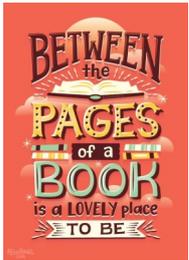




FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Only one you



Dear Parents,

Our first newsletter of the summer term starts with a celebration of reading! You will all have heard or seen by now your child's copy of their whole-class text. We are hugely grateful to the support from Humberts and FOFS in this provision and the reaction of our children, families and sponsors to this idea!

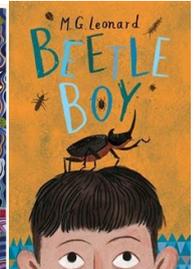
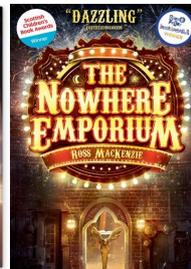
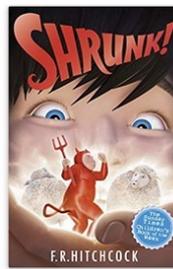
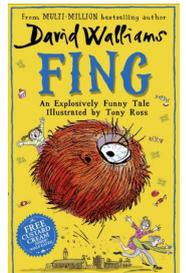
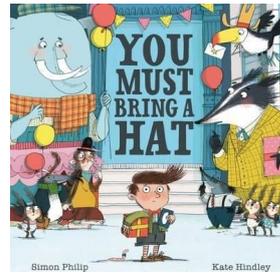
We are incredibly fortunate at Fishbourne to have a beautiful library, well-stocked with some super books and regularly updated with new titles. This, again, thanks to our wonderful team of FOFS fundraisers. Books are incredibly important to us! We are also fortunate that many of our teachers love to read as well. Rebecca Webb, from the University of Chichester, who works alongside us each Thursday has a passion for children's books. There is always much discussion in the staffroom about books and recommendations shared.

As educators, we know that developing a genuine love of reading in our children is the key to supporting their academic development. Those children who read widely have a head start. In new research published by the Education Endowment Fund this year, evidence has been provided that parents and careers who read regularly with their children are giving them a language advantage of eight months.

Last year, we piloted a new approach to teaching reading with our Meerkat class, using a whole class text that every child had their own copy of. For this pilot, we chose 'Skychasers' by Emma Carroll and each Thursday afternoon we had a truly magical time that involved devouring the story as a collective, exploring the vocabulary, discussing the plot, characters and the impact the story was having on us as readers. The impact was wonderful! The children transformed, in front of our eyes, into a community of readers- children who loved reading, who loved talking about reading and who all had a voice and an opinion. These afternoons became a very precious, treasured time during which we devoured the book with such enthusiasm. It rapidly became a favourite part of the week. We needed no more evidence of the impact and approached FOFS to ask if they would consider funding our books.

We felt strongly it was important that every child has their own copy of the book to keep. It means they can take it to and from school, they can re-read and pre-read in their own time, they can mark the text if they would like to and make notes in their book. It is theirs, to keep! Perhaps even more importantly, it offers us the freedom to choose the right book for the children rather than the feeling of becoming 'stuck' with a set of thirty books that might work brilliantly well for one class, but not for another! We were delighted that FOFS shared our vision and shortly afterwards, Humberts very kindly offered to fund half

of the texts. We are really hopeful that each year we can continue to fund this initiative and if anyone has any contacts in a local business who might like to subsidise it, we would love to hear from you!



Choosing the books wasn't easy, and each member of staff spent several months reading widely and considering what book they felt would be the right fit for their class! Mrs Williams and Mrs Potter led staff training, sharing many ideas they had trialed in their own classrooms and we have now gone large! Each class has started their book and the children are hooked. Here are some of their views about this trial:

- Our book is humorous and adventurous, we all love it!*
- We would like to read the sequel to our book.*
- I love having my own copy of the book, it means I can read at my own pace and catch up if I ever miss a bit.*
- It inspires me; it has great description.*
- Every chapter has a cliffhanger and I can't wait to read more.*
- Before, I didn't really like reading, now I can't wait for each session!*
- We can share ideas about the story—it's really interesting hearing other people's opinions.*

We can't really stress enough how VITAL reading is to our children. If your child isn't a bookworm just yet, don't despair or give up... there's no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who haven't found the right book yet! There was an interesting article in the Guardian yesterday about how we can support children's journey to becoming bookworms...

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/may/11/how-do-you-turn-kids-into-bookworms-all-10-childrens-laureates-share-their-tips>

In this article, Chris Riddell writes that 'the greatest barrier to children's literacy is the lack of a librarian in school. They are there to guide, to advise, to recommend. They are the gatekeepers to new worlds...' If any of you have a passion for children's literature and could spare us a couple of hours a week to support our children in making choices in the library, please do let us know. We would LOVE to hear from you!

