

Headteacher's Blog

Friday 21st January 2022
Special Reading for
Pleasure multiple pages
issue.



The Open
University



READING
FOR PLEASURE

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to this weeks special Blog where there are the usual updates and information and also further information on our Reading for Pleasure initiative that we started in school last June and are developing further this year as we continue to look to ways in which we can make school even better. As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher via Tapestry, or Class Dojo, although please be aware that messages are not necessarily able to be accessed throughout the school day as our lovely children keep us very busy! This may also be the case before and immediately after the school day but we will always endeavour to respond as soon as possible. If you could keep messages to teaching staff to 8.30 - 5.30 Monday to Friday that would be appreciated. If messages are sent out of these hours or at weekends they too may not be responded to immediately. We also have the more traditional methods of communication; give the school office a ring and ask for your child's class teacher to ring back or speak to Mr Charlton or I when we are on Gate Duty and we will ensure that we can either answer any queries or arrange for teaching staff to talk to you as soon as possible.

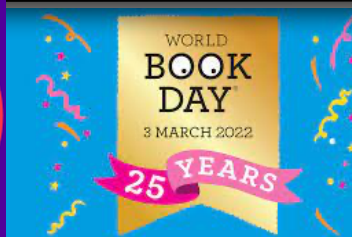
Thank you for your help and continued support.

Best Wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.

World Book Day - Thursday 3rd March

It is amazing to see that World Book Day celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and we hope to plan some other activities in addition to our traditional 'Dress as your favourite book character'. World Book Day vouchers will be handed out to every child and more details will be available soon.



Queens Jubilee Bank Holiday reminder.

As you will know from the email sent out this week we have been asked to set a date for the Queens Jubilee Bank holiday. To make things easier for families we have set the same date as DCHS- Monday 27th June 2022. School will be closed on this day.

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

easyfundraising
feel good shopping

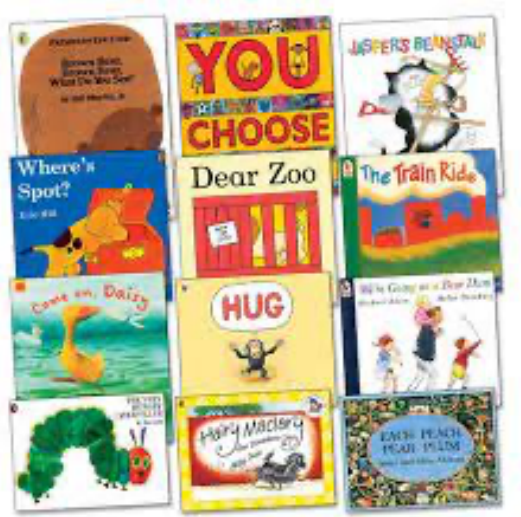
COVID isolation reminder.

As you will know from last weeks HT Blog the period of isolation is slightly shortened. Just to clarify:

Day Zero is the day a positive test is received and Day One is the following day. On Day 5 your child needs to take a Lateral Flow Test if this is negative and on Day 6 they take a lateral flow test before coming into school which is also negative they can come to school on this day. If they are still testing positive they need to remain off school until they are testing negative.

Fundraising and PTA
Last week I urged families to support **Your School Lottery** by purchasing a weekly ticked if you are able. Another way to support us is if you shop on Amazon - use **Amazon Smile** and choose Whittingham PTA as your chosen charity. If you do this every time you make a purchase a percentage of the purchase price is paid into our school PTA account.

The same is the case if you load **EasyFundraising** onto your browser and click on the donation reminder that pops up each time you shop. Once it is safe to do so we will be holding our long awaited Annual General Meeting of the PTA. As soon as this is possible I will let you know.



Reading at Whittingham C of E

Historically we have always had extremely high standards of reading at Whittingham C of E Primary School and have been fantastically supported by families reading to their children as well as listening to their children read when they bring their school books home on a daily basis to enable this to happen. All our curriculum areas have a helpful information page on the school website. Reading is included on our English page https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website/curriculum_areas/542477. I am curriculum lead for English with Miss Dick (when she returns from Maternity Leave) having responsibility for English English and Phonics. Please find some information about this initiative and also helpful hints and tips for reading at home. If you copy and paste this link to your browser <https://ourfp.org/supporting-rah/book-chat-reading-with-your-child/> you will find three short films and support materials to help parents, families and carers read books conversationally and creatively to children.

Daily Read

Across the school class teachers and support staff regularly hear children read, this may be individually or as part of a group. The children are also read to on a daily basis. Books are carefully chosen to match topics, spark interest in recent events or for children to immerse themselves in listening to a good book and for this class teachers access quality books from recognised sources, in particular Pie Corbett's Reading Spine. The intention is that over 7 or 8 years, children are read to, enjoy, discuss and work with around 82 core books. These 'essential reads' are a store of classics, creating a living library inside a child's mind. This is the 'Reading Spine'.

Great Books

Great books build the imagination. The more we read aloud expressively, and the more children are able to savour, discuss and reinterpret literature through the arts, the more memorable the characters, places and events become, building an inner world. Each great book develops the imagination and equips the reader with language.

Great Stories

Great stories speak to us as individuals and some children will return to certain books again and again. Great stories also build our language because around 75 per cent of our vocabulary comes from our reading. Reading develops the ability to think in the abstract; to follow lines of thought. Schools that have a reading spine, build a common bank of stories that bind the community together. These are shared and deeply imagined common experiences.

What is the Reading Spine?

The Reading Spine should be central to every school's book stock, but should also be supplemented by many other books. In the Foundation Stage and Year 1, there is a suggested spine of 12 great picture books with which children should build a strong acquaintance.

