

Reading Newsletter – Autumn Term 2023

“I do believe something magical can happen when you read a good book”.

JK Rowling

What a wonderful first half term we have had! As ever, reading has been high profile and a huge priority at High Green Primary School. This term has seen many children achieve lots of success with their phonics and reading from learning to blend new words, moving up to a new colour band reading book, becoming a free reader, graduating from our phonics scheme, Little Wandle or having their raffle ticket drawn in our half termly reading assembly, enabling them to choose a book from our book vending machine. We are very proud of all our children and are confident their achievements will continue in the Spring term.





At the beginning of this term, all teaching staff carried out refresher training for our phonics scheme Little Wandle Letters & Sounds. We also enjoyed welcoming our new staff members, Miss Reeve, Mrs J Evans, and Miss Easton and they too have carried out training to teach Phonics and Early Reading.

In September, we enjoyed meeting our new F2 parents, holding a Little Wandle information evening to introduce our scheme and expectations. We look forward to sending out information in the new year inviting them to a follow up meeting.

In year 2, we have introduced a new addition to our phonics scheme called 'Bridge to Spelling'. The scheme supports children to build the alphabetic code and provides a seamless link from the core Little Wandle Letters and Sounds programme which the children previously followed before successfully graduating. When speaking to the children in year 2 their feedback has been wonderful, and their progress speaks for itself.

“I am becoming a better speller. I know this because Miss Hughes can read what I write”.

“I know what vowels and consonants are and I use this to help me spell”.

“I read my work to check it makes sense and to check my spellings”.



The English team have been busy applying for grants to re-vamp our library area. We are delighted to announce, with a donation from Ecclesfield Charity and the help of our wonderful FOTS team, we have secured enough money to purchase our very own Reading Tree. We absolutely love it and know it will be a lovely addition to our woodland themed library area. The Reading Tree will arrive in January 2024. Watch out for photos on Facebook and Parentmail.



After the implementation of our new reading scheme, in key stage two, staff started teaching Pathways to Read in September. After recent monitoring and pupil voice, we are pleased to say, the scheme is having a huge impact on pupil progress and their understanding of vocabulary and comprehension.

The scheme follows a Mastery approach to English. Each unit of work is delivered using high quality texts and our children are given varied opportunities for reading out loud, in pairs and in groups. Skills are built up through repetition within the units, and children apply these skills in different reading activities. In our shared and grouped read there is a clear teaching focus with the opportunity to master key reading skills in each session. There are follow on reading tasks to enable pupils to evidence the skills they have mastered independently. Many opportunities for widening children's vocabulary are given through the Pathways to Read approach and this builds on the extensive work we do in school to provide our children with a rich and varied vocabulary. Here is some of our pupil and staff feedback.

"I love our whole class reading session every Monday, it gives me chance to read out loud and when my teacher reads, I can hear how expression should sound".

"I enjoy having time to read for pleasure. I'm allowed to choose the books I read".

"My teacher asks me lots of questions about the book. This really makes me think and helps my understanding".

"I enjoy the follow-on task mostly. There is always a fun activity to do, and it gives me chance to think about the book and what it's about".

"I enjoy Pathways to Read the most. I like the structure and how we do different activities on different days".



Our Reading Champions have continued to do a fabulous job, keeping book areas tidy, ensuring our class books link to current topics, encouraging other children to read, recommending books and some have even spent time reading to our F2 and Y1 pupils. This was a particular highlight for our F2 and Y1 children.

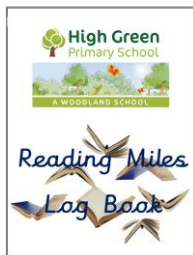




Our F2 pupils have enjoyed taking home our story sacks, on a weekly basis. Each story bag contains a couple of books, one fiction and non-fiction, props, and a game for the children to enjoy with parents at home. This will continue in the new year for all F2 pupils.



LAUNCHING OUR NEW READING MILES CHALLENGE 2024...



In January 2024, we are excited to launch our new Reading Miles Challenge. Each child in school will be challenged to read at home for 40 miles a week. 'Reading Miles Log Books' will be given to every child as a way of recording how many miles they read for at home. Teachers will send the log books home in the new year and will expect them back every Friday to monitor which children have met our challenge of **'40 Miles of reading a Week'**. *One minute of reading = one mile.*

If your child is successful, they will earn themselves a raffle ticket for the chance to get a book from our vending machine. Our reading assemblies take place every half term.

Children in F2 and KS1 can include the time spent reading their Little Wandle books and sharing a book with family members at bedtime.

We advise that 40 miles of reading isn't acquired in just one night, rather over four days. This challenge is about reading little and often at home.

We hope you all have a truly magical Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

The English Team.

"Reading is the gateway for children that makes all other learning possible".

Barack Obama.