

Reading for Pleasure

The Oakfield Way

- Reading is embedded in the daily culture of Oakfield. Our school day starts with dedicated reading time every morning, where pupils and teachers alike read during registration. Pupils have the chance to change books or quiz on their current reading material during this time.
- The pleasure of reading is embraced and rewarded daily at Oakfield, supported by events throughout the year. Our focus is to not focus on only celebrating reading at certain times of the year, but to make it an integral part of every academic day, and to encourage reading habits that our children will carry with them through life.
- We follow the Accelerated Reader scheme, and pupils' reading achievements are acknowledged in assemblies and on displays around the school. Our ACORNS house points system draws on word counts for individual tutor groups, so pupils know every quiz they pass counts towards their house success at the end of the academic year. This competitive element incentivises our reluctant readers and really encourages a reading community throughout school.
- All KS2 tutor groups and KS3 English sets have a dedicated fortnightly slot in our library, where pupils have 60 minutes of quiet reading time and the opportunity to change and quiz on books if necessary. KS2 tutors read to their tutees for a period of time during this slot, and will quiz their tutees on plot and vocabulary as they go along.
- Reading buddies - our KS2 students listen to some of our less confident KS2 children read, and help them see their books through to the quizzing process
- All our new year 5 intake receive a copy of *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* prior to starting, to reinforce that we are a reading school from the outset - Oakfield school features, so this is apt! On Transition Day, we make reading and our library a real focus for our new starters, to get them excited about reading on their new school journey.

Our library

- Our library is at the centre of our reading culture, but we strive to provide much more than just a book-lending service. We have regular themed seasonal displays and celebrate events such as Halloween and Christmas, as well as

covering topical events such as Remembrance Day. We also push genres, such as the 'Whodunnits', to encourage a variety of texts to be read.

- We promote recommendations from pupils to help shape how their library looks and our librarian curates collections for pupils who struggle with book choices. We are passionate about encouraging children to read books they enjoy, rather than books we think they *should* be reading.
- Books are displayed in book level order following AR, but we also have author collections and interesting subject matters grouped together so there are a variety of areas where children can look for their reading material. For our reluctant readers we have acquired a selection of graphic novels covering classic and contemporary material, and hope to expand this into a full section later this year.
- We host an annual book fair which our prefects are heavily involved in, and have close connections with our local book shop and the children's publisher *Chicken House*, through which we organise author events. We also have a close connection with our local library and participate in their annual Summer Reading Challenge, which we promote in our newsletter and library.
- We have acquired a new interactive library system and will be launching it to our pupils in the next few months. Pupils will be able to write reviews which will publish on the site and watch videos of their favourite authors introducing their books. We will also add some 'star reviews' to our monthly newsletter, and, crucially, pupils will be able to log in at home, which we hope will encourage parents who themselves aren't book lovers to take an active interest in their child's reading.

What next?

- We have lots of really exciting things planned for this year to build on our love of reading. We are setting up a reading corner in our library - we plan to create a 'cosy corner' where teachers can read to pupils or pupils can have a privilege lesson, where they are allowed to come and read, have some cake - a reading spa of sorts.
- We are also planning to use our outdoor space in the summer months for reading outside, so moving allocated library slots to somewhere green, with cushions and blankets for comfort. We will potentially incorporate this with a one-off afternoon book club.

- We are currently on the list for a reading dog - our pupils have responded really positively to having a dog in school in the past, so this will be an incredible addition to our reading strategy when it happens.

World Book Day 2020

- Oakfield celebrates the upcoming World Book Day in style. We have several activities planned, including a writing competition judged by an ex-Oakfield pupil who is now a successful children's author. We will investigate an 'Oakfield imprint' off the back of this, where we can add our pupils' work to our library to be read by all.
- We are putting together task teams of pupils to transform our display boards in the library and the adjoining corridor outside - one of the boards has been designated as a Bookflix board, based on the most popular reads from curated reading lists we are giving to all year groups. Assigning pupils to help with this task is to become an annual event to keep our library displays refreshed and current.
- We will also ask every pupil to donate a book, with the idea that pupils select a donated book to take home so everyone leaves with something new to read that day. Any leftovers we plan to add to a 'free reading library' box at the front of our school to get books into the wider community.