Year 2 is a transition year, with both great picture books and 'chapter stories' included. The daily read-aloud programme is supplemented by guided, shared and independent reading.

In the Reading Spine at Key Stage 2, there are six novels in each year with a focus on one core picture book. This leaves enough space for teachers to add their own enthusiasms and new finds.



Book Chat

Developing a Love of Reading



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!

Book Chat develops language, comprehension and pleasure.



For more information visit:
bit.ly/RfPHome

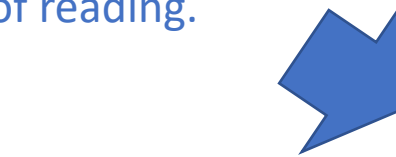
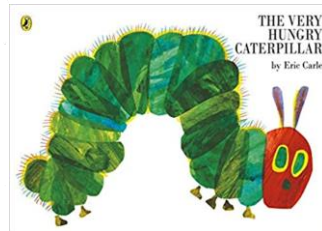
Supporting Readers at Home



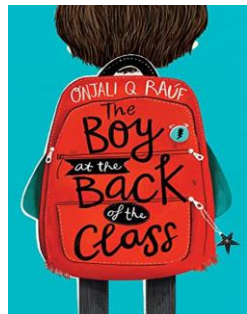
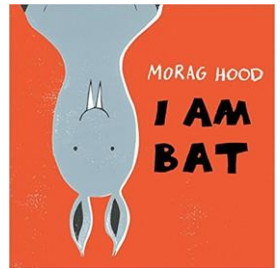
Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.



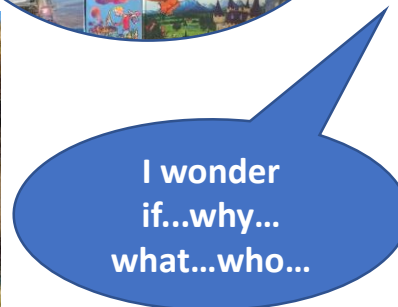
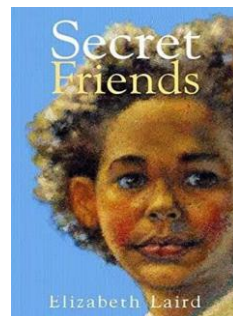
Reading aloud to your children shows them reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.



Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.



Children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school.



Book Chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too!



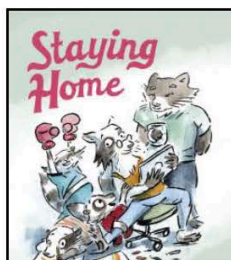
Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

For more ideas see the OU website:
<https://www.researchrichpedagogies.org>

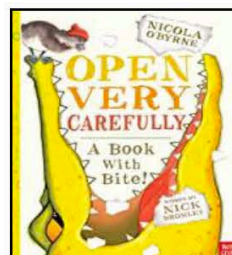
Top Ten Digital Books to Enjoy!

Do check out these ace E-books, Comics and Magazines.

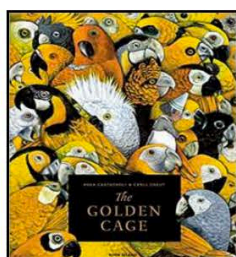
Let your children choose...



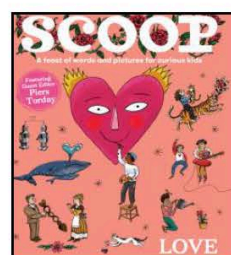
[Staying Home](#) by Sally Nicholls, a story about a racoon family in lockdown



[Open Very Carefully](#) by Nick Bromley and Nicola O'Bryne



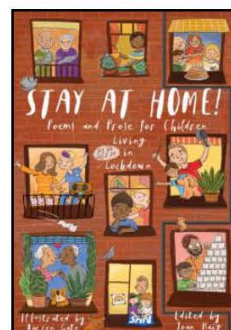
[The Golden Cage](#) by Anna Castagnoli and Carll Cneut read by Laura Watkinson



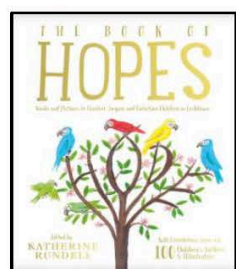
A free digital issue of [Scoop](#) magazine. Fun for all!



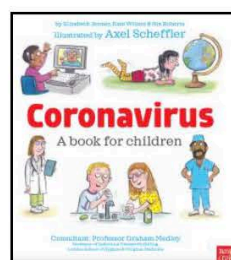
A free digital issue of [Aquila](#) magazine. Worth a read!



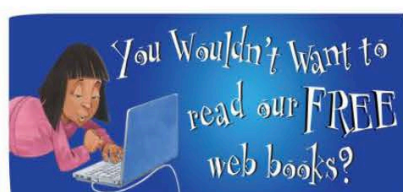
[Stay at Home! Poems and Prose for Children in Lockdown](#), a collection by writers based in Scotland. Illustrated by Darren Gate



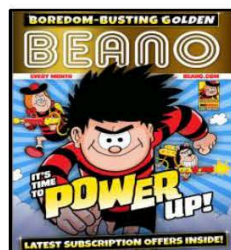
[The Book of Hopes:](#) Words and Pictures to Comfort, Inspire and Entertain Children, edited by Katherine Rundell with 100+ children's writers and illustrators



A child-friendly information book explaining the [Coronavirus](#) in simple terms written by Axel Scheffler



[You Wouldn't Want to Be...](#) non-fiction web books to explore



A free digital issue of the [Beano](#) comic book! Always a winner!

OU Supporting Reading at Home <https://bit.ly/RfPHome>

