



The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College



Literacy Newsletter — Term 1 — December 2022



Welcome to our reading newsletter. Reading is a key focus in our school for pupils and staff. We want to share why it is so important to read, ideas about how to encourage pupils to read and also recommend books they may enjoy. We hope you have a restful Christmas holiday and enjoy the time to dive into a good book!





New Staff

We have appointed new staff this term who are keen to ensure that Literacy continues to be a key focus for us. They have lots of exciting initiatives planned.

We have a new full time librarian Mrs Thoburn, meaning the library is accessible at all times. She has installed a new system and has been praised for creating a 'buzz' on lunchtime enrichments.



We also have three new intervention teachers, enabling us to offer support to our weaker readers and help close the reading gaps that appeared over the pandemic.



Notices

A Reading Book is a compulsory part of every pupils' equipment. The school library has lots of new books we would love you to read. We have lots of different genres, big series books even manga! We also have a large section of dyslexia friendly and inclusive books.

Key Literacy Dates for Next Term

27th January	Holocaust Memorial Day
6-12th February	Children's Mental Health Week
2nd March	World Book Day
6-11th March	National Careers Week
8th March	International Women's Day



Our Librarians



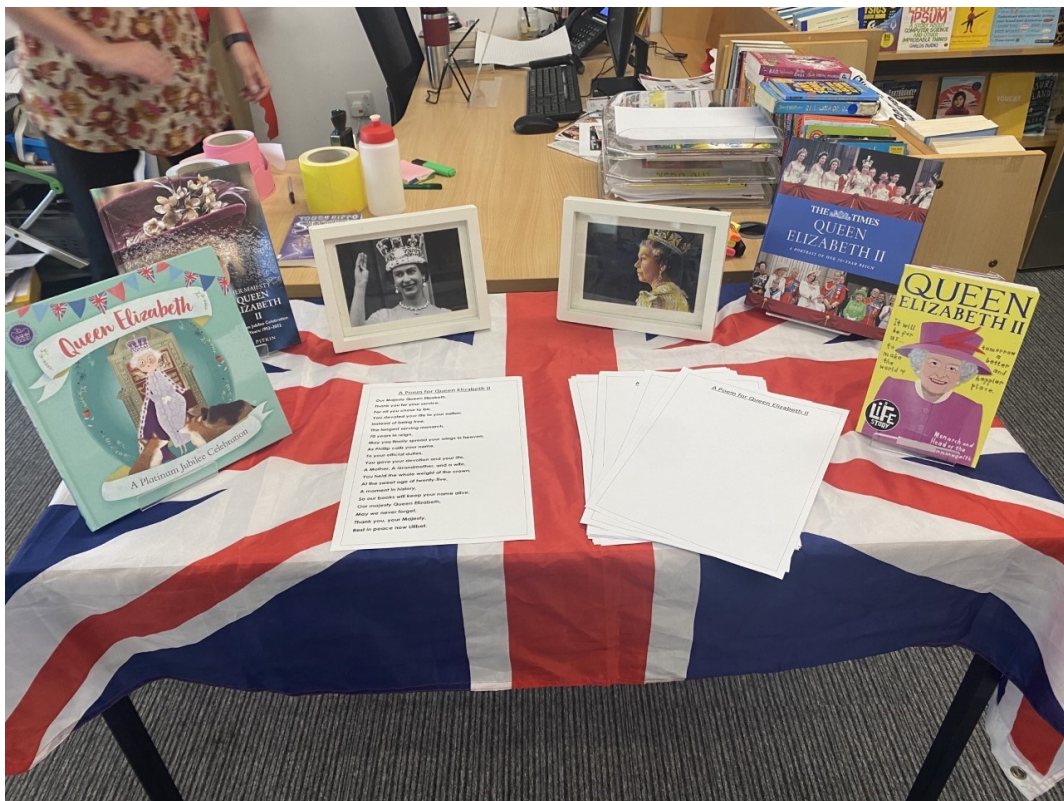
We have a fantastic team of librarians at English Martyrs who show excellent commitment to the library.

They have been involved in various activities this term, including the mammoth task of helping input all the books onto our new system and organise them according to their ZPD. They also work on a break and lunch time giving out recommended reads, managing and organising the library, and they have even won an award for their efforts.



