



Northmead
Junior School



Reading
Newsletter

December 2021

Pupil voice

I had the pleasure of spending time with some of your children this week, talking about reading. As always, they proved themselves to be articulate, enthusiastic learners. I wanted to share some of their comments with you.

I love reading because you never know what's going to happen. You just don't want to stop reading. I read 54 pages the other night and didn't go to sleep until 9 o'clock because I just couldn't stop reading!

I like fiction because I like to explore the different thoughts people have,

I love being absorbed in a book.

I get told off for staying up too late, reading.

Reading helps expand my vocabulary and you learn so many new things .

If I have had a bad day, reading helps me to clear my head.

Reading helps you to learn words. The other day we were sharing poems, and if I hadn't of read Harry Potter I wouldn't have known the meaning of the word 'descending' in the poem.

Reading takes you into another world. You get alongside the characters .

It is an enjoyable pastime. It opens you up to other things and takes your mind off

I enjoy reading in the library. It is silent and easy to concentrate. There are lots of books- I think there is one of every book in there!

Phonics

This year, the Department for Education has brought in some changes that will impact the teaching of phonics in school, as well as the phonic books and resources that will be needed to support it.

The government, by ensuring high-quality phonics teaching, wants to improve literacy levels to:

- give all children a solid base upon which to build as they progress through their schooling
- help children to develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information

In April 2021, they published the revised core criteria for effective systematic synthetic phonics teaching and launched a new process to validate phonics teaching schemes. From the list of validated schemes we have decided to implement the Little Wandle synthetic phonics programme.

The majority of phonics teaching takes place in infant school and the government requirement is for the phonics programme to provide

- sufficient support for children in reception and key stage 1 to become fluent readers
- a structured route for most children to meet or exceed the expected standard in the year one phonics screening check
- all national curriculum expectations for word reading through decoding by the end of key stage 1

So, by the time children reach us in junior school we would hope that most children would be reading fluently. However, this is not always the case for every child and many children have lost significant learning time because of the disruption to their schooling during the pandemic. We also have children who join us from abroad where English is not their first language. Therefore, we will continue to provide catchup in phonics until every child is reading fluently.

After Christmas we will be ensuring all our teaching staff have had training in the Little Wandle phonics scheme and children have access to reading material which clearly matches their phonic abilities.



Accelerated reader

The class with the highest word count this half term is 4R for the lower school and 6K for the upper school.

For the Autumn term your children have read 40,794,431 words. This is amazing. Thank you parents for all your support.

Children have been given a raffle ticket for every quiz passed this term and the prize draw will take place on Thursday.

Library

It would be helpful if children could return any library books they have finished reading before the Christmas holidays.

