

Dear parents and carers,

I thought I would write to let you know about some of the exciting things we have got coming up in the world of reading.

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

Although we aim to value books every day, we will also be celebrating World Book Day in school, as always.

The main aims of the World Book Day are set out below:

Our mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We want to see more children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them.

With that in mind, along with research carried out on creating a purposeful event, I have decided that we will **not** be dressing up on World Book Day.

However, the children are invited to dress down for chocolate bingo, the following day (Friday 8th March) and we will also be enjoying another 'Wear What Makes You Happy' day, as part of Children's Mental Health Week, so there are plenty of opportunities to wear something different.

To make the day more meaningful, we will be focusing on **science fiction** so that work can be tailored to a particular genre.

However, as last year's potato characters competition, as well as the shoe box activity in class, showed such fun and creativity, I would invite children to create a '**shoe box story**' to bring in and display. This can be based on any book of your child's choice. The most imaginative entries made by the children will be voted for and a prize of a £10.00 book token will be awarded in each Key Stage.



World Book Day tokens will be given to all pupils on the day. Please encourage your child to use it. They can use it to acquire any of the £1.00 WBD books at bookshops.

Those that went to **Young Voices** were treated to a rendition of MC Grammar's World Book Day song, which was great to be a part of. This song can be found on YouTube if you want to get in the World Book Day mood!

We are ALL readers:

I would like to create a wall of photos showing all children and staff from school reading in their favourite or unusual places to cement the idea that at our school, we are all readers. Please send these to school (or if possible, print at home) on A4 paper, in the first week back after half term.

The Year of Reading Project, which is being led by the Corinium Education Trust, is hoping to engage participating schools in a read-a-thon in the summer term. I would love it if we had everyone taking part. More details to follow soon....

Book corners:

I have now ordered a few soft furnishings to make our book corners even more inviting and comfortable. This has been made possible by a generous donation from the Friends of Ampney Crucis, along with money raised from the cake sale at our Literature Festival.

Reading Ambassadors

Our reading ambassadors have found conducting library sessions rather tricky with the building work going on but will be back in action soon. I am also going to purchase a library trolley to make the most of the wonderful books we have in school. This will be taken to classes as well as to the Eco building so that children have daily access to our library books.

I will be enlisting our reading ambassadors to help organise some activities on World Book Day as they are our best resource for promoting a love of reading and books.

Magazine/comic subscriptions:

Some of our older children have expressed an interest in the school providing access to comics and magazines. Using some of the money from The Year of Reading Project, I shall be purchasing subscriptions asap. This is a reminder that ALL reading is beneficial (and also that we listen to the children in our school).

Cirencester Library.

I am aware that not all of our children make use of our wonderful town library and that some are not yet members. I aim to ensure that every child at our school is able to make use of this resource and have plans to do class visits for orientation (& fun!) early in the summer term. Please look out for the details about this later in the month.

I'm sure there's more to say but I will leave it until next time....

Happy reading!

Karen McKay