



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Inspiring everyone to REACH through

Faith, Hope, Love

## READING NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2023



“Reading is the gateway for children that makes all other learning possible.” – Barack Obama

Hello and welcome to our second St Joseph's Reading Newsletter celebrating all things related to reading because it enables us to REACH and **be the best we can be!**

### World Book Day 2023



This year's World Book Day was themed on the idea of 'Reading for Pleasure' and the children had the opportunity to wear their pyjamas and snuggle on down with a book at various times during the day!

Key Stage 2 were able to join in with a free zoom chat with Michael Morpurgo (organised by Read for Good) a beloved author. Following on from this, Year 4 requested that Mrs Carr reads to them War Horse – one of his most famous books.

The whole school also wrote book reviews and some of these are on display for the whole school to take a look at!

Also, I'd like to say a big thank you to all parents/carers that made it in to our reading sessions at the start and the end of the day.



### Why is Reading for Pleasure so important?

The evidence base shows there are six building elements which support a child to read for pleasure:

- Being read to regularly
- Having books at home and at school
- Having a choice in what to read
- Finding time to read
- Having trusted help to find a book
- Making reading FUN!



### Pets as Therapy

The children at St Joseph's are very fortunate to have Pets As Therapy come in to read with many of them. Pets As Therapy (PAT) is a national charity that enhances the health and wellbeing of thousands of people which includes children in schools. We have the pleasure of Jet and her owner Mary, and Drizzle and her owner Julia, who visit us once a week to read with a variety of children; they help them to have that love of reading.



### Read with Me

We are lucky to have an amazing team of volunteers from a local charity called 'Read with Me' <https://readwithme.org.uk/> who come in to our school and hear children from various classes read at least once a week for 10-15 minutes. This creates discussion, which in turn improves social and communication skills and builds confidence. This confidence is vital as we want our children to REACH in all they do.





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Reading Club



Every Tuesday lunchtime children from all year groups are invited to come in to Reading Club in my classroom. There are a range of books and newspapers on offer as well as blankets, cushions and a calm place to relax, take your shoes off and read a book! It's been a pleasure to have such a variety of children attending each week.

Local library

Don't forget to visit your local library during the Easter break.

Donations

During World Book Day children brought in books to swap and we'd like to encourage them to continue to do this – if they bring in a book they can take a book out of the book swap box in their classroom.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you such much for supporting our book fair during parent's evening week. Due to the money raised through selling books, we were able to update our reading spine for every year group and I was able to deliver a bundle of new and intriguing books to each class.

Mental Health Week

In February, we had Children's Mental Health Week, which was a great time to discuss aspects of mental health, from tackling worries to staying positive and boosting confidence.

Books for Topics have a fantastic range of picture books, fiction and non-fiction to help give children the tools they need to look after their mental health. Why not take a look...

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/mental-health>

What can you do to help? Some top tips...

**Book Chat**  
Developing a Love of Reading

I wonder what's going to happen?

Oh no, I hope she's not going to...

I wonder why he did that?

I think he's feeling...

We love sausages too, don't we!

That reminds me of when...

Ahh, that word means...

What can we see there?

That looks like our park, but...

Book Chat encourages readers. Open questions, comments and prompts get the Book Chat going. Invite your child to make connections and share views. Join in with your thoughts too!





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What has your child's class been reading...

Reception



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5

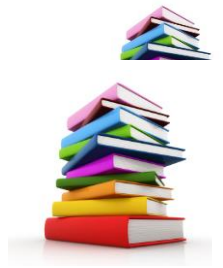


Year 6



During our RE sessions, hymn practice and liturgical prayer the children have various scripture/hymns shared with them from the Bible. This quote from Colossians 3:16 demonstrates what we as a school hope our children can achieve.

*"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."*



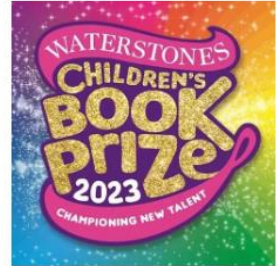
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### Recommendations

#### Award winning – Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2023

Nadia Mikail has been named Overall Winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize for her debut novel, *The Cats We Meet Along The Way*, which also won the Older Reader's Category.

M.T. Khan's *Nura and the Immortal Palace* won the Younger Readers' category and Kim Hillyard's *Gretel the Wonder Mammoth* took the category for Illustrated Books



### Our website recommendations.

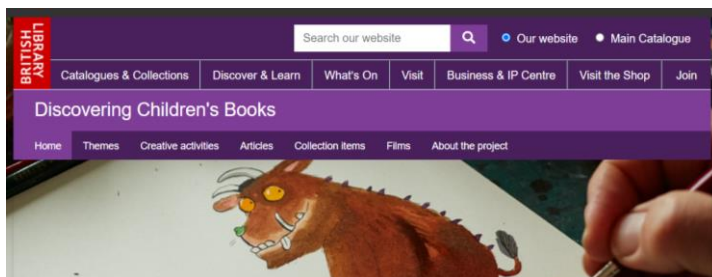


#### What to read after...

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/what-to-read-after/#!?q=&sortOption=MostRecent&pageNo=1>

It's great when young people discover a book, writer or illustrator they adore, but how can you keep that love of reading going? How can they find something else they'll enjoy as much – something that will encourage them to keep seeking out great stories?

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/> have put together top recommendations and suggestions – from librarians, teachers, parents, authors and children themselves – for fans of some of the biggest book series and authors. So whether it's *Harry Potter*, *Rainbow Magic* or Jacqueline Wilson, they've got ideas about where to turn next.



<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books> Why not visit the British Library website and explore centuries of stories, poems and illustrations with *Discovering Children's Books*. For children, teachers and book-lovers of all ages. A partnership with Seven Stories.