



Elsecar Holy Trinity C.E Primary Academy

Spring 2 Reading Newsletter

Welcome to our first reading newsletter!

As I'm sure you are aware, reading is something we place at the heart of our curriculum at Elsecar. Being able to read is a critical life skill and at Elsecar Holy Trinity we do our best to promote and teach these pivotal skills while developing a love of reading. Take a look at our newsletter to find out what we've been up to this half term.

Early Reading lead: Miss Woollands

Y2-Y6 Reading lead: Miss Upton

World Book Day 2024

Last Thursday throughout school we celebrated World Book Day, where we saw lots of fantastic costumes of our favourite book characters.

Some KS2 classes also took part in a live BBC lesson that spoke about different genres of books and helping to find one that you love.

Thank you for all children who took part in our book swap initiative. The books swapped are located inside the main teaching block for children to continue swapping any time they want!



Reading books

All children in our school have the opportunity to take home 2 different types of books. One book links directly to their assessed reading level and one is chosen from our school library. Books from the library are not matched to reading levels and are simply chosen to be enjoyed – either alone or with friends/family! This week I spotted Year 1 children changing their books with Ms Raymond.

Children from Y2-Y6 have weekly slots at lunch time to go and change their library books and enjoy the library.



TEN AMAZING BENEFITS OF READING BOOKS



- Strengthens your writing skills
- Improves your memory and focus
- Enhances your imagination
- Increases your vocabulary
- Expands your knowledge
- Stimulates your brain
- Boosts your mood
- Deepens empathy
- Helps you relax
- Lowers stress



Reading at home:

We ask that, at home children spend around 15-20 minutes reading a minimum of 4 times a week. This dedication to reading can have huge benefits on your child's education journey while attending our school and beyond.

There is no such thing as a child who doesn't enjoy reading, they just haven't found the book for them yet. If this sounds like your child, please speak with your child's class teacher or Miss Upton. We have a library full of books that we are always adding to and we are always more than happy to take suggestions of new types of books and order these for school.

Early reading update

Our reception pupils are working hard to blend sounds using magnetic letters.

This requires the pupils to Fred Talk.

When reading words we use pure sounds ('m' not 'muh', 's' not 'suh', etc.) so that your child will be able to blend the sounds into words more easily. We also use a puppet called Fred who is an expert on sounding out words! 'Fred Talk'. E.g. u-p, m-a-n, sh-o-p, b-l-a-ck.

Parents' Story Time Techniques!

It's story time! Watch this Oxford Reading Tree story, read by a professional storyteller, and learn simple techniques to use when reading with your child. [Story time: Chicken Licken | Oxford Owl \(youtube.com\)](#)

Poetry Corner

Have fun reciting this short poem with your child.

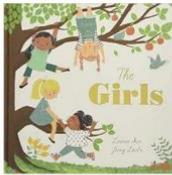
How doth the little crocodile,
Improve his shining tail,
And pour the waters of the Nile.
On every golden scale!
How cheerfully he seems to grin,
How neatly spreads his claws.
And welcomes little fishes in,
With gently smiling jaws!

(Lewis Carroll)



International Women's Day:

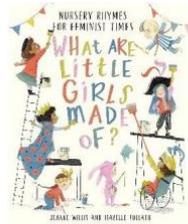
On Friday 8th March, we celebrated International Women's Day in school. We all learnt about famous inspirational woman. Here are some book recommendations if your child enjoyed this learning in school.



The Girls
Author: Lauren Ace
Illustrator: Jenny Løvlie
Publisher: Caterpillar Books
Age: 3 to 6



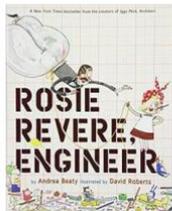
Girls Can Do Anything!
Author: Carly Hart
Illustrator: Ali Pie
Publisher: Scholastic
Age: 3 to 7



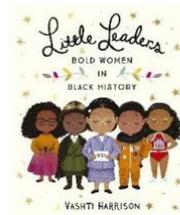
What Are Little Girls Made Of? Nursery Rhymes for Feminist Times
Author: Jeanne Willis
Illustrator: Isabelle Follath
Publisher: Nosy Crow
Age: 3 to 7



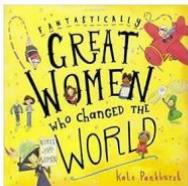
We Are Family
Author: Patricia Hegarty
Illustrator: Ryan Wheatcroft
Publisher: Caterpillar Books
Age: 5 to 7



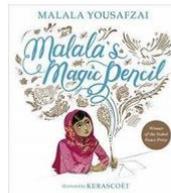
Rosie Revere, Engineer
Author: Andrea Beaty
Illustrator: David Roberts
Publisher: Abrams Books for Young Readers
Age: 5 to 7
Also available as an ebook



Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History
Author: Vashti Harrison
Publisher: Puffin
Age: 5 to 7



Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World
Author: Kate Pankhurst
Publisher: Bloomsbury
Age: 9 to 11
Also available as an ebook, audiobook and Audio CD



Malala's Magic Pencil
Author: Malala Yousafzai
Illustrator: Kerascoët
Publisher: Puffin
Age: 5 to 12
Also available as an ebook

Reading challenge success!

This half term we saw our second reading challenge take place where 43 children successfully completed it – what an achievement! All of these children were invited to Miss Upton's classroom to watch Despicable Me 3 and enjoy a hot chocolate and biscuits.

One child from each key stage was then randomly selected to receive an extra special lunch treat (they both chose McDonalds!). We will be hosting another reading competition in the Summer term.



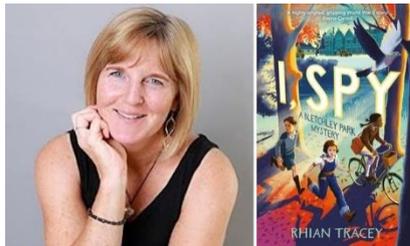
What's coming up?

We are lucky enough to have 2 very special live author events coming up where children will have the chance to listen to authors read extracts from their books in a live lesson.

Please see the details below:

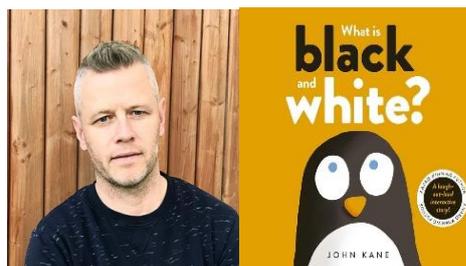
Wednesday 10th April – KS2 – Rhian Tracey

Rhian Tracey



Tuesday 23rd April – EYFS/KS1 – John Kane

John Kane



Library visits

Next half term. Two of our classes will also be making a trip up to Hoyland library to learn all about the fantastic services they have on offer. If your child is attending a library visit, please ensure they wear a waterproof coat if it is due to rain that day.

— BARNSELY —
LIBRARIES

Year 2: Tuesday 9th April

Year 3: Tuesday 23rd April

