

Reading Newsletter Spring 1 - Welcome to our third reading newsletter!

We kicked off the new year with our new **local library** link and our class library visits. Every class will visit the library during the spring and summer terms and will be issued their own library card! All the children who have visited the library so far have had a brilliant time choosing, reading, and borrowing books and have experienced stories and songs with the librarians. To quote a pupil from Year 1, *“Going to the library was a dream come true, I had the best time!”* Thank you, Mrs Bolton, for working so hard to make this happen! Some families have already begun to make this a regular visit and the librarian has told us she is enjoying seeing our children choosing books after school.



Upcoming Events

We are very excited to share that we will be launching a sponsored **‘Readathon’** after half term. We are working in partnership with the charity ‘Read for Good’ with a mission to motivate reading for pleasure because we know that a love of reading is life changing. To find out more about the charity please visit their website: www.readforgood.org

Our sponsored Readathon will launch on **Monday 20th February** and finish on **Friday 3rd March**. Our children will be reading as much as they can at school and at home for sponsorship. Everyone will receive a sponsorship card and bookmark. The more we read the more money we can raise! Some of the money will help our school enhance our school library and some of the money will be donated to buy new books for children’s wards in hospitals across the country. We will keep you fully informed through MCAS, class dojo and there will be social media posts too!



On **Thursday 2nd March** we will be celebrating **World Book Day**. All children are invited to come to school dressed as a favourite storybook character. We will be enjoying a feast of story reading activities on the day and children will receive their free World Book Day book.



Limeside Hub Reading Champions

This term we have launched our new partnership with our wonderful hub - **Hub Reading Champions: Reading Together - Learning Together**. Our Reading Champions are completing a training programme with Mrs Freeman and volunteering to champion reading in our academy by supporting reading groups. Our Reading Champions are also accompanying some of our classes on their library trip!

If you are interested in becoming a Hub Reading Champion please see Bev from our hub or Mrs Freeman to find out more.

Here are some top tips from Readathon to help your child read for fun at home:

Why should we read for pleasure?

- It relaxes our bodies and minds: research estimates that 6 minutes of reading can reduce stress and anxiety by 68% - more than listening to music or watching TV.
- Reading gives our senses a break from the constant assault of digital media. It's important children have some quiet to allow their imagination to take the reins for a while - and who knows where that will take them?
- As well as improved knowledge, vocabulary and writing skills, reading different stories with different characters builds other important life skills like empathy, analytical thinking and problem solving. It aids sleep, boosts self-esteem, builds good communication skills and strengthens their predictive skills.
- Reading for pleasure also means they're more likely to do well at their GCSEs.

You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book.

- Dr. Seuss

How can you help at home?

These are some great starting points:

- Books that act like games
- Audiobooks
- Reading and listening to stories together (whatever their age and reading ability)
- Graphic novels, comics and magazines
- Books with TV and gaming tie-ins

The starting point is asking what are your children into - not what you want them to be into but what do they actually like - gaming, football, fashion, Manga?

Find an accessible comic, magazine, annual or non-fiction book that hooks into this passion. If you find a series or type of reading that they really like, try and find more!

For those of you with children learning phonics, please have a look at the Little Wandle parent page for more ideas for how to help your child at home:

www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

What are we reading?

Every half term we will be interviewing somebody from our school team to find out what they love to read. This half term we will hear from **Miss Harris in Year 3!**

Miss Harris, what are you currently reading?

I am currently reading Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. It is a murder mystery about a young girl who lives in the marshes of North Carolina in America. We learn all about her as she grows up living independently and in poverty, alongside many other characters! There is a brilliant twist!

What is your favourite book and why?

This is a tough one! A favourite I have read recently is a sequel called Moonflower Murders by Anthony Horowitz (he has also written some children's books). It is another murder mystery but it is written so cleverly that although all the clues you need are there, you simply cannot guess whodunnit!

What is your favourite children's book and why?

My favourite children's book is Owl Babies by Martin Waddell. I have such fond memories of reading this with my own mum and to classes I have taught over the years - even Year 6 classes!

Which book made you a reader and why?

I think it is more 'which reader made you a reader and why?' for me as I get my love of reading from my mum! She read to me constantly and so many of my childhood favourites are still special to me now. I always buy a book for my best friend's baby who now has some of the same favourites as me!

Who is your favourite author and why?

I really love reading non-fiction by David Olugosa as he teaches me so much about Britain's history with race and how I can be a better member of society to others around me!

If you could be a fictional character, who would you be and why?

I would probably be Alan Conway, a character in the Anthony Horowitz book I mentioned earlier. He is so clever and always solves the murders in an almost sneaky way! Always spotting clues you might have missed...