



Moat Farm Infant School

October 2023 issue 1

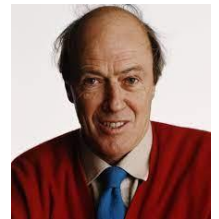
Reading Newsletter



Welcome to our first Reading Newsletter! Here you will find out what is happening with reading at our school, tips for reading with your child and book recommendations.



Celebrating Authors



But first... you did so well with your Roald Dahl book fronts in celebration of Roald Dahl Day on 13th September! All of the entries are on our website and everyone has had their name entered into a draw to win a prize at the end of the autumn term. Here is a selection of the entries:



Denby Stokes
Robin Class



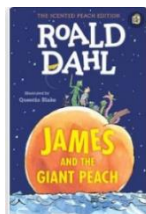
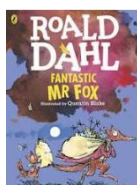
Yuvraj Ghuman
Hedgehog Class



Isla Harrison-Hibbs
Fox class



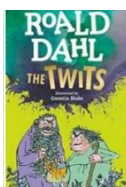
Annie Hubbard
Badger Class



Kaiden Shaw
Hedgehog Class



Caleb Piper
Frog Class



Leo Dukes
Otter Class

Thank you

A MASSIVE 172 books were donated to school through Birthday Books last year.

This year, we will continue our initiative **Birthday Books**. Rather than bringing in sweets or treats to celebrate your child's birthday, you may choose to purchase a book/books for the class to enjoy over and over again. The gift that keeps giving!



The idea is that you buy a book, wrap it up and your child opens it in front of the class as a present to the class. We will then put a nameplate on the cover explaining who has donated the book to the school.

If your child has already had their birthday or it was in the holidays, they can still donate a book to their class.

You can buy any age-appropriate book, choose a book from our Reading spine or ask your teacher for guidance.

Thank you to the Nursery children: **Denby Stokes, Sadie Cook and Jacob Cotton** who bought Birthday Books but their names were missed off the July's Newsletter. We will include your books in the autumn term numbers.

Let's try and beat last year's amount! Could we try to aim for 175 books? ...that would be amazing!!



Why reading matters

- ❖ Research shows that reading makes children happy!
- ❖ Reading at an early age can lead to success later in life - academically, professionally and socially
- ❖ Reading helps children understand how to be a good friend
- ❖ It helps them to understand the world and themselves
- ❖ Great books build the imagination
- ❖ It relaxes the mind
- ❖ It's a lovely activity to share



Impact of parents reading with their children

Here's how many words children would have heard by the time they were 5 years old:

- never read to - 4,662 words
- 1-2 times per week - 63,570 words
- 3-5 times per week - 169,520 words
- daily - 296,660 words
- five books a day - 1,483,300



The reading framework Teaching the foundations of literacy, July 2021

"A child who is read to will have an inner kingdom of unicorns, talking spiders and a knife that cuts into other words." Pie Corbett





Genre What kind of book are you in the mood for? Do you want a scary book, a funny book or a fact book?

Dip in!

You wouldn't jump into a pool without testing the water. Open up the book and read a few sentences. Ask yourself, does this sound interesting? Does it make me want to carry on reading?



Do you want to know what happens next before you turn the page?



Recommendations

What would your friends recommend? Or your teacher? Ask them for ideas!

The 'Five Finger' Rule

Choose a page in a book and start with an open hand. If you find a word you don't know put a finger down. If by the end of the page you have a fist it's probably too hard. If you knew all the words it might be too easy.



How to choose a good book

Check out the cover

There are loads of clues on the cover to help you choose a book. Ask yourself: does this look interesting? Do I like the title? Do I like the author/illustrator? Do I like other books that look similar? Don't forget to check the back too!



Find a 'just right' book

Find a book that fits with a little bit of room to grow. Too easy and you'll get bored. Too difficult and you won't get anything out of it.



Know what you don't like

There are some books that are just not interesting to you. If you're not sure what to choose, put any books that you really don't like to one side and choose from what's left.

