Reading newsletter 1, November 2023

There’s lots going on linked to reading in our school. After all, reading is the foundation to all other learning, and we aim to teach children not just how to read but to encourage a life-long love of reading.

With that aim in mind, I wanted to tell you about a few things that are going to be happening at school over the coming months.

**Ambassadors**

Firstly, you will be aware that we have a wonderful team of reading ambassadors made up from children in years 2-6. These children absolutely love reading and want to encourage others to enjoy books as much as they do.

Last term, our ambassadors started running library sessions at lunchtime so that all classes have the opportunity to browse, select and borrow books to take home and enjoy over a 2-week period.

They have also set up a ‘Reading Buddy Club’ aimed at children in Maple and Year 1, in order to help younger students foster a love of reading and sharing stories. This takes place on Thursdays and it has been so lovely to see how our ambassadors are so kind and caring towards the younger children, asking them about the book as they read and checking they have enjoyed the story.

**Literature Festival**

I am excited to announce that we will be hosting our very own Literature Festival on Friday 24th November. This looks set to be a really special day and, thanks to the extremely kind and generous sponsorship of our Friends of ACPS, we have been able to invite 4 fantastic children’s authors to come and work with our children.

These are: **Tracy Corderoy** (Shifty McGrifty & Slipperty Sam series, The Story Shop series, The Seaview Stables series and many, many more!); **Tracy Nguero** (Herman Needs a Home & Swop the Satsuma-sized Secret); **Lucy Hope** (Fledgling & Wren) and **Steve Skinley**, a local artist and musician who has just had his first children’s book published called, ‘The Otherlands’. This is aimed at our older children and, rather excitingly, is based in Cirencester!

Each class will be working with 2 authors on the day and our reading ambassadors will be running crafts at lunch time in the eco-building, a cake stall at break time, as well as dressing as characters and running a competition. Watch out for more information about this in the coming weeks.

**Book corners:**

Work is underway to make all class book corners as inviting, comfortable and accessible as possible. With help from our Friends, I will be able to purchase cushions and rugs to enhance these spaces and aim to make them the most loved places in our school!

**Scholastic Book Fair:**

We are delighted to be taking part in the Scholastic Book Fair again this year. It will be running for 3 days later this month and is a good opportunity to do some Christmas shopping! More details will be sent out about this shortly. Last year the purchase of so many books by our parents and children meant that we made hundreds of pounds for books for our school library and book corners. Many titles are under £5 and there’s even the ability to pay by scanning a QR code, as well as making card or cash payments. I know the children get really excited when they see the book trolleys arrive. Please support the fair if you can. It will be running in the hall, Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th.

**School Community Book Club:**

Studies show that reading culture in children is mirrored from adults. Here, at Ampney Crucis Primary School, we aim to model a life-long love of reading and I am sure that our parents feel the same way. To this end, I am considering setting up a Reading/Book club which would take place once a month and wondered whether there’d be much interest from parents to join in. I think it would be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how adults love reading and talking about books, too!

Please complete the accompanying slip if you’d like to get involved. (As way of a little bribe, there will be biscuits for those that attend!)

**Other:**

Please take a look at the English page on our school website as I have popped suggested reading lists on there, as well as tips for reading with your children at home. There are so many amazing children’s authors out there to explore, and yet, in a recent survey, our children in KS1 could only name 3 authors as their ‘favourite’ with Roald Dahl and Julia Donaldson being both chosen many times. One vote went to Liz Pichon, but I’d love for the children to be getting to know a variety of other authors and their work.