



WE ARE READING



Summer Newsletter 2018

Welcome!

Hello and Welcome to the second edition of the *We Are Reading* Newsletter.

It has been a very busy time for *We Are Reading* and we would like to thank you for getting involved with the campaign. We are absolutely delighted at the high numbers of schools that have signed up to the pledge (See the *Statistics* sidebar). This shows that reading for pleasure is at the heart of all we are doing. Many schools have dedicated *We Are Reading* Sections on their website and we have enjoyed reading these (as I'm sure your parents and children have too). We have been "blown away" by the innovative, exciting and motivating ways that you have come up with to inspire children to read.



In this newsletter, themed ***Becoming a Reading School***, we have noticed that many schools have been developing their library. As this is a focus in so many settings, we would like to ask you if you could send pictures with articles around how you have developed your libraries, alongside the theme of ***Summer and Holidays*** for the next newsletter.

We would also welcome pictures and updates to the [Facebook](#) page.

Happy Reading!

Contact & Social Media

E-mail: WeAreReading@lancashire.gov.uk

Facebook: [@LancashireWeAreReading](#)

Twitter: [#LancashireWeAreReading](#)

Mind Map: mm.tt/1041391553?t=ZtymprHwIH

Statistics

How close are we to having every school signed up?

Type	% Signed
Primary	85.9%
North	87.7%
South	84.8%
East	84.8%

Secondary	55.3%
Nursery	83.3%

Overall Total **78.6%**

(Source: the *We Are Reading* register of 632 Lancashire schools, 09/05/2018)

District Event Proformas & Press Details

Many of you will have now attended your initial meeting for your District project. We have been hearing about some of these and they are wonderful. Dates of planned activities and strategic direction will be shared in future newsletters. For example:

District 7 primaries met at St Catherine's on Thursday 26th April and have chosen to focus on outdoor learning.

District 11 primaries met at Balderstone St Leonard's on Tuesday April 24th.

District 12 primaries' initial meeting was held on 25th April at Rosewood Primary School:

All the headteachers and subject leads along with two KS2 pupils were invited to a strategy meeting. Phil Earle, a local author, gave a talk on how reading has transformed his life. He led a workshop for the pupils who were all given a copy of his book *Demolition Dad*.

The adults discussed the strategic direction of the project and decided on a three-pronged approach to engagement: **Children-led**, **parental** and **authorial**.

District 14 secondaries met, deciding that Tom Palmer's World Cup Literacy resources and an author visit would engage reluctant readers.

We are excited for the return of the **proformas**, and the **details for press coverage!**

District 13 primary schools have sent **press details** to us, which **facilitate press coverage** (see *Lancashire Media Service*, p. 3 opposite):

"District 13 met on 10/04/2018 and agreed the following events:

Date	Event	School
21/06/2018	Reading transition days w/ Whitefield infants.	Lomeshaye Juniors
27/04/2018	Judging "Reading Doors"	Marsden Community
25/05/2018	Reading café 13:30	Marsden Community
25/05/2018	Judging "Reading corners"	Marsden Community
Ongoing	Reading Café every playtime	Lord Street Primary
25/05/2018	Reading picnic	Primet Primary
27/04/2018	Reading den competition judgement	West Street Primary
10/07/2018	"Relax into reading"	Trawden Forest
07/05/2018	Reading Themed Week	Barnoldswick Church
04/07/2018	A celebration Reading Picnic where all of the schools involved with <i>We Are Reading</i> in District 13 are invited to share their achievements.	Coates Lane Primary
18/05/2018	Kelbrook Team Reads (1pm)	Kelbrook Primary
25/05/2018	Governors + PTA in school reading with children"	Kelbrook Primary

Lancashire Media Service

Julie Dobson, communications officer for Lancashire County Council is liaising closely with local newspapers throughout Lancashire. They are waiting for dates of events and activities which may be going on in your school, **however big or small**.

Please let us know what's on in your school by sending a spreadsheet with dates, times and locations to WeAreReading@lancashire.gov.uk with "Press" in the title of the e-mail. We will get your information to the communications officer to facilitate getting press coverage for as many schools as possible.

Signing Up

If you have not yet signed up to We Are Reading, please send an e-mail to WeAreReading@lancashire.gov.uk.

Co-ordinating Schools List

District	Co-ordinating Primary School
1	Bowerham Community Primary
2	Northfold Community Primary
4	Heyhouses Endowed CE Primary
6	Alston Lane Catholic Primary
7	St Catherine's Catholic, Leyland
8	Ormskirk Asmall
9	Lancaster Lane Community
11	Balderstone St Leonard's
12	Rosewood Primary
13	Coates Lane Primary
14	St James-the-Less Catholic Primary
District	Co-ordinating Secondary School
1	Central Lancaster High School
2	Millfield Science & Performing Arts
4	Lytham St Anne's College
6	St Cecilia's RC College
7	Penwortham Girls' High School
8	Our Lady Queen of Peace
9	Parklands High School
11	St Augustine's RC High School
12	Sir John Thursby Community
13	Pendle Vale College
14	Fearn Community Sports College

More details on the back page...

Submit an Article

Thank you for all the articles you have been sending to us. Please continue to share your good practice by e-mailing WeAreReading@lancashire.gov.uk. If you wish to supply an image, please make sure you have proper permissions*. If you provide a Twitter account name for your school, it will appear with your article. Please note: articles should be limited to 200 words and can include only one image.

