



READING NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2023/SPRING 2024

“Reading gives you wings...”

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

Stroud Book Festival

In November, Year 1 to Year 6 were able to again virtually join in with Stroud Book Festival. Each teacher chose a session for their class - Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a session with Tom Percival; Year 3 had a session called Eco Girl and Astro Girl with Ken Wilson-Max; Year 4 had session called The Rescue of Ravenwood with Natasha Farrant; Year 5 were immersed in a session with Maz Evans called Oh Maya Gods; and finally, Year 6 took part in a poetry session with Joseph Coelho. It was a wonderful opportunity for children to hear from authors and engage with different texts.



Year 6 enjoying a session with the current Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho.



Pets as Therapy, Read with Me and adult helpers

The children at St Joseph's are very fortunate to have a variety of people come in to read with them. We continue to work with Pets As Therapy (PAT) and Read With Me. Once a week, Jet and her owner Mary, and Drizzle and her owner Julia from PAT, visit us and read with a variety of children.

We also have many volunteers on different days from a local charity Read With Me, and this ensures that children get more opportunities to read individually on a weekly basis.

Furthermore, volunteers from the community, governors, parents and family members also come in to hear our children read. We appreciate all of these people very much as they help us to be the best readers that we can be. If you have some free time at the beginning or end of the day and would like to help out with reading, then please do let us know.

Why is reading at home so important?

Children with access to 25 books at home complete an average of 2 more years of school than children from homes without any books.



Reading is a critical skill for succeeding in most school subjects.



A child spends 900 hours a year in school and 7800 hours at home.

Research shows that just 20 minutes a day spent reading with a child helps them develop critical reading skills.



Kids 4-5 years old gain 6 months of reading ability by being read to 3 to 5 times per week.



Learn more:

smartreading.org/parent-resources



Anti-Bullying Week November 2023 – Blessed are the Peacemakers.

This year as part of Anti-Bullying week we thought about being Peacemakers. We explored this idea through using 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse' by Charlie Mackesy. It was a perfect book which inspired some really engaging lessons and class discussions about wellbeing and mental health.





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Reading Club



It's back! We returned last term on a Thursday and now it will be every Tuesday lunchtime. Children from all year groups are invited to come in to Reading Club in my classroom. There are a small range of books and newspapers on offer as well as blankets, cushions and a calm place to relax. I encourage children to bring their own books from home or their school books to read during the club. It has been great to see a variety of children attending.

Local library

Remember to visit your local library during holidays and at weekends as they often have a range of activities on. You can also request books from the library which is great if your child is rapidly getting through them or into a particular author.

National Poetry Day 5th October 2023

We celebrated this by looking at a selection of poems linked to this years theme 'Refuge'. Here are Year 4 enjoying their session.



This is the motto you'll see everywhere across the school. We are developing the children's understanding of this and our new Reading Ambassadors will be helping with this!

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

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1
Let your child see you reading!
Have magazines and books in your home. | 2
Help your child find appropriate word & reading games on the computer.
Keep a dictionary on hand. Help your child look up new words they read or hear. | 3
Read mysteries with your child and try to figure out the clues together. |
| 4
Movie version coming out?
Read the book together first, then talk about which you each liked better. | 5
Set aside a time and place for your child to read -
like a comfy chair and a reading light in a quiet place | 6
Visit your public library regularly.
Look for and read together the books that were your favorites when you were a kid. |
| 7
Encourage your child to write -
letters, thank you notes, emails, journals, lists, stories about their own trips, events, and daily life | 8
Ask your child questions about what he or she is reading, such as:
- What is the story about?
- Who are the important characters in the story?
- Where does the story take place?
- Why do you think the character made that choice?
- Why did that happen?
- How did you know about...?
- Would you recommend this book to your friends? | |
| 9
Ask your child to draw a comic strip about what happens in the story.
Provide word searches, crossword and other word games and puzzles, or help your child make his/her own | Share with your child about what you're reading... and encourage your child to do the same | |