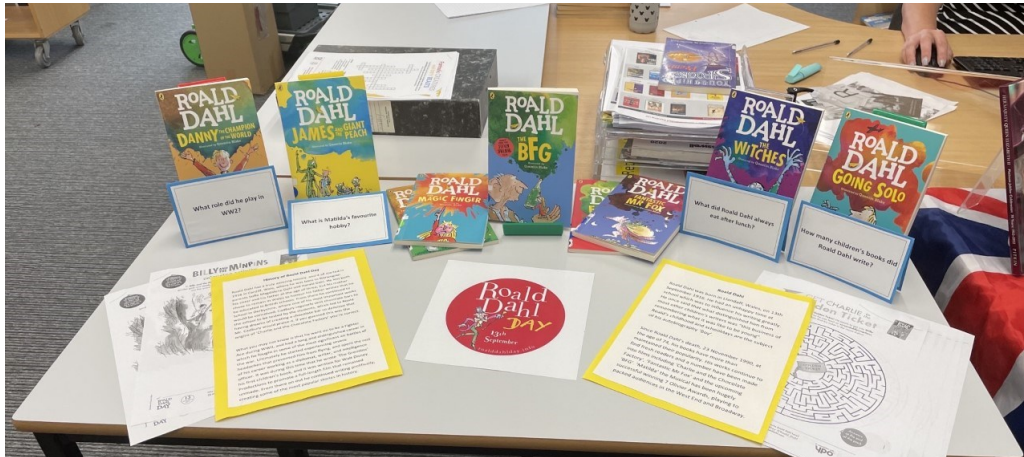
Queen Elizabeth's Memorial

As a school we were all deeply saddened by the passing of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II. The library celebrated her remarkable life and service to the country with a special display of books and poetry. Students were encouraged to create their own poems dedicated to the Queen's memory.





Roald Dahl Day



“If you are going anywhere in life, you’ve got to read a lot of books”.



The library celebrated Roald Dahl Day in September. They had a large selection of books for the students to read, quizzes and games.



National Poetry Day

On the 6th of October we celebrated National Poetry Day. The theme this year was 'environment' and the library displayed lots of these fantastic poems and had some DIY poem activities! Students also got involved in a form time group reading session.

Nature sings a song of tweeting birds

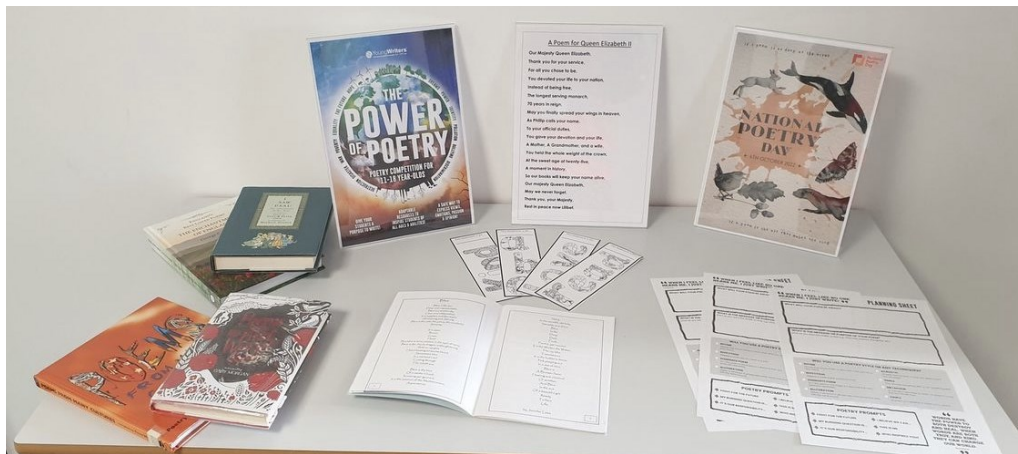
A chirping melody of fresh green words

Trees rustle in the brushing breeze

Under the globe – apples I start to sneeze!

Read like a bookworm about nature in bed

Every dream of the seasons





Liz Million Author Visit



Only the 13th of October Year 7 students had the pleasure of being visited by Liz Million who is an author and illustrator.

They had an illustration master class where they created some weird and wonderful monsters for their own stories!





