

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!)

KS1 Book Recommendations

Title	Author	Title	Author
A Bear Called Paddington	Michael Bond	Flat Stanley	Jeff Brown
Each Peach Pear Plum	Janet and Allen Ahlberg	The Snowman	Raymond Briggs
Room on the Broom	Julie Donaldson	Lost and Found	Oliver Jeffers
Sox and Pals	B B Taylor	The Tiger Who Came to Tea	Judith Kerr
Not Now Bernard	David McKee	I Want My Hat Back	Jon Klassen
I will not ever NEVER eat a tomato	Lauren Child	Where The Wild Things Are	Maurice Sendak
Owl Babies	Martin Waddell	I Can Only Draw Worms	Will Mabbit
We're Going on a Bear Hunt	Michael Rosen	Supertato	Sue Hendra
Stanley's Stick	John Hegley	The Very Hungry Caterpillar	Eric Carle
The Day the Crayons Quit	Drew Daywalt	There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly	Pam Adams
If You Give A Mouse A Cookie	Laura Joffe Numeroff	The Gruffalo	Julia Donaldson
Dogger	Shirley Hughes	The Tunnel	Anthony Browne
Mr Bump	Roger Hargreaves	Avocado Baby	John Burningham
Aliens Love Underpants	Clare Freedman and Ben Cort	The Cat in the Hat	Dr Seuss
The Book with No Pictures	B J Novak	The Mousehole Cat	Antonia Barber
The Fantastic Mr Fox	Roald Dahl	Beegu	Alexis Deacon
The Jolly Postman	Janet and Allen Ahlberg	Meerkat Mail	Emily Gravett
Meg and Mog	Helen Nicoll and Jan Piekowski	Pumpkin Soup	Helen Cooper
The Loudest Roar	Thomas Taylor	Traction Man	Mini Grey
Giraffes Can't Dance	Giles Andrea and Guy Parker-Rees	Burglar Bill	Janet and Allen Ahlberg
Six Dinner Sid	Inga Moore	The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs	Jon Scieska
Would You Rather...	John Burningham	The Bog Baby	Jenne Willis and Glen Millward
The Bear and the Piano	David Litchfield	The Bear Who Stared	Duncan Beedie
Leon and the Place Between	Angela McAllister and Grahame Baker-Smith	Dave's Cave	Frann Preston-Gannon
Peace At Last	Jill Murphy	Farmer Duck	Martin Waddell
The Rainbow Fish	Marcus Pfister	The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark	Jill Tomlinson
Journey	Aaron Becker	We're All Wonders	R J Palacio
A First Book Of Animals	Nicola Davies	Funnybones	Janet and Allen Ahlberg
Jack and the Flumflum Tree	Julia Donaldson	Elmer	David McKee
The Tale Of Peter Rabbit	Beatrix Potter	Handa's Surprise	Eileen Browne
The Great Dog Bottom Swap	Peter Bently and Mel Matsouka	The Grumpalump	Sarah Hayes
Zagazoo	Quentin Blake	The Snail and the Whale	Julia Donaldson
Dear Mother Goose	Michael Rosen and Nick Sharatt	The Storm Whale	Benji Davies
The Tin Forest	Helen Ward	The Giant Sandwich	John Vernon Lord and Janet Burroway
Funny Fairy Tales	Laurence Alholt and Authur Robins	Please Mr Panda	Steve Antony
Mama Panya's Pancakes	Mary and Rich Chamberlain	The Enormous Crocodile	Roald Dahl
Tattybogle	Sandra Horn and Ken Brown	Badger's Parting Gift	Susan Varley
That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown	Cressida Cowell	The Promise	Nicola Davies
Flotsam	David Weisner	Otto The Book Bear	Katie Cleminson
Rosie's Walk	Pat Hutchins	A Place To Call Home	Alexis Deacon
I'll Take You To Mrs Cole	Nigel Grey and Michael Foreman	Are We There Yet?	Dan Santat
Footpath Flowers	Jon Arno Lawson	Tortuga	Paul Geraghty
The Great Paper Caper	Oliver Jeffers	The Snowy Day	Ezra Jack Keats
The Giving Tree	Shel Silverstein	The Polar Express	Chris Van Allsburg
No, David!	David Shannon	Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus!	Mo Williems
Goodnight Moon	Margaret Wise Brown	Make Way For Ducklings	Robert McCloskey
Knuffle Bunny	Mo Williems	Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day	Judith Viorst
Edward the Emu	Sheena Knowles	Who Sank The Boat?	Pamela Allen
Where the Forest Meets the Sea	Jeannie Baker	Guess How Much I Love Yu	Sam McBratney
Dear Zoo	Rod Campbell	The Smartest Giant in Town	Julia Donaldson