Issue	Term	Theme	Deadline
3	Summer 2	Summer/Holiday Reads	22 June 2018
4	Autumn 1	Cross-Curricular Reading	28 September 2018
5	Autumn 2	Christmas/Winter	23 November 2018
6	Spring 1	Nature/Eco	31 January 2019
7	Spring 2	Celebrations	22 March 2019

**by submitting an article with an image, you confirm that you have the rights and permissions to use the image you included, and that you give permission for Lancashire County Council to use this image for the purpose of publishing this newsletter.*

Teaching & Learning

Becoming a Reading School

The EYFS Team

Our very youngest children may not be able to read independently but they certainly have lots of stories to tell. We can help by having knowledgeable adults who take the time to listen to children and create inviting reading areas that entice children with the promise of a cosy space and good quality books that support their developing reading skills and ignite their interest. Holding reading events, sharing top tips with families and linking up with local libraries will ensure that all aspects of early years provision support early reading skills in fun and interactive ways.



A library is a place through which we can open up a world of knowledge to a young child and to ignite their interest in books. Consider how you can introduce children to "a library", for example setting up a library within your classroom, regular opportunities to use the school

library, or if possible arranging a visit to your local library. Involve both children and parents in planning and activities. Ask a local librarian to come into school to help set up your class library with the children, and talk to you and your children about how to use your library effectively.

Getting Your Whole School Reading

Primary English & Literacy Team

To begin a focus on getting the whole school reading, why not start with children's perceptions via reading surveys or questionnaires. Some useful ones are available on [The National Literacy Trust website](#) for subscribers.

Alternatively, why not design your own reading questionnaire and create this using the free survey tool "Survey Monkey"? This can be accessed either on [their website](#) or by downloading the app. Responses are collated automatically, saving time and giving instant feedback to children's preferences across school.

Resources:

National Literacy Trust Website: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/developing-whole-school-reading-environment/>

Survey Monkey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/>

Letterbox Author Event

The Virtual School for Children Looked After

As a follow up to the **Reading Scheme** we told you about in the last newsletter, all the children who received books and games each month as part of the scheme were invited to attend an Author Event. Author David Harmer presented a poetry presentation followed by a workshop. The event was very interactive with some children being asked to act out poems. We have some budding actors amongst our Looked-after Children here in Lancashire!

The event was held at County Hall so we took the opportunity to combine this with a tour of Council Chambers, which was led by Terry Aldridge, the Chairman of the County Council. Susie Charles, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, also came to meet the children. The children were also treated to a buffet lunch. A lot of orange juice and sausage rolls were consumed that afternoon!

The children provided feedback at the end of the day and all said that they had enjoyed the event. David gave each child a signed poetry book to take away. Children could be heard leaving County Hall laughing and reading aloud poems such as "A Sea Creature Ate Our Teacher".

Practical: Freeze Framing

Steph Johnson, Teaching & Learning Consultant

Freeze frame is a popular drama technique which can be used in many differ-

ent ways. A freeze frame is when a couple or small group of children make a still tableau representing part of a narrative or event. It is always useful to model or give an example of how this should be done in order to get the best. It can be helpful to ask for some volunteers and choose more than the number of characters involved. For example, "We are going to show a freeze frame of Little Red Riding Hood packing the basket of goodies for grandma. So, we need Little Red Riding Hood and her mother, but we have some extra people—what could you be?" Once the suggestion is made of children representing inanimate objects e.g. a tree, a door, a basket etc., the children tend to run with that idea very creatively. Whilst the example group of children are taking a few seconds to plan their freeze frame, it is always worth involving the rest of the class by asking them to discuss with their partner how they would do the freeze frame being discussed.

Once the children make the freeze frame, take time to discuss what is good about it. For example, everybody being involved, strong gestures, facial expressions etc. and then take suggestions from the children as to how it could be made even better. This is useful for the setting of high expectations before the main activity.

Using freeze-framing to embed the sequence of main events in a story (this could be narrative; historical; a story from RE etc.)

- Set out clear expectations for the freeze frame

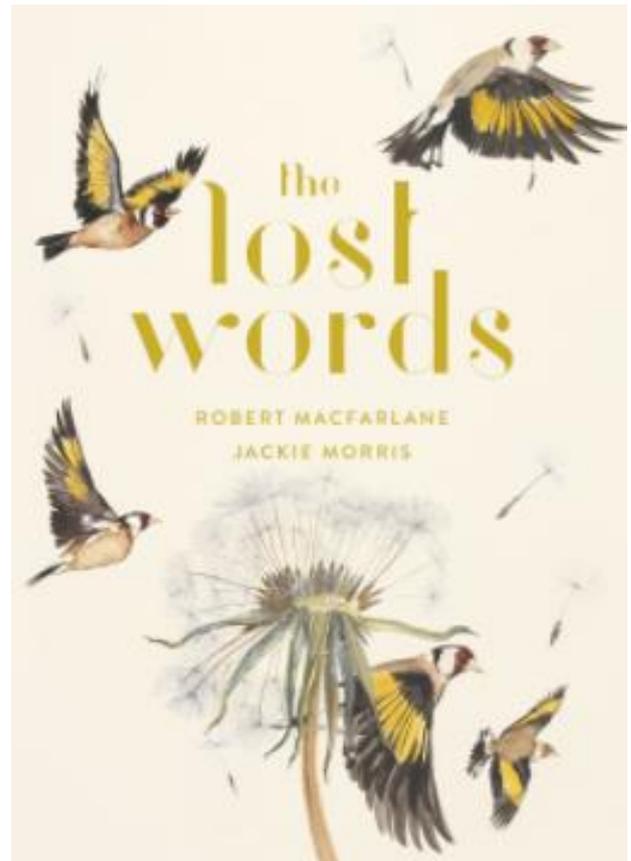
- Allocate small groups of children one or two key events (it is useful to have these on strips of paper)
- Give them a couple of minutes to plan their freeze frame (keeping the timing tight ensures the children stay more focused)
- Get into a circle
- Retell the story—when it comes to the appropriate event, the group of children step forward; make the freeze frame; **have it photographed**; then "melt" back into the circle (there is something about telling the children they are going to "melt" back into the circle which helps encourage smooth, quiet transitions!)

