

# Announcing A YEAR OF READING



28<sup>th</sup> September 2016

To Parents of Pupils in the Primary Phase

**Dear Parents**

**'A Year of Reading – A Year of Inspiration' Launch**



I am delighted to announce that this year we will be organising our reading initiative in Caroline Chisholm Primary Phase to encourage and inspire children to read for pleasure.

**Did you know...?**

***Research shows that a child who reads for fun will do better at school, even in subjects like maths.***

So, every month we will be celebrating reading and motivating readers in school and at home with exciting activities for your child to participate in.

To get us started, this month, every child will be invited to participate in a sponsored Readathon which aims to help sick children in hospital. Readathon supports children's charities such as *Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity* and as this year is Roald Dahl's 100th birthday we thought this would be a great way to celebrate his birthday, enjoy our reading and raise money for his charity and other children's charities supported by Readathon. We are planning to hold our Readathon in Big Health and Happiness at the end of Term 1 along with a whole range of exciting book and reading related activities. We hope that everyone will join in. Look out for the Readathon information packs that will be coming home next week.



We don't want to spoil the surprise and to give too much away about the other activities planned for the year ahead but I know as much notice as possible is welcomed so, here is a sneak preview of some of them coming up;

- October: Readathon and staff from across the whole school will be sharing their favourite childhood books with children;
- November : there will be a Scholastic Book Fair during the week of parents' evenings;
- January: there will be a Book Swap so you can have a good clear out and pass on any of those good quality, unwanted books;
- March: we would like to celebrate World Book Day. We are going to collect £1 donations to go towards Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity in return for dressing up as one of Roald Dahl's book characters.

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Principal: David James Vice Principals: Katherine Patterson, Gary Wakefield

Throughout the year, we will also be having reading photo challenges which we will look forward to seeing and displaying in school.

Remember to keep an eye out for the monthly launch of the school and home activities but in the meantime, why wait for each activity? Take a look at the ideas below and see how you can support 'A Year of Reading'.

#### TOP TIPS

- **Ensure that your children see you reading.** It doesn't matter if it's the newspaper, a cookery book, romantic novel, detective mystery, short stories, computer manual, magazine - anything!
- **Encourage children to join in** - ask a child to read out a recipe for you as you cook, or the TV listings when you are watching TV
- **Give books or book tokens as presents**, and encourage others to do so
- **Visit the local library together** on a regular basis, and enjoy spending time choosing new books
- **Encourage children to carry a book at all times** so they can read on journeys or in spare moments – you can do this, too!
- **Keep reading together.** There are lots of books that both adults and young people can enjoy. Try *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon, the *Harry Potter* series, or *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. Read books you can all talk about but make the talk light-hearted, not testing or over-questioning
- **Go to libraries or bookshops when authors are visiting.** Children and teenagers love meeting their favourite writers - Jacqueline Wilson and Anthony Horowitz always have signing queues that are miles long!
- **Make sure your home is a reading home** - have a family bookshelf and make sure there are shelves in your children's bedrooms as well.
- **Don't panic if your child reads the same book over** and over again - be honest, we've probably all done it!
- **Encourage your children and their friends to swap books** with each other. This will encourage them to talk and think about the books they are reading

Happy reading everyone.

Yours sincerely,

*Emma Langridge*

Mrs Emma Langridge  
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