

St Peter's C.E.
Primary School



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Spring Term
2024

Reading Newsletter

Think before you speak. Read before you think.— Fran Lebowitz

OH, WHEN THE SAINTS COME READING IN

Year 4 were very lucky to have a visit from St Helens RLFC front row, Sam Royale recently. He read them his favourite book (The Enormous Crocodile by Roald Dahl) and spoke to them at length about his love of reading.

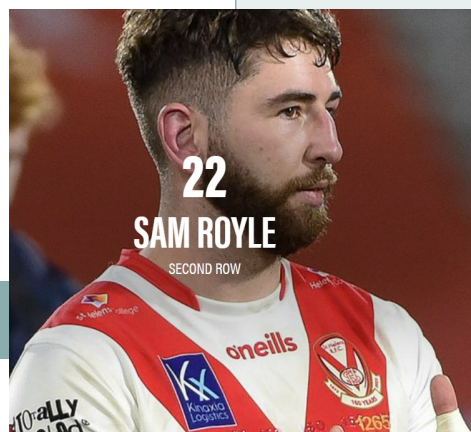
I thought the book was really good! It was about a big crocodile who wanted to eat some children. He ended up being flung into the Sun. I really want to read the end of the book. It surprised me that he likes reading. I thought he would have been spending his time training or playing rugby. It really inspired me.— Robbie, Year 4

I loved that he stayed to ask questions. I asked him how many people has he tackled and he replied hundred, maybe thousands. It taught me that even if you do a tonne of stuff, there's still time for you to read.— Charlie, Year 4

I really liked the story. I found it funny when the animals said that children aren't juicy, they're hard and chewy. His visit taught me that even if you do lots of sports, you can still enjoy reading.—Emily, Year 4

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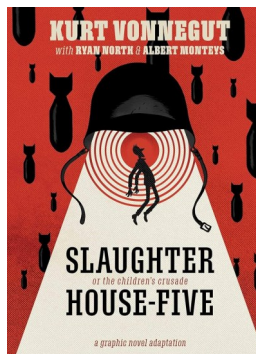
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WHAT ARE OUR TEACHERS READING?

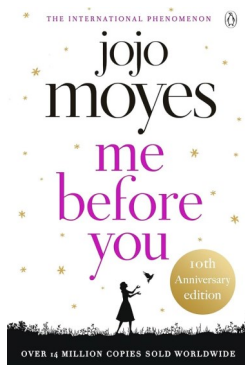
Our reading ambassadors asked a few of our teachers what they are currently reading, and why reading is so important.

“Reading teaches you
to



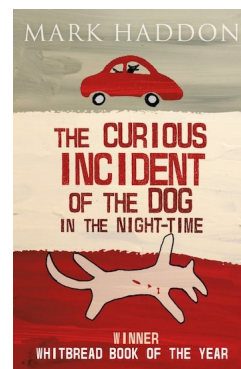
Mr Badley is reading
Slaughterhouse-Five
by Kurt Vonnegut

“The more you read, the more
you learn. It helps you grow and
develop.”



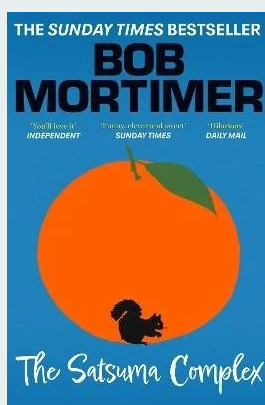
Mrs Grace is reading
Me Before You— by
Jojo Moyes

“”You learn how to live in the pre-
sent by knowing the mistakes of the
past.”



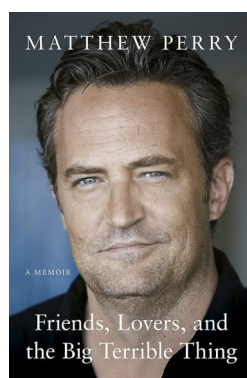
Mrs Vinyard is reading
*The Curious Incident of
the Dog in the Night-time*
by Mark Haddon

“It allows you to escape into dif-
ferent worlds and different
places.”



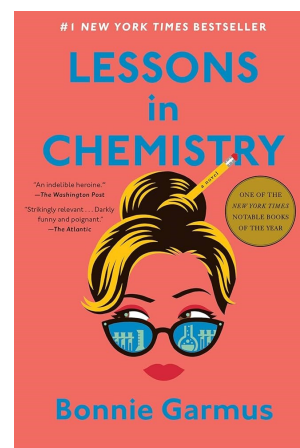
Mrs Wilcox has been
reading *The Satsuma
Complex* by Bob Mor-
timer.

