

## Reading Newsletter – Spring Term.

***“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body”*** Joseph Addison.

Welcome to this term’s Reading newsletter!

We are now two terms into our new phonic scheme Little Wandle and we are incredibly delighted with the progress the children are making. All staff are continuing to work hard to ensure fidelity and consistency to the scheme and their enthusiasm and dedication is resulting in children enjoying their daily phonic and reading sessions. Pupils are excited to read and for many the world around them is opening up and they are reaping the benefits of reading. It is clear to see from walking round school that children are growing in confidence and enjoying learning. We recently had a monitoring visit from a Local Authority advisor and Ofsted inspector, Michele Costello. She was incredibly complementary about the teaching and learning taking place in Early Reading and Phonics across the school and commented on the enthusiasm from both pupils and staff. She expressed that reading is high profile and pupils make good progress.



The buzz around school, for a love of reading remains and even more so since the arrival of our new Book Vending Machine. On Wednesday 29th March we had our first whole school reading assembly. We were joined by Revd Tim Gill who is the Vicar at St Mary’s Church in Ecclesfield and part of the Parish Council Charity. He donated £1,500 for us to purchase the machine. We were also joined by Joanna Evans who leads FOTS and kindly bought the children the books, from money raised from events, to go into the vending machine and James Fletcher a reporter from Look Local to take pictures for our appearance in the paper. The reading assemblies will take place every half term to draw raffle tickets from each class to reveal which boys and girls get a book to keep from the machine.



This term the foundation children have been enjoying our new Story bags. These are given out once a week to ten children who take them home to enjoy. In the bags a fiction and non-fiction book can be found along with props, puzzles, and games. The response from pupils and parents have been fantastic and everyone is enjoying using them. A big thank you to Joanna Evans who made them for us in her own time. A thank you also to Mrs Whitehall for sorting through them on their return every Monday morning.



On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March we celebrated World Book Day. To mark this special day, we invited 'West End in Schools' to carry out workshops with all the children. The theme of the workshops was based around the book 'Where the Wild Things Are'. The day was very enjoyable and pupils enjoyed dancing and acting, building up to a class performance. We enjoyed the day so much that we have booked 'West End in Schools' to join us next year for World Book Day! Here are some quotes from the children...

- "I loved dancing like the sea, it made me feel free" Y4 pupil*
- "I liked pretending to be Max from the story" Y1 pupil.*
- "I have this book at home, it's my favourite" Y2 pupil.*
- "This has been the best day ever" Y3 pupil.*
- "I like acting. The leader was very good and helped me to learn the dance moves" Y6 pupil.*



***"It is not true that we have only one life to live; if we can read, we can live as many more lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish." S.I. Hayakawa***

Happy Easter,  
Kind regards  
The English Team.