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23rd February 2021

Dear parent/carer,

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a lovely, restful break and are raring to go. Can you believe that we are half way through the school year already?

As you are aware the Prime Minister made an announcement yesterday which detailed that all schools will be returning on 8th March. As yet, we have not received any additional information regarding what this may look like but we are likely to gain some clarification of the expectations of schools in the coming days. Needless to say, we will keep you fully informed in order to prepare the children for the transition from home back to school.

When children returned to school in June 2020 and then fully in September 2020, we ensured that the transition from home back to school was managed effectively with the use of mind maps created by the children to share things they have learned whilst in lockdown, what they are apprehensive about when they return to school and any questions they have. This resulted in the children settling back in school so well.

Over the coming days we will be providing details of what the transition will look like. Please keep an eye on any communication from school as we will be needing help to gather details of how to best support your child in the return to school. Each child will have had a different experience and will have responded in their own unique way. We need to ensure that we are prepared to support them when they return to school. Parents will also have the opportunity to share any concerns about the return with us, not just those who have been home schooling but for those whose children have been coming into school.

World Book Day

As always we are very excited about World Book Day which is on Thursday 4th March: a time when we celebrate our pleasure for reading. Usually, we extend it to the whole week and call it 'Book Week', holding an 'Invite a guest' session and we have our reading picnic – all events which enable parents (and grandparents) to come into school and be with the children.



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It goes without saying that the restrictions currently in place do not allow for this to happen this year. Has this dampened our enthusiasm for the Book Week? Absolutely not! It has just taken a little bit of thinking outside of the box. Here are just a few virtual events you can look forward to:

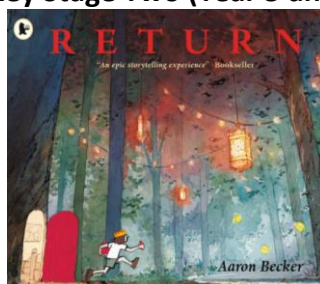
<p>Monday 1st March and throughout the week</p>	<p>There will be an assembly which launches Book Week and sets the scene for the week ahead. There is a little less structure to the week (and each day) as the purpose is to immerse the children in a love of books and reading.</p> <p>The Masked Poet competition begins. Staff members have disguised themselves reciting a poem of their choice. Can you guess who is who? A google form will be posted on Friday for you to post your guesses. Who will guess them all correct?</p> <p>Don't worry if you do not know all the members of staff because they will be sharing the story of The BGF by Roald Dahl throughout the week. Different members of staff will be reading a chapter each and you will be able to see their faces, hear their real voices and learn their names. A bit of detective work will be needed though.</p> <p>A Reading Menu of audio books or videos of stories will be posted on Monday for each class which will we are encouraging the children to 'read' throughout the week. The aim of this is to encourage them to widen their repertoire of genres and perhaps discover a new style of book they want to pursue.</p> <p>Each class is to be given a wordless book and they are to collaboratively create a narrative for it. This year, we are using the trilogy by Aaron Becker:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key Stage One (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)</p> <div data-bbox="751 1149 1058 1422" data-label="Image"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Lower Key Stage Two (Year 3 and Year 4)</p> <div data-bbox="756 1496 1053 1765" data-label="Image"> </div>
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Upper Key Stage Two (Year 5 and Year 6)



Let's be '**Book Detectives**'! Each day, a set of clues will be presented for each key stage based on familiar rhymes, poems or texts the children may know. They have to guess the title. For example:



Did you guess it? Humpty Dumpty!

Each day, there will be a **Storytime Swap**, when you will get a different member of staff which is not your teacher reading your end of day story to you.

Each day, there will be a challenge from the challenge mat which you can select. This will be posted on Wednesday so you have plenty of time to consider any resources you can collect and gather your ideas. Siblings should be able to work together on the different tasks. We hope to have provided a good selection for all the children's interest. If the children were in school, this is what they would be doing.