“It is the key to life and success,
and it opens up your imagina-
tion and it extends vocabulary.”



Mrs Harrison is read-
ing *Friends, Lovers,
and the Big Terrible
Thing* by Matthew
Perry

“Reading teaches you to know
yourself better.”



Mrs Ainsworth is
reading *Lessons in
Chemistry* by Bonnie
Garmus

CLASS READING AREAS



The reading areas in each class are very peaceful because there are comfy seats or bean bags, and there are no interruptions. These spaces also have a variety of books to choose from and enjoy. To add to the reading areas, there are decorations such as lights, cushions, and pictures. The books are sorted into categories which could be authors, genres, teachers' choices and more. Reading Ambassadors– Year 6



READING BUDDIES

Our Year 6s have been helping our youngest students with their reading.

George, Abi, Jorja and myself go down to Reception every Friday for ten minutes before lunch to help them read. We take four children at a time (we only have time to do one set of children), their reading records and a book that Mrs Harrison would like us to read with them. We spend ten minutes helping the children to read and understand the book. I love doing this job because I love helping others.

Jorgie, Year 6



WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

World Book Day was held on the 7th March. Our theme this year was *Twisted Fairy Tales*. We all had great fun coming to school in different costumes and showing off our favourite books.

Key stage 1 had fantastic fun reading and listening to a range of 'twisted fairy tales' and comparing them to stories they already know.

Key Stage 2 were trained by Mrs Ainsworth to read in an effective and exciting manner to the younger children and spent some quality time honing their skills with the younger classes.

In the afternoon, all classes had the opportunity to take part in a fairy tale treasure hunt: looking for clues to solve a hidden message.



BOOK CLUB

Book club is in Mrs Ainsworth's classroom once per month. It is on for an hour– three thirty until four thirty– and Mrs Ainsworth splits it into two parts. For the first half an hour, we talk about the last book that we have read: we give suggestions about them and give them a 'book club rating'. For the second half of book club, we talk about the book that we are going to read next, and we usually talk about the author and read the first chapter.

Book club is run on Thursdays after school and has a variety of books. In addition to the book club, Mrs Ainsworth provides us with a selection of books to choose from and take if we want. At the moment, we are reading *The House with Chicken Legs* by Sophie Anderson.



“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go!”- Dr Seuss

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our Spring 2024 Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success. Our wonderfully generous school community spent over £1500, securing our school commission of £957.42 to spend on books for our school library.



COME AND VISIT OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY

Our Librarian, Mrs Bowles, regularly puts together collections for children and visitors to peruse. At the moment, you can find books about Spring and protected characteristics on display.



ELS Essential Letters and Sounds

developed by Knowledge Schools Trust

Getting all children to read well, quickly.



READING IN THE EARLY YEARS AND KEY STAGE 1

Teaching children to read quickly and fluently is absolutely vital. The teachers and children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been working very hard on their phonics using our new approach from *Essential Letters and Sounds*. Parents have been invited to an MS Teams meeting with our phonics coordinator (Mrs Harrison) so that they can help at home, and all the teachers in school have been brushing up on their phonics so that they can help the children no matter where or when in school they might be needed.

We have also bought over £1,000 of extra books that the children can take home with them in order to practise. Ideally we would like children to read each book 3 times. The first for decoding, the second for enjoyment and the third for understanding.

Suggested Questions to ask Readers

Try to ask a range of questions about your child's chosen book as well as the text within. Where possible, encourage them to tell you in their own words what they have just read to help you assess their understanding. Here are some possible questions to ask children when discussing the text with them:

- Where can we find the blurb?
- Is there a contents page?
- What made you choose this book?
- What do you think this book is going to be about?
- What genre do you think this book is?
- Why do you think the text is organised like this?
- Who are the key characters in the book?
- Give me three adjectives to describe one of the characters
- Find a word in paragraph 2 which shows.....
- Can you think of a word that rhymes with?
- What sound does "....." start with? Can you think of any other words which start with the same sound?
- Can the word _____ have more than one meaning?
- What other word could the author have used instead of _____ which has the same meaning?
- What did do?
- What does mean?
- What happened in the beginning of the book?
- Has there been any surprises or twists in the storyline so far?
- When and where did the story take place?
- Which word tells you that.....?
- Give me the main events of the story so far
- Summarise what you have just read to me
- What do you think is going to happen next?

