

Reading at Westacre

Autumn 2

Welcome to our first edition of our Reading at Westacre newsletter.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep parents updated regarding reading at our school.

Read a Rainbow Home Readers

Please ensure that each day your child reads you sign and date the bookworm reading record in your child's book bag. Your child should also complete one circle of the bookworm for each day read. After 25 days (if reading daily) your child will be eligible to exchange their bookworm for the same coloured certificate in Reception or badge in Year 1 and 2. They will then move onto the next colour bookworm to complete. There are 7 colours of the rainbow plus three special levels to get through bronze, silver and gold. Children can read their home reading book or a book of their choice. Just make sure that the book title is recorded on the bookcase on the reverse of the bookworm. Please also ensure that the bookworm record is sent into school at each change of their home reading book.



Become a Reading Ambassador

We are seeking six enthusiastic children in Year 2 who love to read to join our three current Reading Ambassadors. The role will include:

- Helping in the KS1 library area.
- Writing book reviews for recommended stories to be displayed in the KS1 library area.
- Choosing new books to be bought for the library and classroom reading corners.
- Attending fortnightly Westacre Readership Group meetings.

If you would like to be a Reading Ambassador for your class please prepare a reason why you would make a good ambassador. You will present this to your class who will then vote for their class ambassadors. There will be two new positions in each Year 2 class. Presentations will take place week commencing 8th November.

READING WORKSHOP: THE WHAT, WHY AND HOW



There will be a range of online workshops for our parents who want to learn more about how we teach reading. These will be available for parents week commencing 8th November. The workshops cover:

- Reception Phonics
- Year 1/2 Phonics
- Guided Reading

The workshops are not live and can be viewed at anytime.

Meet Julie and Willow!



It is with much excitement that I introduce you to Julie Garlick and her beautiful dog Willow. Julie is a volunteer with Pets as Therapy and, as part of their Read2Dogs scheme, she will be visiting our school every Friday afternoon where children will have the opportunity to read their reading book or favourite story to Willow. The Read2Dogs scheme is available for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and it is hoped that it will help the children to improve their reading skills and boost their self-confidence. Each week twelve children will be selected from their year group to read to Willow. If you do not wish for your child to participate in this scheme, please inform their class teacher.

Year group rota for Autumn Term 2:

Friday 5th November: Year 2

Friday 12th November: Year 1

Friday 19th November: Reception

Friday 26th November: Year 2

Friday 3rd December: Year 1

Friday 10th December: Reception

**PETS AS
THERAPY**
petsastherapy.org



The National Curriculum states pupils should be taught to:

“... read aloud accurately books that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words”

‘The Reading Framework, Teaching the Foundations of Literacy’ published in July 2021 by the Department for Education states:

“‘Decodable’ books and other texts make children feel successful from the very beginning. They do not encounter words that include GPCs they have not been taught. If an adult is not present, they are not forced to guess from pictures, the context, the first letters of a word or its shape. ‘Decodable’ books and texts that children read should run alongside or a little behind the teaching of the GPCs, so that they always feel a sense of achievement when they are asked to read such books.” (Page 51)

Children who are on our RWI phonics scheme will therefore be given a decodable book to read at home. This book is closely matched to the sounds that they know well as identified in our half termly assessments. As stated by the Department for Education, these books are to consolidate phonemic knowledge, develop fluency and boost confidence. If children can read them easily, they should be praised.



Reading at Westacre



Teaching reading and developing a love of reading is our priority at Westacre. Here is an overview of what reading looks like at our school.

Guided Reading

To develop reading comprehension skills and a love of reading.

Independent Reading

Regular opportunities where children read their reading books to staff.

Inspiring Book Corners

Every class has a reading corner that encourages children to read in class.

ERIC Time

Everyone Reads in Class. Once per week children are encouraged to bring a book from home and read for pleasure in school.

Book Hotel

Swap your old books with a preloved one at our book hotel located in the Reception foyer.

Read2Dogs

Weekly sessions reading to our reading dog Willow.

RWI Phonics Scheme

All children learn to read with Fred! Starting in Nursery all the way through to Year 2.

Read A Rainbow Home Reading Scheme

Read daily to earn your reading certificates or badges!

Reading Ambassadors

Children participate in our Readership Group helping to spread their love of reading.

Book Suitcase

To encourage family time centred around reading. Relax and enjoy a story with a mug of hot chocolate, biscuits and a reading buddy.

Awesome Author

We regularly promote different authors in our classroom. Ask your child's teacher who their awesome author is.

Story Time

We love sharing our favourite stories with the children in our classes.