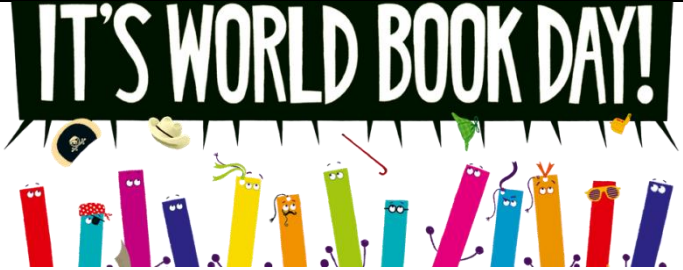
Book Week Activities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Re-create a book cover of your favourite book. It could be fiction or non-fiction. Please it in your window and then at the end of the week, take a walk around the village and see how many book covers you can see.</p>	<p>Find an old book that may be tattered and torn and use it to create a hedgehog using a page folding technique. Use this video to see how it is done.</p>	<p>Create a story hat linked to any book you love.</p>	<p>Wear your pyjamas day (and story hat) and get ready to snuggle up with a book as part of our D.E.A.R time – Drop Everything And Read!</p>	<p>Draw along with Rob Goulden. Watch the following videos to draw along with Rob Goulden or Celia Dool or 62 Nanihi.</p>
<p>Find something that you can upcycle with a story theme. It could be an old box, an old chair, a plant pot, an old pair of wellies or a cup - anything.</p>	<p>Can you make biscuits or cakes with a story theme?</p>	<p>Read in a funny place competition. Find the funniest or most unusual place to read and take a photo of you reading. Remember to send it to us!</p>	<p>It's all about spending time reading today and loving books!</p>	<p>Illustrators' day! Create a supervillain in the style of the illustrator you have studied. Create a WANTED poster to share your villain.</p>
<p>Egg box challenge! Using parts of an egg box, can you create a portrait of a book character? Have a look at these ideas.</p>	<p>Create a setting for a story using an old box. Select any story you wish.</p>	<p>Can you create finger puppets and tell a story?</p>	<p>Using things around the home, make a cosy reading den for you to use when you have DEAR time. Remember to put all your favourite books, comics etc in there.</p>	<p>Create a book mark for your books so you don't lose your place.</p>
<p>Sell a book! Create a way to 'sell' a book to another person. You could create a poster, a vlog, an article, a cinematic trailer, an animation or use Minecraft!</p>				



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Tuesday 2 nd March 2021	Each class will receive a Mystery Book which has the cover hidden from them. They will be read the story and then asked to use what they have heard to create a book cover which reflects the story. How close is it to the original? I am sure that the children will give the illustrators a run for their money!
Wednesday 3 rd March 2021	Well...would you believe it? World Maths Day falls in the middle of Book Week! We are keeping this day a secret at the moment so watch out for more details.
Thursday 4 th March 2021	 <p>Wear pyjamas for the day and remember to wear the story hat (from the Book Week activities) for the register. Create a reading den and make a collection of favourite reading material as at any time they could be asked to Drop Everything And Read (D.E.A.R Time). Yes...it will be time to snuggle down, get comfy and read books on their own, with a sibling or with a parent (grandparent).</p> <p>Dear Author/Poet is also on this day where the children will be selecting an author or poet and writing them a letter which they can send to them when they return to school on the 8th March.</p>
Friday 5 th March 2021	The Reading Picnic with a difference! Virtual Reading Buddies. If we are being totally honest, we haven't quite worked out how we are going to actually implement this but where there is a will, there is a way. This is a wonderful opportunity for older children to share a picture book virtually with a group of younger children (chaperoned by a member of staff of course).

Chat Health texting service

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is beginning the roll out of a new secure text messaging service for parents and carers of children and young people aged 0-19 years old, enabling them to get timely and trusted health advice from a health professional (a Health Visitor or School Nurse).

As our lives have changed over the last few months due to coronavirus, it's more important than ever for young people families to have easy access to support, particularly in the absence of face to face interaction. The service (which is available in Warrington, Halton and Oldham) does not aim to replace face to face contacts, rather increase choice for service users about how they access advice from a health professional and provides a new line of communication as face to face contact is reduced.

The ChatHealth text number will operate Monday-Friday from 9am until 5pm. Messages will be responded to within 24 hours during this period. Outside these hours, service users will receive a 'bounce back' text message indicating that they will receive a response when the line re-opens. Of



course, ChatHealth is not an emergency service, and accordingly parents will be instructed to follow usual advice in seeking urgent medical attention.

The text numbers for Warrington are:

- 11 - 19 Young People's Service – 07507 330101
- 0 - 5 Parents Service – 07507 327981
- 5 - 19 Parents Service – 07480 635994

Or visit chathealth.nhs.uk to start a chat. We have purposely included the other age groups for any future Newchurch Robins or Robins who have flown the nest.

We are sure that the decrease in COVID cases, the reduction of the R number and the remarkable increase in the number of people being vaccinated fill you with some hope that the future is looking brighter. We dream of the days when we can welcome you all back inside our beautiful school for school performances, share the children's learning in the classroom and enjoy PTA events. It somehow doesn't feel too far away.

Our hearts are filled with hope for the future of our Newchurch Robins and our wider Newchurch Family. Together we have survived this unbelievable journey which has turned our lives upside down. Whatever the future holds, whatever obstacles come our way, we know we can rely on each other to get through it. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

With kind regards,

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher



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