The **photographs** can be used to:

- Create storyboards
- Support oral and written retelling of stories/narrative poems etc.
- Create a class "big book" where each group retells part of the story
- Stimulate thought, feeling and speech bubbles (see later in booklet)

Freeze framing can also be used to create flash-forwards and flash-backs—in other words, what do we think happened after/previously?

It is a very powerful technique which, when used effectively, helps to build memory and embed sequences of events.



Poetry Focus

Primary English & Literacy Team

This term, the Primary English and Literacy team have been promoting the use of poetry to create interest, gather and explore vocabulary, and promote reading for pleasure within English units of work. An example of this is to use a poetry book such as *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris, to introduce vocabulary linked to nature. This may link to a unit in English or for cross-curricular topics. Vocabulary can be explored using semantic mapping techniques, and poems could be learned by heart using text mapping techniques via images, key vocabulary and actions in order to present to an audience.

Exploring Characterisation Through Poetry

Finding opportunities to "drip-feed" poetry throughout an English unit not only develops children's vocabulary, but also allows them to apply reading skills such as drawing inferences around character thoughts, feelings and emotions in a different context. Through

close reading and extending vocabulary activities, explore words and phrases associated with a character. Develop this into a free-verse poem (no rules required!) modelling first, and then allowing the children to create their own. This example is linked to the book, *101 Dalmatians* by Dodie Smith.



Inconsolable, grief-stricken.
Where are my pups?
Broken
Like a jigsaw missing pieces
Will I ever be whole again?

Reading Projects

Primary Schools

Reading Workshop

Balshaw Lane Primary

To contact Elizabeth Rumball directly, send an e-mail to: erumball@balshawlane.lancs.sch.uk



At Balshaw Lane Primary, we held a Boys' Reading Workshop in January 2018.

We've been trying to inspire boys with their writing, through quality reading texts. We wanted to give them ideas of different books they could read, rather than choosing the same type repeatedly.

We invited Euxton CE and Primrose Hill to join us. Each school brought six children to join in mixed groups with the other two schools. The boys really engaged in the activities and gained confidence in talking to each other.

The set-up was quite informal, with the children working with resources on the

floor. We chose this arrangement so as not to seem over-facing or "stuffy".

There was a carousel of activities including character "Top Trumps", newspaper exploration and sketching from descriptions. All the boys said they had enjoyed the activities—let's hope it inspires them to choose new books!

If any schools would like a copy of the activities, please e-mail our English subject leader, [Elizabeth Rumball](mailto:erumball@balshawlane.lancs.sch.uk).

We're going to follow up with a joint visit to the local library.

The Big Book Swap

Ashton Primary School



Ashton Primary School hosted "The Big Book Swap" last week. The idea of this event is that children, parents and staff can bring in up to 3 read, preloved books in exchange for tokens. At the end of the day they are welcomed back into the hall to choose new books

to take home in exchange for their tokens. Over 150 children and parents took part in this event and it was a lovely way not only talk about reading, but to get some free books.

Our Year 2s have taken the event forward and have now used the "Blind Date for a book" idea to wrap up some preloved books and write a blurb or riddle on the wrapping paper. This way the children are encouraged "not to judge a book by its cover" and think about that they enjoy reading.

We are planning to host this event again in the Summer term.

Reading Morning

Coates Lane



Coates Lane held a "Reading morning" where we invited families into school to come and read with their children and enjoy some refreshments. The aim of the morning was to further engage parents with school and promote a reading link with school and home. We had a huge amount of parents engage with us and it was so lovely to see them reading with their families. The children loved it and

used our library to read lots of exciting books.

The Reading Habit

Calder Vale St John's

Scorton CE Primary School

At Calder Vale Primary School our *We Are Reading* project is already well under way. Our reception and nursery pupils are enjoying a weekly visit to the local library in Garstang for story sessions with the librarian. The children borrow a book each week to bring back to school. We are aiming to encourage parents to visit the library and develop those early reading habits from a very early age. Our older pupils are sharing reading of David Walliam's novel *Awful Aunty* and have also visited the theatre to see a live performance on stage. This trip was supported by the PTA to make the visit affordable and help to share our reading message with the whole school community.

Scorton CE Primary School have embarked upon the *We Are Reading* Project by electing reading ambassadors who nominate a book of the week for each age group and host storytime during one lunchtime each week. Our Year 3 and 4 pupils are "Reading Around the World" to gain stamps in their passports each week and loved working with their peers from Calder Vale to read *Awful Aunty* by David Walliams and visit the theatre to see the story on stage.

Both schools hosted a Big Book Breakfast on *World Book Day* with a delicious breakfast buffet and lots of books in the reading area, book readings and book

puzzles—and all before the start of school!

Sharing, Recall & Interaction

Padiham Green



During spring term, here at Padiham Green we have been busy promoting Reading. We enjoy opportunities where parents are invited into school to share books with their child. The children really enjoy sharing books with a special grown up especially at school.

In EYFS, we have introduced "Reading Boats" where children can go and drift away with a story. The boats have been very popular with the children and provide a quiet cosy space for them to relax with a book.

Story stones are popular with our younger children to help them retell a known story. They also love engaging in role-play either the puppet show or re-enacting the story using character masks.

