

5th October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Newchurch, we are committed to raising standards in reading as well as ensuring children read for pleasure. Since the start of the year you may have identified some changes to our reading curriculum. I would like to take the opportunity to explain some of the changes and future developments in this area of the curriculum.

Vocabulary is a key focus for the children this year in order to prepare them to fly in future years. Research states that:

- ❖ Vocabulary at 3 years old is an indicator for KS2 SATs outcomes
- ❖ Vocabulary at 5 years old is an indicator of GCSE achievement
- ❖ Vocabulary at the end of Year 6 is an indicator of future income

In order to ensure our robins have every opportunity to thrive in future years, we have decided to introduce the following two features:

WOW words

You will have noticed a star in your child's reading record which says 'WOW word'. Whilst reading their reading book, or any of their home reading books, the children are to find one word per week which they think they could use within their writing. The expectation is that they can explain what the word means and explain that to their peers. Each week, the children who have collected a WOW word will share their word with the class and explain the meaning. This has proven very powerful. The class teacher selects one of the WOW words taken from a child's reading, based on how much it could be used within the context of their writing, to be the word of the week. This is a new development in the expectations for writing at the expected standard for all year groups as children must use the language of reading in their writing.

Reading Spines

As part of our INSET in September, the staff looked at the Reading spine the children in each class will receive as part of their reading curriculum. They have ensured that there is a mixture of classic and modern literature as well as poets and non-fiction texts. Children in KS1 will learn one poem per week and children in KS2 have adopted a poet for each of the three terms.

Other things you may not know about...

Parent Board

The Parent Board is a group of parent who met with Mrs Sizer and a member of the Senior Leadership Team to provide parental opinions and ideas on how to improve specific areas of the school. They will canvas your suggestions and feedback to the group.

Following the Parent Board meeting earlier in the half term, there were a number of suggestions given. One of these was to provide parents with a recommended reading list for their children. Therefore, please find overleaf a non-exhausted list of recommended books for KS1, Lower KS2 (Y3 and 4) and Upper KS2 (Y5 and 6) aimed at engaging children in reading. However, please feel free to either contact me with recommendations from your child or we would love you to tweet them on our Twitter page: @NewchurchCP

Home Reading Expectations

Two years ago, we met with the Parent Board regarding home reading. It was agreed that expecting parents to read with their child at least twice a week was not unreasonable. It was also suggested that we change the reading records to include the weekend, which is what we did. For every entry in your child's reading record, your child will receive a praise point which works towards different awards: Bronze (50 praise points), Silver (100 praise points), Gold (200 praise points), Platinum (500 praise points) and Diamond (1000 praise points).

Reading Rewards

The children are also rewarded for the number of books they read. These are the home readers the children have. Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards are given to children who have read a number of books over the year. This is different in KS1 and KS2 due to the length of the books the children will be reading.

'A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies...The man who never reads lives only one.' George R.R. Martin
(author of Game of Thrones)

To conclude, please help us to develop your child's passion for reading. We will be holding a number of reading workshops for parents over the year and hope you can join us.

Happy reading!

Jayne Narraway (Chief Bookworm!)

Year 3 and 4 Book Recommendations

Title	Author	Title	Author
Charlie and The Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	The Butterfly Lion	Michael Morpurgo
The Iron Man	Ted Hughes	Varjak Paw	S F Said
Stuart Little	E B White	The Battle of Bubble and Squeak	Phillips Pearce
War Game	Michael Foreman	The Last Castaway	Harry Horse
Surf's Up	Kwame Alexander	Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Jeff Kinney
The Railway Children	E Nesbit	The Yearling	Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
The Firework Maker's Daughter	Philip Pullman	The Little Princess	Frances Hodgson Burnett
My Headteacher is a Vampire Rat	Pamela Butchart	Horrid Henry	Francesca Simon
A Child of Books	Oliver Jeffers	Malkin Moonlight	Emma Cox
Alison Hubble	Allen Ahlberg and Bruce Ingham	The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth	Eoin Colfer
The Worst Witch	Jill Murphy	Alex Sparrow and the Really Big Stink	Jennifer Killick
The Falcon Malteser	Anthony Horowitz	Fly, Eagle, Fly!	Christopher Gregorowski
Gorilla	Anthony Browne	Gregory Cool	Caroline Birch
Running on the Roof of the World	Jess Butterworth	Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor	Jon Scieska
Hot Like Fire	Valerie Bloom	Leon and Bob	Simon James
The Great Chocoplot	Chris Callaghan	The What On Earth Wallbook	Christopher Lloyd
Eric Appleby – Zero to Hero	Dan Worsley	Professor Branestawm	Norman Hunter
Bill's New Frock	Anne Fine	Kick Off	Dan Freedman
The Hundred and One Dalmatians	Dodie Smith	The Green Ship	Quentin Blake
The Hodgeheg	Dick King-Smith	Ice Palace	Robert Swindells
The Pebble in My Pocket	Meredith Hooper	The Stone Mouse	Jenny Nimmo
Billionaire Boy	David Walliams	Fairy Tales	Terry Jones
The House that Sailed Away	Pat Hutchins	Cliffhanger	Jacqueline Wilson
Oliver and the Seawigs	Phillip Reeve	Krindelkrax	Philip Ridley
Lizzie Dripping	Helen Cresswell	The Children of Green Knowe	L M Boston
The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish	Neill Gaiman	The Secret of Platform 13	Eva Ibbotson
The Adventures of the Wishing Chair	Enid Blyton	A Nest Full of Stars	James Berry
Perijee and Me	Ross Montgomery	The 13-Storey House	Andry Griffiths
Goodly and Grave	Justine Windsor	African Tales: A Barefoot Collection	Gcina Miphe
Belonging	Jeanie Baker	Operation Gadgetman	Malorie Blackman
The Boy Who Went Magic	A P Winters	Firebird	Saviour Pirotta
The Imaginary	A F Harold	The Great Elephant Chase	Gillian Cross
The Tinderbox	Hans Christian Anderson	The Reluctant Dragon	Kenneth Grahame
The Wolf's Footprint	Susan Price	Ug: Genius Boy of the Stone Age	Raymond Briggs
How to Train Your Dragon	Cressida Cowell	The Phantom Tollbooth	Norton Juster
Erica's Elephant	Sylvia Bishop	You're a Bad man, Mr Gum!	Andy Stanton
The Adventures of Captain Underpants	Dav Pilkey	A World of Information	Richard Platt
Secrets According to Humphrey	Betty G Birney	The Brilliant World of Tom Gates	Liz Pichon
The Moonshine Dragon	Cornelia Funke	The Sticky Witch	Hillary McKay
Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World	Katie Pankhurst	The Sandwich Thief	Andre Marois
The Cat in the Hat	Dr Seuss	I am Not a Loser	Jim Smith
The Boy Who Biked The World	Alistair Humphreys	Tales of Fourth Grade Nothing	Judy Blume
The Accidental Prime Minister	Tom McLaughlin	The Wild Robot	Peter Brown
Dragons at Crumbling Castle Smile!	Terry Pratchett	Ottoline and the Yellow Cat	Chris Riddell
There May Be A Castle	Geraldine McCaughrean	That Pesky Rat	Lauren Child
The Invention of Hugo Cabret	Piers Torday	Mouse Noses on Toast	Darren Fletcher
Shackleton's Journey	Brian Selznick	The Shrimp	Emily Smith
The Year of Billy Miller	William Grill	Frindle	Andrew Clements
	Kevin Henkes	Fergus Crane	Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell
The Tale of Despereaux	Katie DiCamillo	The Whisperer	Nick Butterworth