

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 children 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 5 and 6 Book Recommendations

Title	Author	Title	Author
Demon Dentist	David Walliams	Goodnight Mr Tom	Michelle Magorian
Inside Out and Back Again	Thannaha Lai	The Suitcase Kid	Jacqueline Wilson
The Boy IN The Striped Pyjamas	John Boyne	Firegirl	Tony Abbott
The Many Worlds of Albie Bright	Christopher Edge	Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief	Rick Riordan
Coraline	Neil Gaiman	Journey to the River Sea	Eva Ibbotson
Five on a Treasure Island	Enid Blyton	Time Travelling with a Hamster	Ross Welford
Room 13	Robert Swindells	A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness
Millions	Frank Cottrell-Boyce	Street Child	Berlie Doherty
Cogheart	Peter Bunzl	Cloud Bursting	Malorie Blackman
Gaslight	Eloise Williams	Harry Potter	J K Rowling
The Imaginary	A F Harold	Matilda	Roald Dahl
Kensuke's Kingdom	Michael Morpurgo	The Crossover	Kwame Alexander
Phoenix	S E Said	Charlotte's Web	E B White
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	C S Lewis
Stig of the Dump	Clive King	Artemis Fowl	Eoin Coffey
Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Jeff Kinney	Five Children and It	E Nesbit
Beetle Boy	M G Leonard	Clockwork	Philip Pullman
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson Burnett	Wonder	R J Palacio
The Borrowers	Mary Norton	The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore	William Joyce
Skellig	David Almond	A Series of Unfortunate Events	Lemony Snickett
The Girl of Ink and Stars	Kiran Millwood Hargreaves	Holes	Louis Sachar
Once	Morris Gleitzmann	Groosham Grange	Anthony Horowitz
The Indian in the Cupboard	Lynne Reed Banks	The Nowhere Emporium	Ross McKenzie
Oranges In No Man's Land	Elizabeth Baird	Roof Toppers	Katherine Rundell
A Girl Called Owl	Amy Wilson	Shadow Forest	Matt Haig
The Diamond of Drury Lane	Julie Golding	The London Eye Mystery	Siobhan Dowd
The Silly Book of Side Splitting Stuff	Andy Seed	Dream Catcher	Abi Elphinstone
Mould and the Poison Plot	Lorraine Gregory	Flour Babies	Anne Fine
The worst Children's Jobs in History	Tony Robinson	The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents	Terry Pratchett
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aiken	The Queen's Nose	Dick King-Smith
Who Let The Gods Out	Maz Evans	The Hobbit	J R R Tolkien
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell	The Demon Headmaster	Gillian Cross
Lion Boy	Zizou Corder	The Wind in the Willows	Kenneth Grahame
The Wind Swinger	William Nicholson	When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit	Judith Kerr
How to Train Your Dragon	Cressida Cowell	A Library of Lemons	Jo Cotterill
The Bubble Boy	Stewart Foster	Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children	Ransom Riggs
The Boy Who Sailed The Ocean In An Armchair	Lara Williamson	Pax	Sara Pennypacker
My Brother is a Superhero	David Solomons	The Brilliant World of Tom Gates	Liz Pichon
Black Powder	Ally Sherrick	Sweet Pizza	G R Gremin
Swallows and Amazons	Arthur Ransome	Strange Star	Emma Carroll
A Long Walk to Water	Linda Sue Park	Sad Book	Michael Rosen
The Arrival	Shaun Tan	Ballet Shoes	Noel Streatfield
Watership Down	Richard Adams	Swimming in the Moon	Jane Esleson
Carrie's War	Nina Bawden	Peter Pan	J M Barrie
Diary of Anne Frank	Anne Frank	Winter Magic	Various Authors
What To Do When You Worry Too Much	Dawn Huebner	The Secret of Nightingale Wood	Lucy Strange
The Invention of Hugo Cabret	Brian Selznick	The Last Wild	Piers Torday
Skulduggery Pleasant	Derek Landy	Howl's Moving Castle	Dianne Wynne Jones
101 Poems for Children	Carl Ann Duffy	The Goldfish Boy	Lisa Thompson
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	L Frank Baum	Letters From the Lighthouse	Emma Carroll