

Literacy News

Autumn 2 2012

As Literacy Co-ordinator I have been considering sending home a half termly newsletter detailing things we are doing in school with regards to our reading and writing. My hope is that it will keep you informed of things happening both within class and school life in terms of Literacy and keep you updated on how best to support your children. I would therefore be very grateful if you could let me know whether you would find this useful. If the newsletter is to continue I would welcome ideas if there is anything you feel you would like more information on. Miss Davis

Last half term we held a Phonics Information Evening. I was very pleased to hear lots of you found it useful and felt more able to support your children in phonics. There seemed to be some concern that this meant we were expecting an increased amount of phonics work at home. This is most certainly not what the evening was to encourage. It was simply to ensure that parents are fully informed of appropriate expectations and the importance of accuracy when sounding out. It was also there to highlight the progression that will occur through KS1. If there are any questions with regards to phonics please come and ask. We are always happy to help. Phonics can be deceptively complex!

Our Writer's award is proving to be a great success and is much sought after. If you haven't seen it yet make sure you check out our Writer's Gallery at the front of school where each week the pieces of writing are displayed in our very fancy frames we decorated in class.



We are putting a big focus on handwriting and presentation across all pieces of work. It can be very tempting to write beautifully in Handwriting and Literacy books and everywhere else focus on the content and rush the presentation. To ensure handwriting and presentation is consistent across all pieces of work the children receive a P in the corner of their page colour coded to assess their presentation.

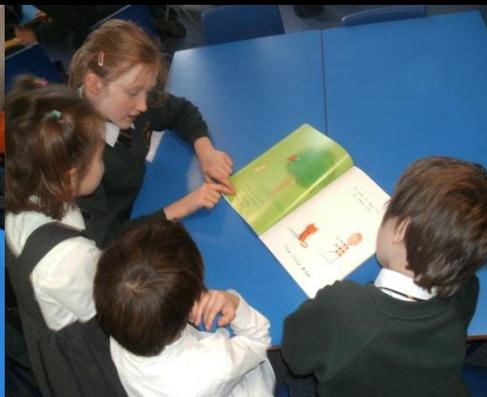
P = needs improvement P=ok but could be better P = good P = outstanding

At the start of the year the staff created our own expectations for handwriting for the end of each year to ensure good progression.

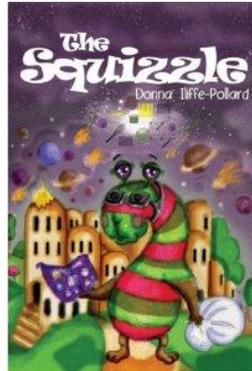
Our Book Fair was a brilliant success and we were able to purchase lots of new books for our newly located library as well as class libraries in KS1. Thank you for your support with this. Engagement with reading is the key to successful Literacy work and the more we can provide the latest books by the children's favourite authors as well as introduce them to new authors the better able we are to support this in conjunction with home. So, a great big THANK YOU!



Every Friday afternoon there is a great deal of excitement in Year 1 as Year 5 come to visit to read to the children. It has been lovely to watch the way the children engage with each other and the fantastic reading role models Year 5 are being for their reading buddies! Without any prompting they don't just read to the children but they discuss the story and explain difficult words. It is proving to be fulfilling to both parties involved.



I have arranged for a recently published local author to come and visit school. As she is very busy we are currently working out the best dates. Her name is Donna Iliffe-Pollard and 'The Squizzle' is her first book to be published. She will be coming to read her book to KS1 and have a Q&A session with KS2 about being a published writer (possibly Friday 14th December). She will be doing a book signing on the 12th January at Waterstones in Leeds.



Extreme Reading Challenge!

In the sea or having tea... with a fox or in a box... upside down or with a clown... where is the wackiest place you've ever read?

We're going reading mad! We're looking for weird and wonderful places the children of St Joseph's have been reading. Books, comics, newspapers or menus all make great things to read. So when you're out and about don't forget to take a camera and snap those unusual places of Extreme Reading. This isn't just for children. Pictures of parents, siblings, families and staff will all make it onto the wall of fame in the library. Might there be some interesting opportunities in the lead up to Christmas?

Please let me know if you would like the Literacy Newsletter to continue and/or if there is anything you would like to be included. If you could either print off and return the slip below or handwrite a quick note just to let me know I would appreciate it! Thank you for taking the time to read.

I would like the Literacy Newsletter to continue. I would welcome information on the following things in the newsletter -----

Signed -----

Parent of -----