Virtual Library



Don't forget to visit our Online Library

You can access it on Moat Farm Infant School website or use this link:

<http://www.moatfarm-inf.sandwell.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Moat-Farm-Infant-School-Virtual-Library.pdf>

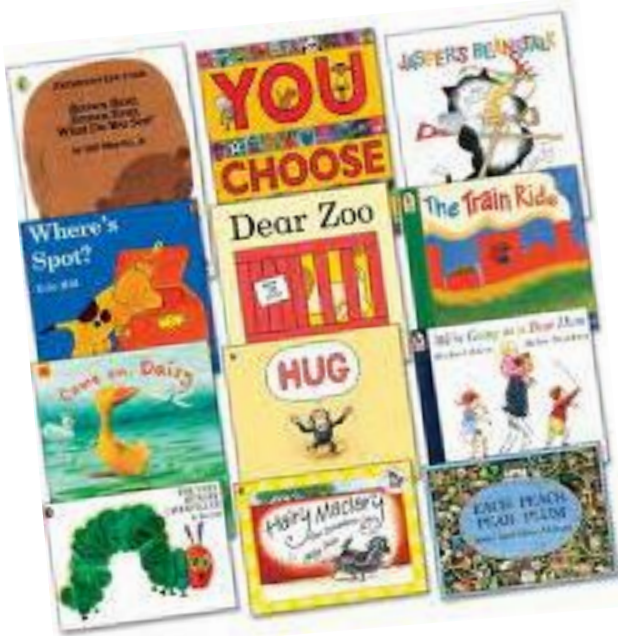
WANTED

If you have any children's magazines or comics that you have finished with, can you donate them to our new library please?

Reading Spine

We have established a store of classic books into each year group called a 'Reading Spine'. Each year group reads these books (and the books from previous year groups), adding other favourites, so that the children become familiar with these core books. The teacher also shares other picture books, traditional tales, non-fiction books, poems and nursery rhymes.

Nursery Reading Spine



Reception Reading Spine



Year 1 Reading Spine



Year 2 Reading Spine



10 Top Tips for Parents to Support Children to Read

Encourage your child to read - Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

Read aloud regularly - Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and pouring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

Encourage reading choice - Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

Read together - Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

Create a comfortable environment - Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

Make use of your local library - Visit your local library when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and e-books to borrow. See Libraries Connected for more digital library services and resources.

Talk about books - This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

Bring reading to life - You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

Make reading active - Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them - You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.

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Home Reading

Please remember to listen to your child read every day. Your class teacher will talk to you if your child doesn't change their book and read at least 3 times a week.

If you need **any support** with this, please talk to your class teacher in the first instance. Alternatively, you can e-mail me, Mrs. Spencer, karen.spencer@mfi.school with your child's name, class and the nature of your concerns and I will endeavour to help.



The Book Fair will be arriving on 20th October.

You will be able to visit it until Thursday 26th October 2023.

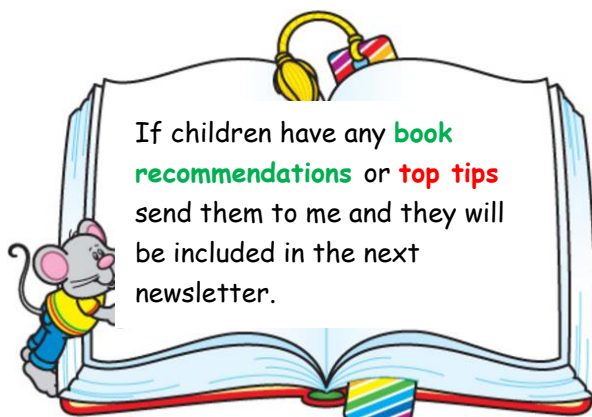
Letters will be sent out soon.



Be a reading role model at home.

Be positive and enthusiastic when reading. It will influence your child.

Send in any photos of moms, dads, other family members reading - for our internal displays.



All entries will be entered into the autumn prize draw.

Any correspondence can be sent to karen.spencer@mfi.school