In the library, we have created a display

"Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover". Pupils wrapping up books and then writing the blurb for each book created this display. This unique way of creating a display has created a lot of interest with our pupils.

To end our spring term we celebrated *World Book Day*. Everyone dressed up including all members of staff. The children were keen to find out which characters our teachers had come as and which book they were from. This provided great interest from the children and some children even came in later in the week with some of the books. Lots of activities took place over the day including book bingo, an illustrator's workshop, decorating gingerbread men and much, much more.

We are looking forward to sharing more reading activities, which will be taking place in the summer term.

Fantastic Book Awards

St Thomas the Martyr



At St Thomas the Martyr Primary school we have taken part in the *Fantastic Book Awards (FBA)*. This was a great opportunity to promote reading across the

school. The FBA supplied our school with a range of books with the understanding that the children will vote for their favourite title. In response to this we started a reading club to enrich and encourage a love of reading. The children had regular meetings and updates about the FBA titles and took part in special FBA competitions along the way. As a result we won the FBA "Fake Cake" contest and were rewarded with a book hamper. Furthermore, the children in our book club have developed our KS2 library with a range of new books from the library bus and created an inviting and comfortable area for the children to enjoy reading time. They have also arranged for the school to take part in a sponsored read to raise money for books to be supplied to children's hospitals. The children have loved taking part in all our organised reading activities and events and the book club will continue to enhance and promote reading across the whole school.

Reading Buddies

Trumacar Community



Our launch of the *We Are Reading* project at school began with donating a

reading buddy to all children in the school. We collected nearly new books and soft toys from the community and then bundled them up with a gift tag saying "a reading buddy gift for you". It was amazing to see the impact this had on getting everyone enthused about the joy of reading again. This was followed by a reading week and book fair in school leading up to *World Book Day*. Throughout the week we also made our school hall into a Reading Cafe with beanbags, sofas, tents, inflatable beds etc. and asked parents to come and read somewhere comfy with their child. This was also a very popular event and we will do this every term. Our School Council are also involved in helping developing the project and have asked if we can make a reading den in the dining room next. We are going to try and change the ideas monthly and will be "magpieing" some of the ideas from the first newsletter. As a further incentive we also have a reach for the stars reading challenge where children have to find 20 different places to read. Once they have been witnessed reading in 20 different ways they return the signed sheet to win a prize.

Redesign

Winmarleigh CE Primary

At Winmarleigh C of E Primary School we have focussed on redesigning our reading areas with the children to provide spaces that the children want to read in.

The Key Stage 2 classroom has been moved around to focus on the reading



area as an integral part of the classroom rather than being just a corner of the room with a few cushions and books. The result of discussions and planning sessions with the whole class involved was that we now have a reading area that the children want to use—they are enthusiastic about being told we have time to read. The reading area is a main focus of the room and also creates discussion from visitors to the class about reading in our school.

We have looked at the quality of the books on offer at school and have bought new and up to date books that the children want to read, we have also started an "Author of the Month".

I have seen a definite change in the children's interest in reading with some even choosing to take books outside at playtime. Reading seems to have had a new lease of life in school—it's amazing!

Read To Win!

Torrisholme Primary

At Torrisholme Primary School we have been promoting a love of sharing books through our *Bookworm Challenge*. Children in Reception up to year 3 have been collecting tokens for reading regularly at home which are entered into a prize draw to win a free book.

Here are this month's winners...



In Key Stage 2, the children are rising to the challenge of reading books from the school's list of recommended "Amazing Authors" and have a dedicated area in the school's library to find them. They are aiming to read five books from different authors to win a prize.

Reading Areas

St Peter's RC Primary, Rossendale

After a recent learning walk we identified that our reading areas in classrooms would benefit from a revamp. All classes selected their themes by involving the children and linking these into class teaching and selections for class novels.

The themes include a rainforest den, secret garden, enchanted wood and "Reading makes you bright". The children's motivation to go into their reading areas has significantly increased as they strive to add to the interactive displays with book reviews and records of books they have read.



A Book Is A Doorway

St John's CE Primary, Burscough

We always try to do something a little different for *World Book Day*. This year our activity was inspired by Jeanette Winterson who said:

"Books and doors are the same thing: you open them, and you go through into another world."

We asked the children to create a model which would be the doorway into the world of one of their favourite books. We ran this as a competition with winners in each year group. We had a huge and very creative response. All the entries were displayed during *World Book Day* and classes were given the opportunity to visit the display. Here is one of the winners:



Our "Book of the Month" programme continues to generate excitement among both pupils and staff. The conversation in the staffroom is frequently about the books which are circulating and competition is fierce to be the next to read both the current and past "Books of the Month"!

Reading Prevents Tooth Decay

Primrose Hill

The school council were tasked this year

with ensuring the children at Primrose Hill are as healthy as they can possibly be. A tricky challenge. As a growing school, days rarely pass without a birthday celebration, inevitably partnered with a bumper class size pack of Haribo to be distributed at the end of the school day! What could we do to celebrate children's birthdays in a healthy way? School council didn't think a class size bag of apples would suffice!