10 Easy Ways to Encourage Motivation to Read



Start early!

Reading with your babies and toddlers helps them connect books with love and comfort.



Head to the library.

Libraries are often filled with resources for children—summer reading programs, story times, craft classes, and of course, shelves and shelves of books!



Read it again.

Young children enjoy anticipating what comes next. Use this to your child's advantage. When stories contain predictable text or rhymes, your child may be able to finish the sentences.



Build your own library.

The more books you have at home, the more opportunities your child will have to pick one up and read. Try rummage sales, library book sales, resale shops, and bookstore clearance racks.



Go “on location.”

Reading becomes an adventure when you can connect a book to a real place. Reading about animals? Visit a farm or a zoo. Too far for a visit? Find pictures!



Make books accessible.

Keep books on a low bookshelf or in a basket on the floor, or allow your child to choose her own special spot just for her books.



Let them wiggle!

Some kids get uncomfortable when they have to sit still. But read-alouds are important for wigglers too, so let them wiggle! Coloring, kneading playdough, or building with LEGO bricks can keep hands busy while you read.



Bring stories to life.

Capture your child's attention and make reading fun by reading with expression. Try using different voices for different characters. Exaggerate the rhythm of the text. Let your face and your voice show what the characters are feeling



Set an example.

Let your child see that reading is important, whether it's reading a book for pleasure, reading to learn, or reading a recipe to make dinner!



Change it up!

If you normally read in the same place each day, don't hesitate to try out a new location from time to time. Try a front porch, park bench, or a cozy reading nook.

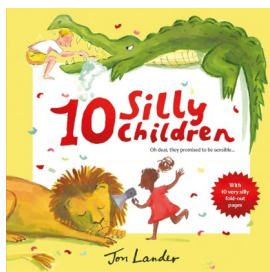
HAVE YOU READ ANY
OF OUR BOOK RECOM-
MENDATIONS?

If you have, we would
love to hear from you!
Write us a short book
review, and send it into
school. We'll publish it
in our next newsletter;
hopefully it'll inspire
others to pick up a new



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BOOKS YOU SHOULD READ– AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOOKTRUST

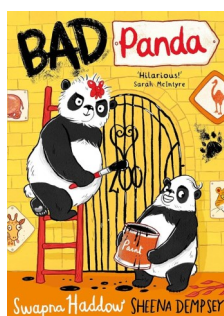


10 Silly Children?- Jon Lander

Age 4-5

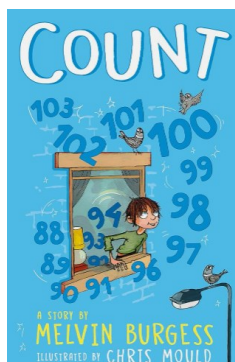
The author of this book would like you to be sensible and not open its fold-out pages, unless you're ready for some seriously silly behaviour.

A really original book that is great fun to read together.



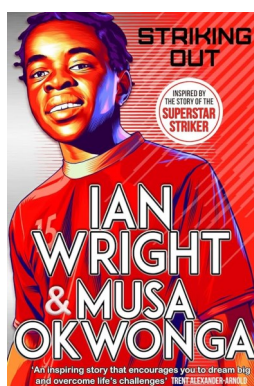
Bad Panda– Swapna Haddow Age 6-7

In the panda sanctuary, Lin was the cutest baby. Being cute had her sent to be the cuddle face of a foreign zoo. So maybe being bad will get her sent home?



Count– Melvin Burgess Age 8-9

Brandon boasts about everything and claims that he can count to ten million, even though it will take him almost a year. As he begins, the numbers take on a life of their own, emitting a shimmery light as they wait in line to be counted. The higher Brandon counts, the more his life is on public view, and he becomes part of a media frenzy.



Striking Out– Ian Wright and Musa Okwonga

Age 10-11

Jerome Jackson is a black teenager who lives with his over-worked mum and volatile stepfather in their London flat. He dreams of becoming a professional footballer, but since the death of his father, Jerome has lost his confidence to try out for major clubs.

A chance meeting with legendary striker Ian Wright changes everything.