Reading for Pleasure changes children’s lives

This is the first of the Reading for Pleasure Newsletters, distributed to all parents in the Cluster. The Year of Reading was launched in September and has already generated an exciting number of events and projects across the schools.

In the first week of term, all the staff from the schools met together to hear about research from the last ten years that had evidenced the impact that reading for pleasure has on children’s lives.

The key findings show that reading enjoyment is more important for children’s educational success than many other factors affecting their lives. The evidence clearly suggests that reading for pleasure leads to increased attainment.

‘Parents and the home environment are essential to the early teaching of reading and fostering a love of reading; children are more likely to continue to be readers in homes where books and reading are valued.’ (Clark and Rumbold, 2006)

Although the foundations for a love of reading are laid in the early years, the research also indicates that it is never too late to start reading for pleasure. The schools, therefore, are joining together to encourage every single child to read.

Extreme Reading Competition Winners Announced

Right, Toby Ludditt’s (Hasland Infant School), winning entry in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) category.

Above, Mr Smith’s (Hasland Hall Community School) entry.

For more information, see Page 2.

Time to Read Together

This September, the Book Trust launched the Time to Read campaign. It is aimed at encouraging families to read together more – even when children are ‘too old for a bedtime story’.

The campaign is encouraging all parents to find just 10 minutes a day to share a story, or discuss a book with their child.

‘We want you to read more with your child and not just the younger children – the older ones, too.

Why? Because brilliant things happen when families read.’ Book Trust

For more information: www.booktrust.org.uk
Never, never, never give up....Reading

They read them on the beaches and on USS Missouri, at the very spot where Japan surrendered to the Allied forces. They also read them in buckets, up poles and trees, next to famous figures and fountains, in caves and caverns and, accompanied by a snail, in the shower!

The first competition to mark the Year of Reading has been a great success with entries from all year groups and a large number of staff. Many entries matched the book to the place, with Toby Ludditt’s reading of ‘Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs’ standing in a bucketful of dinosaurs winning the EYFS category (See Page 1).

A great gift to give – A love of books

As part of the Year of Reading, all schools in the Cluster are encouraging parents to consider buying their child a book for Christmas and/or Birthday in place of another present. There are a number of websites (see below) with useful advice for parents about how to choose a book and recommendations about specific texts. Teachers can also recommend books that they think individual children would enjoy so whether it’s choosing a book at the library with a child or giving them a great gift, advice is available.

Dear Santa... Competition

The second competition of the Year of Reading is being launched. All the pupils and staff are being asked to write a letter to Santa explaining what book they would like for Christmas and why they deserve that specific book.

It is hoped that the letters will include some original and persuasive ideas. The winner of each Key Stage will either receive a copy of the book they have asked for or, if the cost of the book exceeds £10, a book token.

Individual entries should be submitted to the pupil’s own school and can be handwritten or word processed.

Closing Date for ‘Dear Santa’ Competition:
Monday 12th December

Recommendations

The Storm Whale by Benji Davies – An imaginative father and son tale with striking illustrations.

The Zoomers’ Handbook by Ana de Moraes – A world of mixed-up animals for silly storytimes.

The Tear Thief by Carol Ann Duffy – A warm and very beautifully illustrated story with a thought-provoking message

Itch by Simon Mayo – A science-mad boy in a cracking thriller.

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness and Siobhan Dowd – An extremely powerful novel about coming to terms with loss.

For more information about choosing books:
www.lovereading4kids.co.uk
www.booktrust.org.uk
www.oxfordowl.co.uk
http://www.ncbc.co.uk