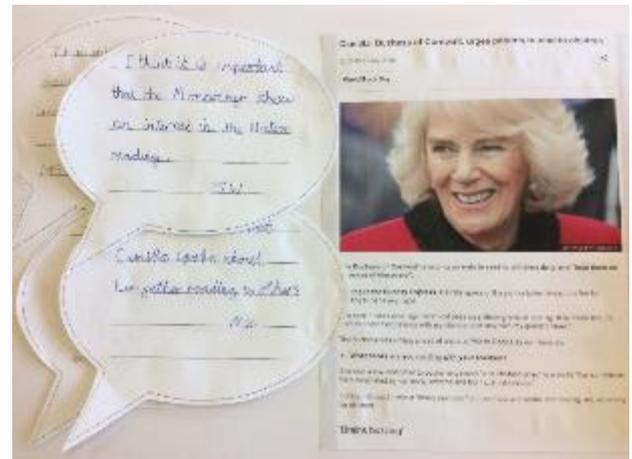
The solution came during the Autumn Term "English Subject Leader" cluster, led by Nicola and her team. It would appear that, similarly to us, many schools have "reading" in one form or another on their SDP this year, so "good practice" ideas were shared as part of the session. Euphoric "magpie" moment: BIRTHDAY BOOKS—Primrose's answer to our sugary predicament! To celebrate their birthday, children at Primrose are now invited to donate a copy of their favourite book to our ever expanding school library. A plaque with their name, date and age is placed inside the front cover, the books are presented to the Headteacher by each birthday child



during Friday celebration assembly; naturally the whole school sings Happy Birthday to celebrate the occasion. Our families have whole-heartedly signed up to this new method of celebrating birthdays at Primrose and our library stock has increased by over 60 books since January. Though similar in price, the pleasure of a mini packet of Haribo is forgotten in moments whereas the enjoyment of a book can last years!

Camilla

Thorneyholme RC Primary



At Thorneyholme RC Primary School, Dunsop Bridge, we have been looking out for any current news related to reading. We came across the attached news about Camilla and her father. The children then wrote their comments and opinions about the news and we put it on display outside the Headteacher's Office (it has since been taken down and is now in our Current Affairs floor book).

Sharing Favourites

Barnoldswick CE Primary

A big thank you to the children who

have donated one of their favourite books to their class library or our school library. These birthday gifts to our school are very much appreciated and the children have really enjoyed sharing their books with others.



"The book is very entertaining and sometimes quite funny. It's part of a series and I have read them all many times."
(Daniel, Year 4, Barnoldswick)

"It is my favourite book to share because it is funny and attractive." (Rowlie, Year 4)

"I chose this book because it has good characters in it like baby rabbits." (Ted, Year 1)

"I like to share this book because it has chocolate in it and a chocolate waterfall."
(Jack, Reception)

"I like to share this book because some of it made me laugh." (Olivia, Reception)

Thank you all again and let's keep on reading!

A Reading Culture

Skerton St Luke's



Our school has really taken on board this fantastic initiative. We have introduced so many ways to get the children and parents in our school reading:

- Re-subscribed to Lancashire Library Service
- Developed book/reading areas in each classroom
- Display topic books—accessible for all to support learning
- Individual reading throughout the day—children choose reading material
- Developed how we teach Guided Reading to ensure we teach how to read effectively so children want to read and have the skills to read and enjoy

- Two author visits have taken place—Frank English and Tim Milner who have then gone on to inspire our children during creative writing workshops
- Birthday book donations—instead of bringing in sweets/cake to celebrate a birthday, children/families buy and donate a book to our new and improved library area—dedication inside the front cover to that child
- Recent subscription to the Reading Cloud
- Book Bus visiting our school on Wednesday 23rd May
- Author Pete Lynas as our Guest of Honour to open our new library on Monday 18th June—Local press to be invited alongside parents
- After school access to the library when opened to encourage parents and families to share books and read with their children
- Staff in school modelling reading during independent reading time
- Class novel read daily
- Rainbow Reading challenge to encourage EYFS/Key Stage 1 to practice reading at home and share bedtime stories daily with parents

These are to name but a few.

Bookworms

St Mary's Sabden

St Mary's in Sabden has worked really hard to encourage children to read more!

We have a book swap set up where

children can bring in books from home to swap twice a week—the children run this in school. We have also introduced a reading newsletter which we will be sending home every term—it includes recommendations for both children and parents!



Mystery Books at the School Fair

Westhead Lathom St James

Our little school, Westhead Lathom St James CE Primary School, is thankful to be included in the Lancashire Schools' *We Are Reading* celebration.

At our recent Summer Fair, one of our new mums, Lisa McGrath, brought a new money-making idea to us. She's a great lover of books and had already seen the idea at a Liverpool Women's Charity event. Virtually new and new novels and some non-fiction books were wrapped beautifully in brown paper and string, then given an inviting label:

"Don't judge a book by its cover", plus a clue on the reverse. Brief overviews were also written in silver pen on the wrapping paper to guide the buyer a little more. They were displayed on a stall with the invitation, "Have a date with a mystery book!"



People paid £2 – £3 for each one. There were a lot of repeat sales—some have even been bought as presents. The feed-back is very positive: readers tell us that they were pleased that they'd been forced out of their comfort zones as usually they choose the same type of genre. Not a tricky task but well worth it. We'll be repeating it.

Engaging Parents

Staghills Nursery

As part of the *We Are Reading* campaign we have been looking for ways to engage children and their parents more in reading together.

We have been sending home books with the children as part of our library system and have set a reading challenge to read and return their books for 10 weeks in order to receive a book of

their choice to keep. This has really engaged some children and they have loved taking different stories home each week. The first set of children will be choosing their books in the next few weeks!

As a school we have subscribed to the School Library Service and are looking forward to receiving a range of new books and taking part in story sessions with them in the next few weeks.

We are also establishing a new library area in part of the school as a place for the children and their parents to immerse themselves in a variety of different books.

An exciting half term for reading lies ahead!