Blue Peter Book Badge



New 'Blue Peter' Book Badge! Blue Peter have introduced an exciting new Book badge, designed by one of the UK's best-known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake; who you might know from bringing to life characters such as Roald Dahl's BFG and Matilda! To earn your badge, you need to share your love of books by answering a few questions. Maybe you could achieve the Book Badge? Visit the Blue Peter website to find out more:

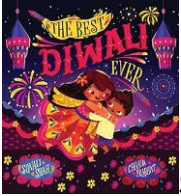
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge> Remember to bring your badge into school for Celebration Assembly if you do achieve it!



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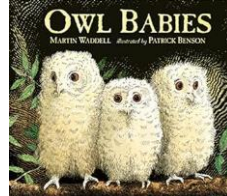
What has your child's class been reading...

Reception



Starting School, The Colour Monster goes to School, The Big Bright Feelings books, Two Homes, The Best Diwali Ever, The Nativity Play, Christmas Cookie Day, Santa's New Sleigh and The Snowman.

Year 1



Don't Wake the Bear Hare, Rainbow Fish, Owl Babies, Little Red Train, The Singing Mermaid and No Means No.

Year 2



The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark, Mr Cleghorn's Seal and Meerkat Mail

Year 3



The Iron Man, Snow Tales and How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Year 4



Why the Whales came and The Infinite

Year 5



Maria's island, War of the worlds, Freedom, Beowulf, The Boy, The Fox, The Mole and The Horse.

Year 6



Coming Home, Orphans on the Tide by Struan Murray.

Extracts from: The Hobbit, World of Warriors: A New Hero, Tom's Midnight Garden and Secret Garden

During our RE sessions, hymn practice and liturgical prayer the children have various scripture/hymns shared with them from the Bible. **"The Bible is the greatest of all books; to study it is the noblest of all pursuits; to understand it, the highest of all goals."**

Reading Ambassadors

After completing wonderful application forms, these children have been chosen as Reading Ambassadors. Their new and exciting role is to promote the love of reading across the school. Thank you to everyone who completed the form – it was very difficult to choose!

- Year 2 – Jemima and Edith
- Year 3 – James and Bea
- Year 4 – Marmaduke and Hebe
- Year 5 – Annabel and Isla H
- Year 6 – Finley and Harmony

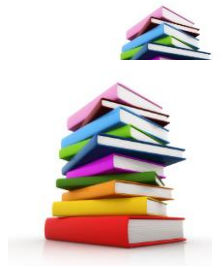


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Celebrating our new Reading Ambassadors...

Let's hear their thoughts about becoming our Reading Ambassadors and their book recommendations too...

