

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School

Celebrating Reading!



“Books train your mind and imagination to think big”, Taylor Swift.

“So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away. And in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall.” Roald Dahl

As the Essex Year of Reading draws to an end, the school very much wants to continue nurturing, encouraging and promoting our love of reading throughout 2023 and beyond. This newsletter aims to share with you what we are getting up to in the library, as well as imparting awareness of audiobooks, podcasts and other resources which may help your child develop an interest in reading and literacy further.

Our 2022/23 Year Six Librarians

I have been overwhelmed with the number of year six children who applied to be a librarian. Their letters of support showed great maturity and demonstrated a fantastic passion for sharing their love of reading with others. Over the course of this academic year, as well as encouraging others to choose books that they will hopefully enjoy reading, the team will also be given the opportunity to develop and enhance skills such as: writing book reviews, generating displays, assisting with library questionnaires/competitions and getting to grips with the library electronic book borrowing system.

Reading Tree for 2022/23

After the success of the last academic year's School Reading Tree, we have decided to continue with this initiative, where children gain awards (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum) as they read books across the different branches (genres) of our school tree. This academic year, there have been some tweaks to the genres, which are as follows:

Adventure	Biographies
Classics	Historical Fiction
Myths & Legends	Non-Fiction
Poetry	S.T.E.M (Science, technology, engineering & mathematics)

Podcasts

A piece of research undertaken by the National Literacy Trust in 2020 found that more children and young people who listen to podcasts enjoy reading and read daily than their peers who do not. [Our new research reveals the positive power of podcasts on children's reading, as lockdown sees rise in listenership | National Literacy Trust](#). Although this research was undertaken during the first lockdown in 2020, a lot of their findings still ring true in 2022.

Here is a small selection of podcasts (on Acast, but likely to be on other platforms) that your child may be interested in:

Children's Books 100 Great Children's Books: (which include tales by L M Montgomery, Johanna Spyri, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Kenneth Grahame and Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm).

Fun Kids Book Worms: Interviews with children's authors. Recent episodes include Ben Miller chatting about his new book 'The Night We Got Stuck in a Story' and David Walliams spilling the beans on his new novel 'Out of This World'.

Puffin Podcast: Mission Imagination. Each week, young listeners are invited into a different magical world. Have a pen/pencil and paper to hand, ready to scribble your story ideas down!

Audio Books

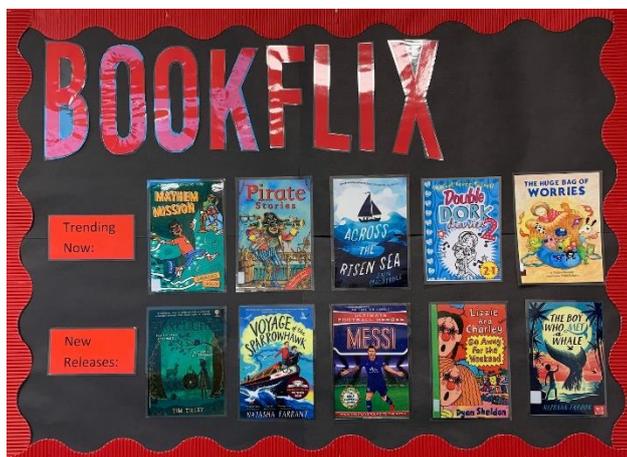
Over this academic year, we will be investigating the use of audio books in the library. Please watch this space for further news! For those of you who are audio book fans, Audible UK (www.audible.co.uk) are currently offering 50% off membership for 4 months. They do have a fantastic collection of children's books.

If you have any audio book apps that you are happy to recommend, please get in touch at admin@stthomasjnr.essex.sch.uk.

Magazines

We have been extremely lucky to be gifted recent back issues of The Week Junior, The Week Junior – Science & Nature and The National Geographic for Kids. Short texts, with appealing photographs can be really enticing to our reluctant readers! Our generous PTA have kindly donated the money for some wall-mounted magazine racks.

Bookflix comes to St Thomas'!



One of our display boards in the library is dedicated to book trends. The trend setters are our team of librarians. Although this is early days, the display is proving to be a hit, as a large number of children are asking where the books can be found in the library. There is also a 'waiting list' for Messi's biography, so we will be purchasing a couple more copies of this book for the library.

Gift a book at Christmas

Finally, this year we are launching a 'Gift a Book at Christmas' initiative. Parents and carers will be given the opportunity to donate a small amount of money which will cover the cost of the book. We purchase the majority of our stock from Peter's Bookshop, who provide a plastic protective cover, which ultimately prolongs the life of each book. More information will follow after half term.

Mrs C Emery

School Librarian