*"The more you read the
more things you know.
The more that you learn
the more places you'll
go" – Dr Seuss*

Book-Stair-Cases

Queen's Drive Primary School

At Queen's Drive Primary School, we're passionate about reading; so much so, we've turned our stairs into a giant bookcase! Our teachers were first asked to name their favourite books for inclusion in the final design. Then, all of our pupils were invited to enter a competition to name their favourite book and suggest reasons why it should be chosen for our reading staircase.

The books begin at the bottom of the stairs with some Key Stage One greats such as, *The Hungry Caterpillar*. As you progress up the stairs, the books become more challenging with titles such as, *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. We're really pleased with the variety of authors and genres that were chosen for the final design. The staircase has certainly provided the wow factor and been an incredible talking point—for our pupils and those visiting from other schools. And now if a child asks which book they should choose next? Well, there's a handy staircase of brilliant book suggestions to inspire all of our young readers.

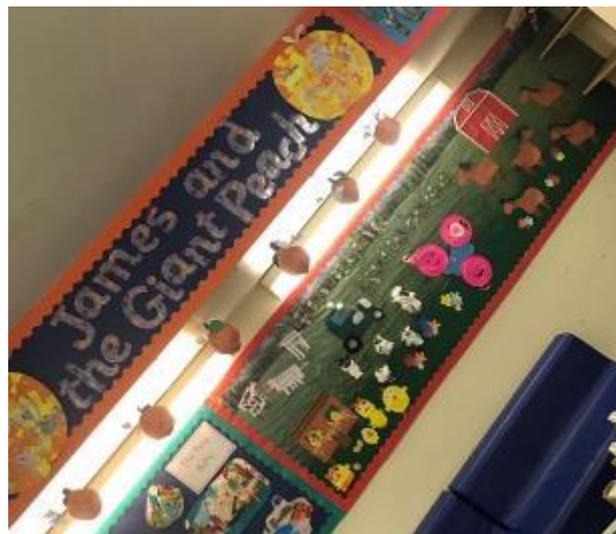


Pyjamas

Huncoat Primary School

We have held a sponsored read in pyjamas in our school and raised £346 to

spend on Usborne books. Nursery children invited their parents in for a stay and read session in their pyjamas too! All staff have been reading at home and have displayed their chosen book on the back of their doors. On *World Book Day* each class chose a specific book and created artwork for our library area.



Reading In Funny Places

Mere Brow CE Primary

At Mere Brow CE Primary School we welcome the opportunity to join the *We Are Reading* pledge. We actively encourage reading both in school and at home in a variety of ways. We offer reading certificates, handed out in assemblies, to encourage a variety of book and authors are read. In Autumn Term, we held an Osborne Book Fair which was hugely successful and it enabled us to buy lots of new books for our popular school library run by Y6 pupils.

For *World Book Day* each class had themed activities based on the class reading book. The children even came to school dressed as aliens, farmers, *Stig of the Dump* Characters and a variety



of wild animals from *The Jungle Book*. In Summer Term, we are launching our "reading in funny places" challenge. Children can have photographs taken of them reading, which can be uploaded to our school Facebook page. The teachers here frequently read stories to the children, and we use our outdoor garden and reflective spaces in summer as quiet reading areas. These are just a few of the things that we do at Mere Brow and we look forward to learning of other ideas from other schools.

Reading Goalies

St Ignatius' Catholic Primary

The children of St Ignatius' Catholic Primary School were delighted to welcome Chris Maxwell, Preston North End goalkeeper, to officially open the new school library.



Through the hard work of our librarian, Catherine Carruthers, the school received a £3,000 grant from the Foyles Foundation. This enabled us to purchase all the books the school council requested—from Non-Fiction texts on space to fictional writing such as the *Alex Rider* series.

Headteacher **Chris Hough** is delighted with the impact that this has had on the whole school community:

"Being awarded the grant from Foyles has enabled the whole school community to become involved in the We Are Reading initiative. It is lovely to see the enthusiasm from the children when they discover new books that they are really interested in. We hope this will help us to improve reading standards and encourage reading for pleasure for all children and adults in our school community."

Library Revamp

Yealand CE Primary

At Yealand C of E Primary School we have been busy revamping our Library. The children were asked their thoughts and they suggested moving the bookcases so they could see the books as they went into the room as well as moving furniture such as tables out of the library in order to open the space and make the books more accessible and inviting! We created spaces for sharing books together as you can see in the picture. We love sharing books with all

of our friends including our nursery children.



Our new Librarians have been very busy creating displays to reflect how important reading is in our school as well as recommending books and thinking of ideas to keep the library looking inspiring and exciting. All of the children and parents have commented on our new library area and they are enjoying their weekly library slot even more now as there is more space to change, read and share books!

The Muddy Sponsored Walk

Balladen Community Primary

At Balladen School we conducted a reading questionnaire to find out more information about the children's preferences with reading, e.g. their favourite authors, where they enjoyed reading, how we could improve the reading areas in each classroom etc. After analysing the results it became apparent that the older children had quite a restricted diet of the same old authors.

In order to address this we needed money, so on April 12th we had a very muddy sponsored walk around the

school grounds. Reception did one lap progressing up to Year 6 who completed 7 laps. Year 6 devised a reading in the environment quiz which the children armed with clip boards enjoyed completing whilst they were walking or running around the perimeter of the school grounds.



The walk was very successful and as a treat Year 6 children are going on our minibus to choose books written by authors new to us. We are using the Literacy Shed recommendations to help guide our children.

Every Buddy Reading

Seven Stars Primary

At Seven Stars Primary School we introduced "Reading Buddies" at the start of last year and it has raised the profile of the joy of reading in all our classes.

