

Dear Parents and Carers,

The new Spring term is well under way and the children are enjoying their new topics and new literacy books.

Thinking about literacy, I had the pleasure of reading with various groups of children in Y2 this week and it was lovely to see so much reading going on around the school too. Mrs Legg has also been carrying out fluency assessments in Key Stage 2, and it is wonderful to see the progress many children are making, but more importantly to share with them their love of a good book!

Did you know, the government, along with support from the Literacy Trust is referring to this year as the Year of Reading? Learning to read and taking pleasure in reading is what primary schools are all about. As I often say, reading is the key that unlocks learning in all subjects. Please support the school, and your child, by ensuring that they are taking time to read everyday. Try and find time to share a book with them too - these are precious moments of adult time for our children.

Thank you to the parents who attended this week's safeguarding workshop. A leaflet is being sent home in all the children's bags today, outlining the importance of safeguarding in our school - it is everyone's responsibility!

Finally, a reminder once more that children should not be bringing in toys from home please, including fidget toys (unless this is part of a child's SEND provision). Please check their bags regularly.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Jo Plesniak
Head of School





While there is no one-size-fits-all way to get children to read for pleasure, there are some things that you can do to help encourage them.

1. Embrace challenges

Libraries and schools often capitalise on children's love of competitions organising reading challenges across specific periods of time. At All Souls, we have our own Reading Road Map Challenge. Talk to your children and find out how many books they have completed so far.

Why not take a trip to your local library to find out about events happening there. Choose some books not just for the children but for yourselves as well, instead of spending time on your own devices. This way you are being a great role model for your child.

2. Reading out and about

Children often have a misconception that reading means sitting in a corner at home with a book and no distractions. Reading can happen anywhere. Think about your child's favourite books – is there a linked place you could visit for them to read in an immersive setting?

For example, if they prefer non-fiction books about sport, is there a local pitch or club they could take a book to? If they are reading about a period in history, are there any related local landmarks or museums that have a quiet corner?

For young children, if you are packing a bag for a day out or car journey, bring a book, a magazine or a comic. Making reading a part of other day-to-day activities can mean it feels less like school-work.

3. Reading chat

Modelling reading habits is very important, but this is more than just allowing your child to see you reading for pleasure. The National Literacy Trust found that a third of children, who enjoyed reading, were motivated to do so because of 'hearing friends or family talk about reading'. If you are reading a piece of fiction, tell your child a bit about the story. If you've read a biography of someone who appears on television, talk about what you learned about them in the book.

If your child eagerly talks about other forms of media they enjoy – for example, a video game or film – relate things they tell you to things you've read in books or magazines. Bring reading into conversations about hobbies and interests instead of just ones about school work. Talk to older children about how they discuss reading in front of younger siblings. If you have a reluctant teenage reader, remind them that they have a lot of influence over younger ones.

Give them a sense of responsibility by asking them to join in with encouraging their younger siblings to read, or ask them to read to little ones, perhaps before bedtime.



4. Dispel reading myths

Watch out for common myths creeping into your child's attitude to reading, such as:

Reading means big, long novels: There is value in reading of all types. Your child doesn't have to take on long works of fiction to experience the benefits of reading.

Reading is boring: Think about the things they enjoy doing and find books that tie-in, perhaps about television, film or gaming series they like.

'Cool kids' don't read: Do some research to find interviews with people they admire that ask about what they've been reading. Telling your child that their favourite YouTuber or musician is a keen reader can help dispel the idea that it's not 'cool'.

Libraries are silent and dull: If your child's experience of libraries is limited to silent searching or reading, find out what activities your local library is holding.

5. Talk to the class teachers

We can give you information about what they're reading in lessons and the topics being worked on that could be read about at home. Look out for reading lists for pupils of specific age groups or levels of ability on the website soon. Remember reading isn't just about novels. We recognise the value of providing things to read that capture a child's interest, and can recommend works of non-fiction, graphic novels, magazines, poetry or plays that your child might enjoy.

6. Don't make it a chore

When an activity that we once enjoyed starts to feel like a chore – something we have to do rather than choose to do – it loses appeal. This is a common problem with reading as children age. Where books are often part of playtime or shared time with family when they are very young, once they are expected to read for homework or to prepare for assessments, the shine can sometimes wear off.

Try not to make reading seem like a punishment. 'Have you done your 30 minutes of reading?' can create a very different impression of reading than a question like: 'What are you reading this week?'

Remember...

It's never too early, or too late, to encourage a love of reading. From showing a very young baby a picture book at bedtime, accompanied by cuddles and giggles, to finding a novel that has been written as a spin-off to your teenager's favourite video game, parents can help open up the world of reading to children of all ages.

"The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss

On Friday, Y6 were invited to visit the Lord Mayor of Westminster in his parlour at City Hall.





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| Butterflies 93% | Year One 96% | Year Two 93% | Year Three 94% | Year Four 96% | Year Five 87% |
| Year Six 97% | Willow 100% | Sycamore 98% | | | |

Well done to Year 6 and Willow for their excellent attendance this week

Please use the email absent@allsoulsprimary.co.uk to let us know if your child is unwell or is unable to attend school



UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday 19th January - Museum Ambassadors starts for some of Y5/Y6

Monday 19th January - Y1 Parent Meeting re Homework - RHH 3pm

Friday 23rd January - Important Y6 meeting in RHH at 9am re SATS - all parents to attend please

Friday 23rd January - Eco Team taking part in Great British Bird Watch

Tuesday 27th January - Parent Coffee Morning at 9:10am in RHH 'How we teach RE at All Souls' with Mrs Legg

Thursday 29th January - Choir visit to see HMS Pinafore

Friday 30th January - The Village at Forest School

Monday 2nd February - Late Gate Week

Tuesday 3rd February - Headteachers' Coffee Morning at 9:10am in RHH

Wednesday 4th February - Y1 trip to London Aquarium

Wednesday 4th February - Poetry Recital at 2:45pm in RHH

Please join us in Riding House Hall at 9:10am on Monday morning.

This Week's Commendations go to...

Butterflies: Dawud and Sana
Year One: Isadora and Elliot
Year Two: Delilah and Dea
Year Three: Elishama and Wajiha
Year Four: Adiaan and Skye
Year Five: Sumayyah and Lizzie
Year Six: Erik and Cirae Hannah
Willow: Ali
Sycamore: Aayat



Whole school focus - Kindness and Friendship Awards

Y1: Giorgia and Brienne
Y2: Noa and Delilah
Y3: Atena and Elliot
Y4: Aniyah, Hugo and Aya
Y5: Eshaan and Ted
Y6: Keano



Homework Awards

Y2: Charlotte
Y3: Amira I and Amira M
Y4: Skye, Hugo and Josephine
Y6: Jailson, Aria, Eleazar and Lorik

This week in pictures:

