**World Book Day – Wednesday 1st March 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers

It’s almost that time of year again…a time to celebrate our love for reading and enjoy a world of books together.

With World Book Day fast approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the events for the day and activities that we will be participating in and the lead up to the day. Just to explain, we are going to hold our school event the day before the official World Book Day because Year 4 always miss out due to swimming being on the Thursday, which is when we normally hold World Book Day.

**Before the day**

Dressing up in pyjamas: Instead of dressing as a character from a book, this year we are asking children to come in pyjamas or suitable nightwear. This year, our focus is on promoting reading at bedtime and creating a calm and comfortable space in which books can be enjoyed. We are inviting children to bring their favourite book, a teddy, fleece blanket (or something of similar size) and a torch (only if they have one) to school on our day of celebration

Book tokens: As usual, your child will receive a book token for £1, which they may use at Urmston Book Shop, Sainsbury’s, or any other participating book shop to either purchase one of the titles for £1, or put towards another book of their choosing. This year we have sent the book tokens home with this letter so that you have more of an opportunity to go and choose a book before they sell out.

Volunteers for Breakfast book-swap: The PTA will be hosting a breakfast book swap, but need volunteers to help set up, serve breakfast and tidy away after. If you have time to spare on Wednesday 1st March between 7:45 and 9:30, please email our school office and they will pass your details onto our wonderful PTA. The address is admin@urmstonprimaryschool.com

Bring a book to swap: As we are asking children to bring their favourite book on the day for World Book Day, we are asking that they bring a book in advance for the breakfast book swap. These books can be dropped off at either of our school offices at any time between now and the end of February,

**On The Day**

Book Quotes: In each hall, we will have quote boards. We are asking the children to add a quote or extract to our board from their favourite book that they have brought to school with them.

Story telling: We will be retelling familiar stories and adding expression, character voices and sound effects!

Book Swap Breakfast: Our wonderful PTA will be providing a free breakfast for the event and we are grateful for their ongoing support. Before school, we will be holding a book swap in each of our halls at 8:15 onwards. This is an opportunity for children to bring in a book from home that they have already read and exchange it for another. We will not be asking for the books to be wrapped this year, but just to simply bring it in, add it to one of the tables and choose another book that takes their fancy. Parents are invited to stay and share the book with their child. We will not have a drop off facility, as the event is being hosted by our Year 6 librarians, so adults must stay with their child.

Orienteering – We will take it in turns to go into the school playground and use the new and exciting orienteering course linked to World Book Day.

Den building and book reading: To promote a love of reading, each class will have an opportunity to build dens and enjoy their books from home. We want to remind our children that there is a world of imagination and fun away from the stresses of modern society which involves the need for devices.

Online authors: Your child will get opportunities to partake in many activities throughout the day, including live sessions with authors online, where they will learn about some of the skills involved in writing books and how different authors developed their love for writing stories.

Decorate the classroom door as a book cover: Including some art, each class will decorate their door as a book cover.

Masked Reader: This year our masked reader quiz will take a new turn. Instead of guessing the teacher, pupils will have to guess the book with clues being given by the teacher.

Read with a buddy: Although we want to promote that pupils read independently, there is also a lot to be said for sharing a book with someone else. With this in mind, our KS2 pupils will go across to read to each of our EYFS and KS1 pupils. We have done this in the past and the pupils have loved it. I’m sure that they will all be excited for this.

Although this is a fun day, we want to ensure that the purpose is not lost behind the vast amount of activities. Reading is key, both to gain knowledge and for entertainment and this is the message we’ll be putting across to our children. We hope that you will continue to support us in ensuring that every child not only gains the essential skills of reading, but also fosters a love for books and a thirst for knowledge.

Many Thanks

Mrs Hall

English Lead