Sixth Form Library



The long awaited library system is now up and running in the Sixth Form. Mrs Thoburn and her little band of librarian helpers have been working tirelessly organising hundreds of new subject specific recommended reading books. We are now excitedly waiting on a self-checking in and out app. Watch this space!



Remembrance Day

The library was involved in numerous activities for Remembrance Day. They teamed up with the English Department to display war literature in the dining hall and the Sixth Form library invited The British Legion in for an event.





Reading Rewards

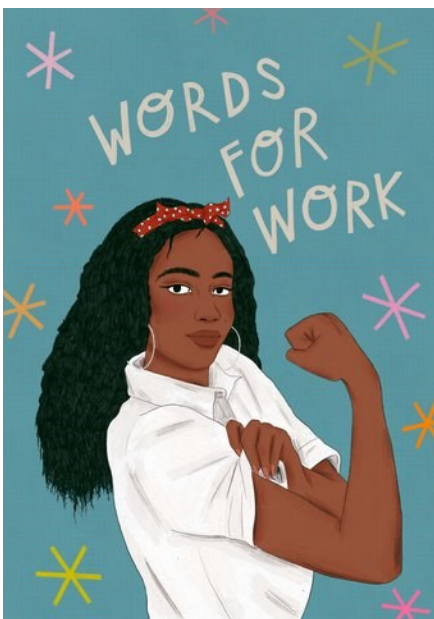


We awarded our first 'Half Termly Good Reader Award' when we came back to school after the October holidays. 20 students in Year 7,8 and 9 who had completed the most Accelerated Reader quizzes and read the most books on our online library 'myOn' received a £5 National Book Token.

In total students read 982 books on myOn and took 1090 quizzes on Accelerated Reader.



Women in Leadership Seminar



Sixth Form students were invited to The National Literacy Trust's Words for Work seminar. It is a women in leadership programme that helps young women to develop the literacy skills, leadership abilities and confidence they need to achieve their potential.

Through the panel event they heard from an inspirational panel who shared their career stories, gave their advice and top tips for young women about communication and the world of work and shared their insight into confidence building and developing leadership skills.

“The panel event was superb - our girls were introduced to some truly inspiring women. The students found the women relatable and their stories gave them confidence”



Book Reviews

Do you enjoy reading? Write a book review for our library! We would love for you to contribute to our termly reading newsletter. Why don't you use our hints and tips (see below) and contribute a review of your most recent book. Each month we will publish one or more reviews from students on social media and there may even be prizes for the best review! How can I contribute? Hand your book review to the library. We would love you to share the books you read over the Christmas holidays.

How to write a great Book Review

1. Brief synopsis
2. Basic themes of the book
3. Who should read the book
4. How it made you feel
5. Summary of what happened (no spoilers)
6. Loved or hated and why
7. How well did the book achieve its goal? 8. Recommend or not...and why
9. Describe your favourite character
10. Star rating

Book Review

Book review by: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Non fiction Fiction

Would you/would you not recommend the book? Why?

Would recommend

Would not recommend

Why? _____

Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆

What is the book about?

Who would this book be suitable for? Age/Interests

Age: 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Interest:

Sport	Animals	History	Stories	Countries
Poetry	Cooking	Funny	Sad	For Boys
For Girls	Toys	Activities	Pictures	Other

