



# Elsecar Holy Trinity C.E Primary Academy

## Spring 1 Reading Newsletter

### Welcome back to our 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

### Reading Books:

#### Early reading & Storytime

Stories shared at home provide a wealth of language that we don't use in everyday talk.

The more stories, poems and nursery rhymes children know well, the more easily they will be able to understand what they read, when they can read.

Please read to your child everyday.

#### Y2-Y6



Children who take part in whole class reading take home 2 reading books.

One that is matched to their reading ability (often colour or lexile banded) and one from the school library.

Library books are to encourage reading for pleasure and may not match your child's exact reading ability. Please encourage children to read their books at least 4 times a week.

### Reading fluency:

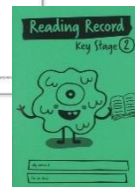
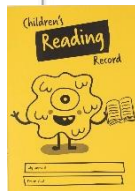
Just before Christmas, I completed reading fluency assessments on most of the school from Year 2 - Year 5. It was absolutely fantastic to hear and see the progress in the children's reading. These assessments were taken home before Christmas so parents/carers have copies of these but if you would like any further information, please email me on: [k.upton@smat.org.uk](mailto:k.upton@smat.org.uk) so I can provide extra support and guidance.

For those children who aren't yet reading within the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, we are providing extra support in school where possible, however, it is vital that at home your child is reading as often as possible to help develop these essential skills. All children have a colour banded reading book and library book from school.



## 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.

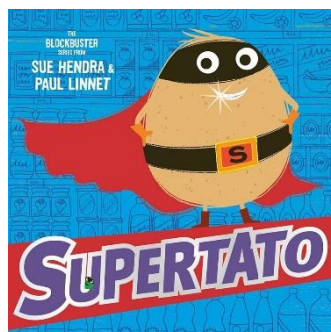
### Reading records:

All children in school have two home reading books and a reading record. We ask that these are brought to school every day so that we can monitor your child's home reading. This will also allow opportunities for adults in school to read these books with your child.

### Reading for pleasure:

Reading for pleasure is becoming a real focus in education due to the National Literacy Trust publishing a report in 2025 which found that **only 1 in 3 pupils enjoy reading** for pleasure at home, these are lowest levels since they began surveying children's reading attitudes. To help your child get into reading for pleasure at home, please find a link to an online activity linked to the story Supertato!

Please scan the QR code to access this resource. Feel free to post any activities you do on the @ElsecarReading Twitter page. You can also sign up to their newsletter which allows you to get more tips and activities to help straight to your inbox!



## Miss Upton and Miss Woolland's recommended reads!

Take a look at books recommended by Miss Upton and Miss Woollands below:

### Miss Upton:

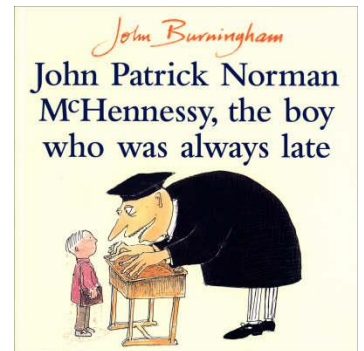
'Meet Nate, a Year 6 child about to face the concept of leaving his primary school and starting secondary school. Unfortunately for Nate, in his final year of school, things don't go to plan when disaster strikes for him and his family.'

I absolutely love this book. It is a little different to a traditional story as the whole book is written in verse (like a poem) but it tells a fantastic story of what life can be like for some children. I would recommend this book to children in Year 5/6.



### Miss Woollands:

My recommended read this term is John Patrick Norman McHennessy, the boy who was always late! This was a book I discovered when I first became a teacher and I adore the different excuses he uses for being late to school. Every day he tries to get to school on time but is always late – through no fault of his own! Unfortunately, his school teacher doesn't believe him, and punishes him by making him write lines for telling lies!



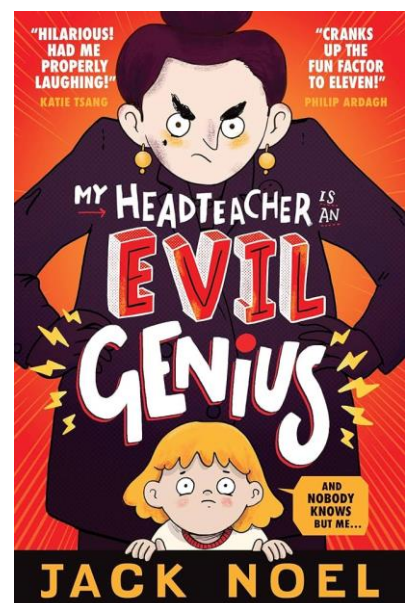
## What else have we been up to?

Last half term, we were lucky enough to have Mrs Rhodes come into school and run a book club for some Year 6 children. This half term, she will be running the club with children from Year 5. This is a very exciting opportunity and one we hope Year 5 children enjoy as much as the Year 6 children did.

### Donations:

The children have recently been asking for more books based on sport (in particular, football) or books based on games. If anyone has any books like these they would like to donate that would be wonderful. Please bring them into the school office.

Year 5 book club text:



### Story telling sessions:

We are lucky enough to have some incredible Year 6 librarians who run weekly story telling sessions to our younger children. It has been so wonderful to see the children so engaged in a story and the librarians reading with such passion and enthusiasm.



### Scholastic book fair:

Our Autumn scholastic book fair was incredibly successful and we sold almost £1,000 worth of books! Due to this, we were then able to purchase £500 worth of books for our school that have been filtered through into the school library. Thank you very much to everyone who came and bought a book as this has supported our reading initiatives within school. Take a look at the selection of books below:



1<sup>st</sup> February - 9<sup>th</sup> February marks National Story Telling week.

During this week, children will be taking part in some live lessons to run by the National Literacy Trust.

We will also be hosting a 'Teacher swap' on Thursday where a different teacher will spend time reading to your child's class.

1-9 February 2025

# National Storytelling Week

Reimagine your world 

National Literacy Trust  
Change your story

Supported by 



Follow our reading twitter page for reading updates: @ElsecarReading