

Reading Newsletter – Spring Term 2024

“Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary”.

Jim Rohn

What a wonderful Spring term we have had! As ever, reading has been high profile and a huge priority at High Green Primary School.

This term has seen the start of our whole school reading event, ‘Read & Share’ which was enjoyed by all the parents who attended. We have witnessed a huge number of children succeed at reading by either moving onto a new reading phase or becoming a free reader. We have children in F2 blending for the very first time and in year 2, graduating from our phonics scheme, Little Wandle, enabling them to access our year 2 reading fluency programme. It is wonderful to experience pupils gaining success and seeing their hard work and enjoyment for reading paying off.

In January, our new Reading Tree was delivered to school and our ‘Reading Miles’ challenge was launched and is now fully embedded. Pupils who earn 40 reading miles a week are put into the draw for a chance to choose a book from our vending machine. It has been lovely to celebrate the children’s successes during our two reading assemblies this term.

World Book Day was a huge success with so many of our pupils rising to the challenge of dressing as a word!





Last term, we were delighted to announce that the English team successfully attracted a donation from Ecclesfield Charity and our wonderful FOTS team. This enabled us to purchase our very own Reading Tree. We absolutely love it and so do the children! It is a lovely addition to our woodland themed library area. Here are some quotes from the children, expressing their view.

“I go to the reading tree to read my book and it helps me to concentrate when it’s time to learn”.

“The seats are so comfy and when I’m sitting in it, I can enjoy my story even more”.

“I love our woodland library; it looks better than ever. I want a reading tree at home”.





In January, we launched our new Reading Miles Challenge. We are incredibly pleased with how the children have responded and all the miles they are gaining. We are delighted that more children are reading at home and are gaining a love of reading. Feedback from parents has been very positive and they too are delighted that their children want to read more at home. Thank you to all the parents who have sent pictures in of children reading at home. These have been displayed in school.

Read & Share



As part of our mission to continue to develop a culture of reading across school and build our partnership with parents and families, we invited parents and carers into school to our 'Read & Share' event. In Reception and Key Stage one, the children follow the Little Wandle Early Reading & Phonics Scheme. Monday's session focuses on decoding as the children are given a new book. Tuesdays focus is prosody, which is all about reading with expression and finally, Wednesday's focus is comprehension, seeing how much the children have understood and remembered about the book. In Key Stage two, the children follow the Pathways to Read scheme. These sessions take place daily. Monday's session focuses on a whole class read where the teacher reads aloud to model intonation, fluency, and pace. The children are also given the opportunity to read out loud. This shared session follows a four-part structure predict, clarify vocabulary, read, and retrieve, and read and explain.

The event was a great success with lots of positive feedback. Many parents said it was a fantastic opportunity to see how reading is taught and how they can help their children to read at home.

We will be holding our reading event for F2 after Easter. We look forward to welcoming you into school.





As part of our ongoing commitment to reading, and our vision to nurture a love of books and stories in all our children, we celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024.

This year, to celebrate World Book Day, we were delighted to welcome back 'West End in Schools'. The feedback from pupils and staff was fantastic. So much so, we have booked it again for World Book Day 2025.

Each of the workshops was led by a professional actor & dancer who guided each class through a choreographed movement sequence which explored this year's story, Pinocchio. The workshops helped children to develop their confidence, use their imaginations and presentation skills alongside an understanding of narrative. By combining storytelling, movement and music, children were engaged with the story Pinocchio from a new, creative, and active perspective.

This year, we challenged our children to come dressed as a word of their choosing. The children's ideas were fantastic and incredibly creative, ranging from sparkle to snack!

Thank you to everyone who took part, making the day so memorable and exciting for the children.



We hope you all have a wonderful Easter.

The English Team.

“Think before you speak, read before you think”

Fran Lebowitz