Every Thursday afternoon between 1pm and 1.35pm classes split into two with

half the older class going to half a younger class and finding their reading buddy. Half of the younger class visit the older class to find their buddy. They pair up and read to each other texts which are fun and of high interest.

Every child takes part and where there are differences in class numbers some older children have two buddies. It has created a lovely atmosphere in school and the younger children can have access to harder texts read to them by the older children whilst older children have a purpose for their reading and can see the joy that reading can bring to others. Their need to use expression to engage their buddy has really helped understanding of text but more importantly ignited a love for books in both children.

From a teacher's perspective we can quickly see those children who are engaged and excited about reading and share their joy!

Secondary Schools

Creating a Reading School

Anne Kenworthy, Secondary Consultant

A big thank you to all the secondary schools who have taken the "We Are Reading" pledge. I know that you have all been encouraging reading for a long time but hope that this initiative has given you and your pupils an extra burst of energy to push reading that bit further!

A "reading school" in its fullest sense does more than provide a library and encourage pupils to read for pleasure.

Perhaps the following may give you some food for thought.... Is reading featured in: transition from Year 6; introducing the school to prospective parents; targeted intervention throughout the school; the physical appearance of the school; rewards and assemblies; buddy projects linking older pupils with younger pupils; form time activities; competitions—in other words, the life of the school?

Another "interesting" finding from Ofsted is that schools provide pupils with time to read but very rarely time to talk about their reading. Surely, things that matter are things we talk about, discuss and debate so maybe one thing we could do as part of *We Are Reading* is boast "**We Are Talking about our Reading**".

Whatever you are working on, I wish you every success and look forward to you sharing your successes—don't forget to let us know so that we can include you in the next newsletter.

Year of Reading

Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar

Twitter: [@brgs_lrc](https://twitter.com/brgs_lrc)

YouTube: [BRGStube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBRGStube)

At Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School we are having a different reading theme each month. These are launched by an author who shares something about their book and recommends others that fit the theme in a video. These books are made visible in the LRC and displayed around school as well as others being recommended by staff and students. It's a great way to introduce pupils to books they might not

have heard of. We screen the video in the LRC and Tweet along with relevant book trailers and reviews as well as quotes on our [Twitter](#). We also have a poetry display linked to the theme.



So far we have read some #BrilliantBeginnings, gotten romantic with #BooksWithHeart, #SteamedIntoMarch with steampunk adventures and are now demanding #ShowMeTheFunny. We are looking forward to reading some war time stories in #MayDay-MayDay before getting World Cup ready with #BookOfTheNet!

All our [videos](#) are available on our [YouTube channel](#) and we are very happy to share with anyone who wants to use them.

One Hundred Million

Cardinal Allen

100 Million Minutes

From the 1st March 2018 (*World Book Day*) – Cardinal Allen joined the campaign to try to read for a collective 100 million minutes in one week. The campaign is run by the leading charity, Achievement for All, which works in

partnership with schools and communities to improve outcomes for all children and young people vulnerable to underachievement. We read a collective 109,909 minutes!

World Book Day Doors

Once again, Cardinal Allen ran the fantastic competition to see which form could best decorate their door for *World Book Day* with the theme of animals and the winners were:

1 st	9AD	The Jungle Book
2 nd	10AG	The Gruffalo
3 rd	8GR	101 Dalmatians!

Well done to everyone for your fantastic contributions!

At Cardinal Allen we LOVE reading!





Twenty Years Later

Pendle Vale College (photo above)

The 1st March was *World Book Day* and, marking the 20th year of *Harry Potter*, we decided to turn Pendle into Hogwarts for the day. Despite Voldemort's evil attempts to cancel the event by conjuring up snow, we managed to stave him off and celebrated the event a week later on 8th March.

World Book Day might be a "one off" event in the year but reading is not a "one off" event at Pendle Vale. It's something that students do daily as part of their homework routine so *World Book Day* gives us the opportunity to celebrate all that hard work throughout the year and do something a little bit different for the day.

We decorated the school to look like scenes from Hogwarts. Some corridors were transformed into Diagon alley, the main entrance area hosted the Whomping Willow and Owlery, the canteen became The Great Hall offering tasty Harry Potter treats and the library became Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ and The Hogwarts

Express, complete with Honeydukes Sweet Shop.

Students were treated to lessons with a *Harry Potter* theme throughout the day, for example, butter making in Catering, looking at the origins of words and spells in MFL, Hocus Pocus potions in Science, Herbology and many more.

Reading Climates

Haslingden High School

Year 7 and 8 students are all encouraged to enter the BBC Radio 2 500 words competition.

An annual Scholastic book fair is held in the library to coincide with *World Book Day*.

Year 6 students starting Year 7 in September are encouraged to read and review five or more different books from a list provided. We do this as a temperature scale, starting off with "Cooler Reads" at the bottom, such as *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and working all the way up to Hotter Reads for example the *Maze Runner* series.

Year 9 students are currently involved with the *Lancashire Book of the Year Award 2018*, a scheme in which we have been involved in for many years, either as a chosen school to represent Rossendale or as a shadowing school.

Students are also encouraged to take a photograph of themselves reading their book in an unusual or eye-catching place during the summer holidays.

G.R.E.A.T. Readers

Tor View

Within the secondary department we have implemented a period of half an hour a day where the pupils work in mixed ability groups and take part in what is called GREAT time (Get Reading Everyone All Together). The pupils move to different groups each week where teachers prepare different reading activities from sensory stories, phonics, guided reading, peer-to-peer reading and stories online. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this reading experience.

We have currently just renovated the library and made it a space for pupils to relax and read books in a more welcoming environment.

We have also asked teachers to share the books they are reading that half term by displaying them on their classroom doors.