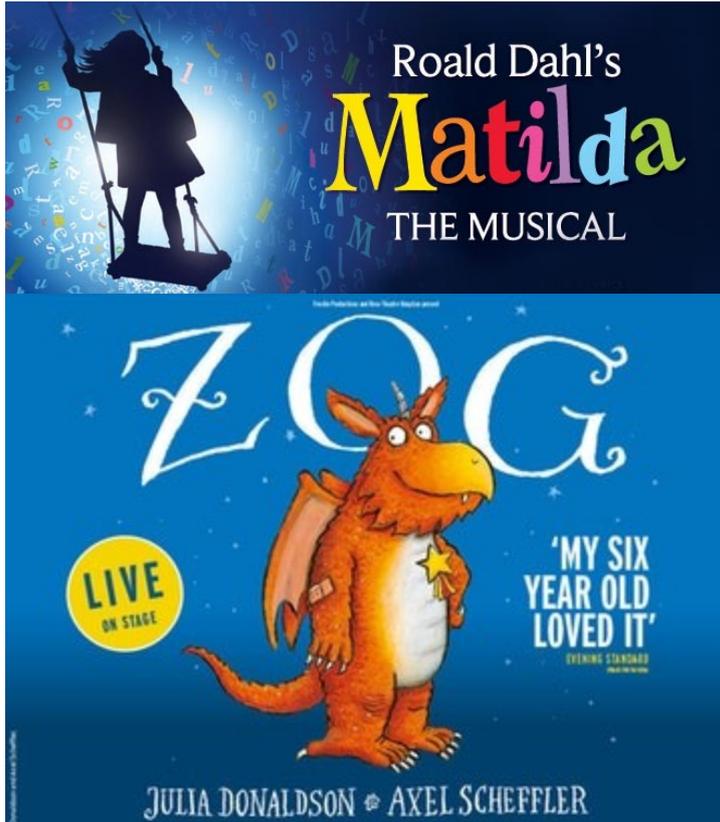


We were visited by Ofsted earlier this week and look forward to being able to share the report with you, this is likely to be following the half term break. Thank you to those families who responded to Parent

View and who spoke to the inspector in person. We always welcome your feedback about our school community and would value you getting in touch. We are not able to see who contributed their views but cannot help resolve problems or concerns if we do not know who you are! Thank you to all those who sent lovely messages of support both before and during the inspection. Our staff team work SO hard and it gave us real encouragement as we started the process. We have scheduled a 'Cuppa and Chat' for Monday June 10th at 2.45pm to give you a chance to pop in to discuss the Ofsted report. If this time is not convenient and you would value the opportunity, please don't hesitate to let us know a time that is good for you!

Please do check the dates at the end of the newsletter for all upcoming events. We very much look forward to you joining us!

Kindest regards,
Naomi Day and the Fishbourne Team



- Mon 20th May - Church and School Fete meeting 7pm (all warmly welcome!)
- Mon 10th June at 2.45pm - Cuppa and Chat
- Tue 11th June - School communion service
- Fri 14th June—Zog Theatre trip (EYFS, Y1) - 4.30pm performance, returning to school for approximately 6pm
- Thu 20th June - Matilda Theatre trip (Y2,3,4,5,6) - returning to school for approximately 5.30pm
- Fri 21st June—Non uniform day (bring a bottle for the tombola!)
- Sat 22nd June - Church and School Fete
- Mon 24th June - Bags4Schools
- Tue 2nd July - Leavers' Service at the Cathedral (Y6 and parents) 1.15pm
- Wed 3rd July and Wed 10th July 3.30-6pm - Learning review meetings
- Thu 11th July - Sports Day (1pm)
- Wed 17th and Thu 18th July - Summer Production (Y5 and Y6) 6.30pm
- Tue 23rd July - Leavers' assembly 9am
- Tue 23rd July - Break up for the summer holidays
- INSET Days for 2019**
Friday 24th May

We are really, REALLY excited about our whole school learning experience coming up after May half term. Children in Reception and Year 1 will be going off to see Zog in Worthing and the rest of the school will see Matilda at the Mayflower. We will be using these theatre visits to HOOK the children in to inspiring, authentic END GOALS. Our English leaders, Mrs Potter and Mrs Williams have some super ideas up their sleeves which we will be sharing in a whole staff planning session next week and we will look forward to sharing more with you after the half term break. It promises to be a really super experience for everyone and we will ensure that all learning journals come home at the end of the experience for you to share in the journey!

If you think you may be available to accompany us on either of these visits, please drop an email to the school office where we will collect a list. We will let you know before half term if we need your help.

AT FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, WE NURTURE OUR LEARNERS TO BECOME...