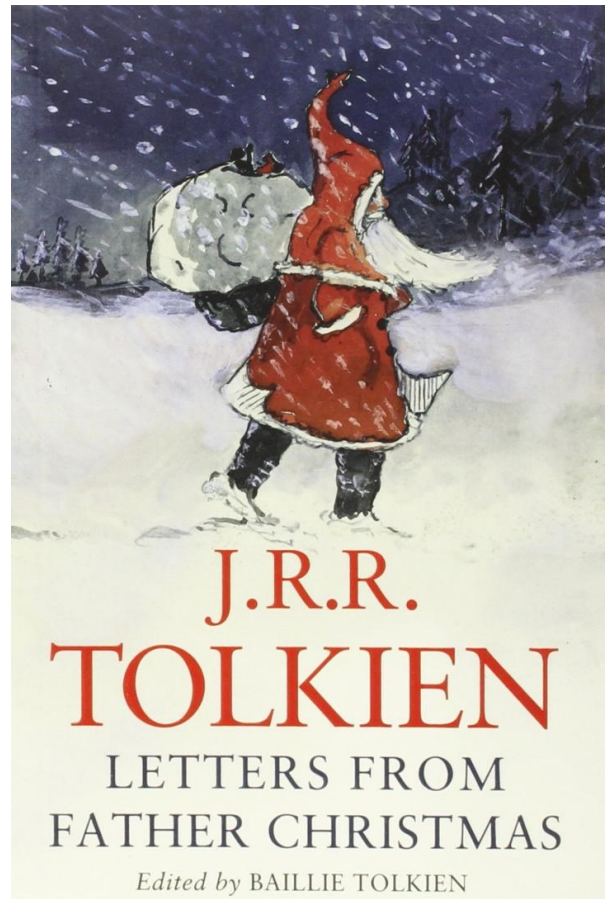
Book Illustration



Christmas Reading Recommendations

Letters from Father Christmas by J.R.R. Tolkien

Synopsis: Every December an envelope bearing a stamp from the North Pole would arrive for J.R.R. Tolkien's children. Inside would be a letter in strange spidery handwriting and a beautiful coloured drawing or some sketches. The letters were from Father Christmas. They told wonderful tales of life at the North Pole: how all the reindeer got loose and scattered presents all over the place; how the accident-prone Polar Bear climbed the North Pole and fell through the roof of Father Christmas's house into the dining-room; how he broke the Moon into four pieces and made the Man in it fall into the back garden; how there were wars with the troublesome horde of goblins who lived in the caves beneath the house! Sometimes the Polar Bear would scrawl a note, and sometimes Ilbereth the Elf would write in his elegant flowing script, adding yet more life and humour to the stories. No reader, young or old, can fail to be charmed by the inventiveness and 'authenticity' of Tolkien's Letters from Father Christmas.



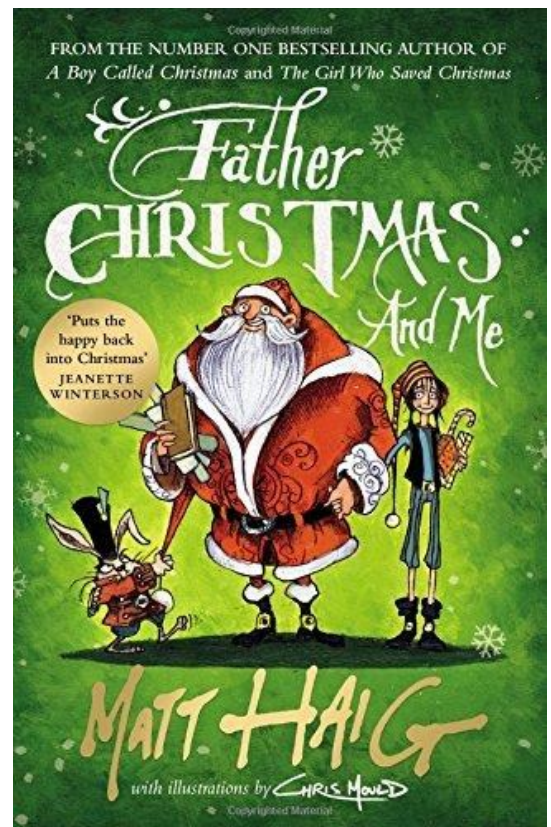


Christmas Reading Recommendations

Father Christmas and Me by Matt Haig:

Synopsis: LET THE BATTLE FOR CHRISTMAS BEGIN.

It isn't always easy, growing up as a human in Elfhelm, even if your adoptive parents are the newly married Father Christmas and Mary Christmas. For one thing, Elf School can be annoying when you have to sing Christmas songs every day - even in July - and when you fail all your toy-making tests. Also it can get very, very cold. But when the jealous Easter Bunny and his rabbit army launch an attack to stop Christmas, it's up to Amelia, her new family and the elves to keep Christmas alive. Before it's too late . . .





Christmas Reading Recommendations

Horrible Christmas by Horrible Histories

Synopsis: Horrible Christmas is filled with all the festive facts every Horrible Histories reader wanted to know, but were too stuffed full of mince pies to ask! The complete horrible history of Christmas tells tales from the dark days when the Puritans tried to abolish Christmas, to Christmas in the trenches when the British and Germans traded bullets for footballs. Plus dreadful jokes, rotten recipes, and a Christmas quiz!