Name	Why they are excited to be a Reading Ambassador...	Mini reviews Our ambassadors recommend...
James	Because I really like reading. It's a really good way of learning about lots new things. I like to tell my friends about all the new books that I have read.	My current favourite books are <i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i> . The books are about a boy and his brother. In one story, they had a party and the younger brother got locked in the basement! I like these books because they are funny and they make me laugh!
Jemima	I love and enjoy reading!	<i>The Otter Who wanted to Know</i> by Jill Tomlinson. I enjoyed this book because I love otters. 4-7 year olds will enjoy this because it is fun!
Annabel	I love reading and inspiring others to read.	<i>A Series of Unfortunate Events – The Reptile Room</i> by Lemony Snicket. I think it should be aged 8+. I enjoyed this book because it is full of exciting plot twists and mystery! I would recommend this book to my friends because it is exciting.
Isla	I am excited to be a Reading Ambassador because I believe that I could change the way people see reading and make it more fun to read, and make it more comfortable by adding fluffy pillows and fuzzy blankets!	I love the <i>Percy Jackson series</i> by Rick Riordan because I think it's partly educational about Greek Gods and it is all about prophecies (ancient quests) that they (the characters) perform, and if they don't succeed they will perish (die). I think the age rating is about 11 years old – I give it 5/5 as it is just amazing.
Harmony	I love reading! I like listening to others read. I like helping the younger people learn to read.	<i>Lottie Brooks</i> by Katie Kirby. Age: 9-14 years. I like this book because it's about a 12 year old girl and her life.
Beatrix	Because I want others to read more.	<i>The Worst Witch</i> by Jill Murphy. It is about a witch who thinks that she is the worst at magic! I like that she is trying hard not to be the worst but something bad happens...she turned into a frog! Her cat is called Tabby and her name is Mildred Hubble; her friends names are Maud, Spellbody and Enid Night-Shade. She has a sister called Issey. There are lots of books in the series.
Edith	I am excited to become a Reading Ambassador because I love reading new books and learning new things.	<i>The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse</i> by Charlie Mackesy. I like this book because it is a kind story about friends and helping each other. My friends will like it because the mole is funny and thinks everything is cake!
Hebe	I am excited to become a Reading Ambassador because I love reading and I want to encourage others to do more of it because 'reading gives you wings'.	<i>Saved from the Waves: Animal Rescues of the RNLI</i> . It is about animals that are saved from the sea, beaches and cliffs. I like it because the people take so much care over the animals. I think others might like it because it is fun and the save some unexpected animals like a seal!
Finley	I am excited to become a Reading Ambassador because I love reading and want to encourage other people to read.	<i>Warrior Cats a Dangerous Path</i> by Erin Hunter. I like it because it's an action, fantasy book about cats with the most unexpected plot twists. In think that other people might like it because it always keeps you on your toes and isn't the slightest bit boring as it's about animal that have to battle for their survival every day. I would rate this for children aged 9+.
Marmaduke	Reading sparks your imagination and expands the words that you know. I want to help people read more.	<i>Hopeless Heroes</i> by Stella Tarakson. It's about a boy called Tim who time travels. I like it because Tim solves mysteries. Other people might like it because the author write myths with modern elements to create fantastic books. It would also be good for people who like myths.



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Recommendations

Award winning – National Book Tokens - Books Are My Bag Readers Awards 2023

Children's Fiction Shortlist

Jamie by L. D. Lapinski (Hachette Children's Group) – Jamie is a happy 11-year-old non-binary kid who likes nothing better than hanging out with their two best friends. When the trio find out that in Year Seven they will be separated into one school for boys and another for girls, Jamie decides to take matters into their own hands, and sort it all out once and for all.

Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell (Bloomsbury) – Mal, Christopher and the griffin embark on an urgent quest across the wild splendour of the Archipelago, where sphinxes hold secrets and centaurs do murder, to find the truth – with unimaginable consequences for both their worlds.

The Skull by Jon Klassen (Walker Books) – Otilla has escaped terrible danger and run away. When she finds herself lost in the dark forest, a lonely house beckons. Her host, the skull, is afraid of something too, something that comes every night. Can Otilla save them both?

Greenwild by Pari Thomson, illustrated by Elisa Paganelli (Pan Macmillan) – Daisy has escaped from boarding school, and must solve a mystery. The trail leads her through a doorway to the Greenwild, a land bursting with magic. There, Daisy confronts a danger that threatens green magic on both sides of the door.



Our website recommendations.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/reading-for-pleasure/> We know how powerful it can be to get the right book into the hands of the right reader at the right time, so Books for Topics have put together a wealth of resources to support book selection for reading for pleasure among primary school aged children.

<https://booksforbugs.co.uk/meet-the-forest-book-fairy/> Books for Bugs are a local(ish) book warehouse/online shop in the Forest of Dean that sell a variety of books at bargain prices including a £1 range, special offers and on their website you can search for different genres and types of books.

<https://ourfp.org/texts-authors/> Looking for something new? This website has an 'Authors in the Spotlight' section and 'Top Texts' shared each month.

In other news... **WORLD BOOK DAY 2024** is coming up on **Thursday 7th March 2024** - look out for further information about this in the next few weeks.

