

7th September 2021

WFJS Book club – Autumn 2021

Dear parent/guardian,

I am delighted to let you know that the Wallace Fields Book Club will recommence on Monday 20th September for Years 4 and 5 and Tuesday 21st September for Years 3 and 6. Sessions will run once monthly throughout the year, but you can sign up termly.

In case you're new to the school, my name is Stephanie Clarkson and I'm a Wallace Fields mum. I'm also a published children's author and journalist and am therefore passionate about reading for pleasure. I fully believe in the power of a great story to bolster positivity, change attitudes and improve 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 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 children 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'.
- **Love** receiving video clips and messages from the authors of the books they're reading. Most recently 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 with the opportunity to become a 'Reading Ambassador' for their Year Group.
- **Receive** an end of Year Certificate acknowledging their reading for the term.

Places will be assigned on a first come, first served basis with priority given to returning members, so to sign up please contact me on steph.clarkson@btconnect.com putting *WFJS Book Club* in the subject.

I look forward to hearing from you,
Stephanie Clarkson