Wonder Words & Page Piranhas

Fearn's Community College



At Fearn's, all Year 7, 8 and 9 take part in the *Accelerated Reader Scheme* and have timetabled lessons for this. Certificates are given out in our rewards assembly every two weeks. In December Christmas parties were held as rewards for those who had done well in the AR scheme in all year groups.

In February, we ran a *Harry Potter Day* celebrating all things Potterish. We had word searches and games in form time, then a cake sale and face painting at lunch. The day finished with an after school celebration where pupils were able to dress as their favourite *Harry Potter* character and take part in the sorting ceremony.

World Book Day eventually took place (after all the snow) with activities in form time and bookish face painting during lunch.

We have two weekly book clubs:

- Year 7 **Wonder Words**, currently reading *Unboxed* by Non Pratt.
- Year 8 **Page Piranhas**, currently

reading *The Dogs* by Mark Morris.

Our Year 8 and 9 Literacy Leaders are taking part in the shadowing scheme of Lancashire Book of the Year. They are currently working their way through the eleven short-listed titles and are looking forward to attending the celebration event in July.

Our weekly school newsletter has a book review written by one of our pupils, this is sent to all our parents.

Get Caught Reading

Archbishop Temple



We had a book fair on *World Book Day* in the library as we wanted our pupils to see the library in a completely different way. It was very successful, and we are having another at Christmas. The whole school took part in DEAR, too. We are having a book swap in the library in May and in June we are doing "Get Caught Reading"—pupils caught reading in school will get a prize.

A Squash & A Squeeze

Sir Tom Finney High

A KS3 GROUP from Sir Tom Finney Community School have been engaging

with *A Squash and a Squeeze* by Julia Donaldson. The group decided to learn the story and to perform a puppet show for the local Sure Start nursery using puppets. Our students have a range of learning and behaviour difficulties but this didn't stand in their way. The show was enjoyed by all and the students want to do another story next term. They also enjoyed talking about the story and what their favourite parts were.



Vitally Important

St Christophers CE

At St Christopher's we encourage reading for pleasure. At the beginning of each English lesson pupils from Years 7 to 11 are expected to bring a reading book and read for 10 minutes before lessons commence. In the school's recent Ofsted report of 2016, inspectors noted the following:

"Leaders have been very successful in creating a culture where reading for pleasure is seen as vitally important. The pupils heard reading during the inspection clearly enjoy reading and talked confidently about their preferred

genres and authors. Pupils are required to bring a book of their choice to school and they enjoy undertaking quiet reading during the school day. Pupils read with fluency and confidence. They select texts that are appropriate for their reading ages and are able to work out the meanings of words that are unfamiliar to them."

In the past through the School Librarian we have been involved in "Read for My School" and "Readathon". Each year pupils from Years 7 and 8 are invited to dress up as a book character for *World Book Day* and pupils from all years are encouraged to enter the "Design a Bookmark" competition. The school also runs the Accelerated Reader scheme which we use to encourage struggling or reluctant readers to discover the joy of reading. Pupils following this scheme read a book then participate in an online quiz. Pupils achieving 100% receive a raffle ticket which is then entered into a draw for a chance to win prizes including shopping vouchers, books and stationery. Certificates and prizes are also distributed for the pupils who achieve the most words read.

Thesaurus Emoji Bookmarks

Ripley St Thomas CE Academy

To contact Rosalind Buckland directly, send an e-mail to: librarian@ripley.lancs.sch.uk

The objectives of the Thesaurus Emoji Bookmarks were to: increase the use of a thesaurus; enhance pupils' vocabulary and promote books and reading. The bookmarks were designed and produced (printed five to a sheet, double



sided, on A4 card) using over fifty different Emoji faces. During library lessons pupils were invited to match an Emoji bookmark to a book they have just read, choosing an Emoji face that best reflected the emotions their book evoked.

Pupils record on the bookmark their name, three words from the thesaurus to describe the book, and a star rating. It is then placed inside the book, displaying the Emoji for others to see and returned to the bookshelf.

This initiative was extended to the English department, covering all their weary, dust covered thesauri in their classrooms with attractive Thesaurus Emoji Bookmarks book covers and each English teacher was provided with their own supply of Thesaurus Emoji Bookmarks.

Emoji bookmarks:

1. Can be continually refreshed by using Emojis that reflect the different times of the calendar, i.e. Easter Emojis, Valentine's Day, Christmas Emojis, and also topical events like football Emojis for the FIFA World Cup. The bookmarks add an attractive dimension to

the books on the library shelves which in turn helps to enhance borrowing.

2. Are fun and inexpensive to implement and enhance vocabulary.
3. Provide an opportunity to link the library with other departments across the school and increase pupils' use of the thesauruses.
4. Improve pupils' familiarity with how to use a thesaurus (taught in primary school).
5. Enable pupils to grasp the context of those words and subsequently apply these words in an appropriate context in their written work and conversation.

If anyone would like any further information, or if they would like to have the bookmarks and poster template, drop an [e-mail to Rosalind Buckland](#).

Bacup Library Trip

Fearn Community Sports College

On Monday 30th April, a group of our Year 7 pupils paid a visit to Bacup Library. We were met by Susan Martin, the Manager, and we spent a fun couple of hours, learning about the library and the resources it has to offer our community. Susan read to us from different genres of young adult fiction and spoke about the importance of reading. The pupils had the opportunity to look at an original map of Bacup dating back to 1912 and photographs of Bacup through the ages. They then thought of and created their own cartoon story and shared them with the group. Just before we left, the pupils were given the opportunity to become

members of the library and choose a book to borrow and take home.



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