoolreaders is encouraging as many people as possible to sign up to the *RACE FOR READING* challenge and help make a world of difference to children's literacy.

**Jane Whitbread, Founder of Schoolreaders comments:** "If a child leaves primary school not reading properly it has life-long negative consequences as they are unable to fully access their secondary education. Before the initial lockdown almost 13,000 children were receiving a one-to-one reading support session every week from a Schoolreaders volunteer, and our service is needed more than ever because so many children have fallen behind. Please join us by signing up to our *RACE FOR READING* campaign and help us to support thousands more children with their reading skills."

**Colin Godfrey – CEO, Fund Management, Tritax Big Box adds:** "We are delighted to sponsor *RACE FOR READING* 2021. Improving reading skills is key to bringing important social and economic benefits to the communities in which we own logistics buildings. As a partner to Schoolreaders charity, we have seen first-hand the extent to which they are playing an integral role in helping to achieve that, and improving the long-term prospects of many of the UK's most disadvantaged children."

To find out more about the campaign, please visit [www.raceforreading.org](http://www.raceforreading.org)

\**The Sunday Times* – April 4th, 2021 - [\*\*Boris Johnson fears lockdown illiteracy surge\*\*](#)

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For further information, an image, or to arrange a telephone interview, please contact:

**James Godfrey - KODE**

<https://www.agencykode.com/>

Email: [hello@agencykode.com](mailto:hello@agencykode.com)

Tel No: 07870517803

**NOTES:**

**Schoolreaders Registered Charity : 1159157**

**Schoolreaders supports children.** Our volunteers listen to the children, support them and build their confidence and fluency in reading. Literacy opens doors, helps learning and brings new opportunities. We want to help give all children the best start in life.

**Schoolreaders supports schools.** Schoolreaders finds, interviews and presents volunteers to partner schools locally. Our volunteers provide 1-1 reading time that some children require to help improve their literacy and provide additional support to the schools.

**Schoolreaders engages communities.** We raise community awareness of low educational attainment and potential lifelong outcomes. We engage with local authorities and respected organisations to connect local volunteers with schools in their community.

**Schoolreaders benefits older generations.** Schoolreaders provides an intergenerational activity for older people to use their knowledge and skills to help children with their reading. It provides an opportunity to become involved in the community and helps to support mental well-being and independence.

**TRITAX BIG BOX**

Tritax Big Box REIT plc (ticker: BBOX) is the only listed vehicle dedicated to investing in very large logistics warehouse assets (Big Boxes) in the UK and is committed to delivering attractive and sustainable returns for Shareholders. Investing in and actively managing existing built investments, land suitable for Big Box development and developments predominantly delivered through pre-let forward funded basis, the Company focuses on large, well-located, modern Big Box logistics assets, let to institutional-grade tenants on long-term leases (typically at least 12 years in length) with upward-only rent reviews and geographic and tenant diversification throughout the UK. The Company seeks to exploit the significant opportunity in this sub-sector of the UK logistics market owing to strong tenant demand and limited supply of Big Boxes. The Company is a real estate investment trust to which Part 12 of the UK Corporation Tax Act 2010 applies (REIT), is listed on the premium segment of the Official List of the UK Financial Conduct Authority and is a constituent of the FTSE 250, FTSE EPRA/NAREIT and MSCI indices. Further information on Tritax Big Box REIT is available at [www.tritaxbigbox.co.uk](http://www.tritaxbigbox.co.uk)