

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am delighted to let you know that the Wallace Fields Book Club will recommence in the Autumn Term for Years 3 and 6 on Tuesdays and Years 4 and 5 on Wednesday lunchtimes. Sessions will run **once a month** throughout the term.

As a published children's author and journalist, I am passionate about reading for pleasure. I fully believe in the power of a great story to change attitudes and lives. Book Club is a fantastic enrichment activity which has proved highly popular. During each monthly session, we discuss books and reading in a fun, informal way (no writing or comprehension involved), with the emphasis on reading for pure enjoyment. If your child is stuck on a particular genre or author, or you feel has yet to learn to lose themselves in a book, this is a great way to encourage them to read more widely, enthusiastically and frequently. After each meeting you will need to source the book for your child from Amazon, a local book shop or the local library. The school usually purchases a couple of copies of the books for the WFJS library, too. Your child will then have four weeks in which to read it alone, or with your support before our next meeting. **The fee per child, per term is £15.**

What I offer:

- The opportunity for children to rediscover the joy of books and reading away from a formal classroom setting, with no expectations of SPAG, reading comprehension etc.
- An insight into the life of a working author and tips and encouragement for children who enjoy stories and might wish to write their own.

Your child will:

- **Grow** in confidence as they are encouraged to express and share their genuine views on the books they have read.
- **Expand** vocabulary organically as they read regularly and more widely.
- **Explore** the work of new authors and genres and begin to read outside their 'comfort zone'.
- **Take part** in monthly debates and fun termly quizzes.
- **Love** receiving video clips and messages from the authors of the books they're reading. Children at WFJS have heard directly from Helen Rutter (*The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh*); David O'Connell (*The Chocolate Factory Ghost*) and Mitch Johnson (*Pop!*).
- **Enjoy** the chance to recommend books and authors to their peers.
- **Receive** an end of year Certificate acknowledging their reading.

To sign your child up and reserve their place please email me by the end of term on [steph.clarkson@btconnect.com](mailto:steph.clarkson@btconnect.com) putting *WFJS Book Club* in the subject. I will then send you bank details and a full schedule for the term. (See below for testimonials from WFJS parents)

I look forward to hearing from you,  
Stephanie Clarkson

**Testimonials – here are just some of the lovely comments that parents have sent in:**

‘You’ve transformed Aaron from a reluctant reader to an avid and passionate reader. He loved your latest pick and read twelve books over the summer, which he can’t wait to tell you about. You’ve awakened a love of stories and it’s had a positive impact on his imagination too. Thank you!’

*Year 4 Parent*

‘I want to share my thanks for setting up Book Club. This has proved such a valuable way of inspiring Annabelle to have a love for reading and a growing interest in books! Equally, I have seen a massive improvement in her reading ability which is wonderful.’

*Year 3 Parent*

My son has been in Book Club for three years and has grown so much more confident in his reading. The main benefit has been the way in which it has encouraged him to experiment with and try different genres and styles. He enjoys the group sessions and loves sharing his views during the discussions. Book Club has really helped reading become an integral part of Henry’s daily routine.

*Year 5 Parent*

My daughter loves Book Club. Steph is imaginative, fun and her enthusiasm is infectious! My daughter has loved finding out about new authors and exploring complex topics in accessible ways. We read the books together and discuss them, so it has given us a shared interest too. This is such a great opportunity for young readers to talk about amazing books with a professional author.

*Year 6 Parent*