



Friday 27th January 2023

Reading Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first St Joseph's Catholic Infant & Junior School reading newsletter. This is our new way of sharing with you how we are promoting a love for reading across the school and informing you of any exciting reading events that are going to take place over the next couple of terms.

Reading areas in school:

In the infant school we are working towards having a library in every classroom. We are aiming to inspire our children to continue reading for pleasure, encouraging them with an engaging collection of books, book-based activities, challenges and lessons. Having a class library will allow frequent access to class library books and free choice for the children to choose what they would like to read. This allows the teacher access to audit the books and keep the library up-to-date with new exciting authors.

We aim for our class libraries to look like these;



Junior School Library:



Library Rota



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Year 6	Year 5	Year 4	Year 3	Funday Friday
Afternoon		Year 3	Year 6	Year 5	Year 4

Lunchtime sessions will be run by pupil librarians. Afternoon sessions to be supervised by class teacher or TA. Children may take out up to 2 books at a time. Current books must be returned before new books can be borrowed. If there are any issues, please ask Mrs Prior for help.

The outdoor classroom will be open each lunchtime, as a place to relax with a good book.

Remember, a library is a quiet place. Other people may be using the space to work, so no talking, just browsing and choosing your next literary adventure!

St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School
Mitchell Street
Birtley
Chester-le-Street
County Durham
DH3 1LU
Telephone: 0191 410 2324
Email: birtleystjosephscatholicinfantschool@gateshead.gov.uk
<https://stjosephcatholicschoolsbirtley.org/>



St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School
School Street
Birtley
Chester-le-Street
County Durham
DH3 2PN
Telephone: 0191 410 2231
Email: birtleystjosephscatholicjuniorschool@gateshead.gov.uk
Email: stjosephsjuniorslearning@gatedu.org

Rocket Phonics Games:

To support children's reading and fluency there are phonics games available related to their learning in the classroom. Teachers will assign your child a book that the children will be able to access at home using a laptop, IPAD or mobile phone. A reminder and new login details will be in your child's reading log by Friday 3rd February. **Visit:**
[Rising Stars - Login \(risingstars-uk.com\)](http://risingstars-uk.com)

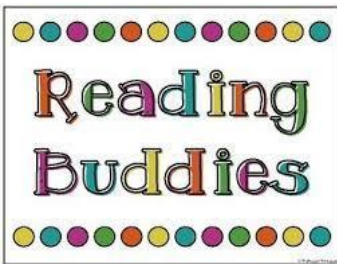


Reading Buddies:

Upper KS2 children will read with KS1 and early KS2 children once every half term. This aids in promoting a love of reading and developing transitional links between schools.

KS1- Tuesday 7th February (PM)

KS2- Wednesday 15th February (PM)



Birtley Library:

Birtley Library has lots of exciting events coming up over the next couple of months and over the Easter holidays.

Upcoming events:



Weekly: Saturday (10.30-12.00) Family Craft

Saturday 28th January- 10.30- Harry Potter crafts

Tuesday 7th February- 15.30- Paint a rain

Saturday 11th February- 10.30 – Colour me calm

Monday 20th February- 10.30 - Hot Wheels

Friday 24th February- 10.30 – Shark in the Park Storytime

Friday 17th March- 10.30- Giant Panda Day

Saturday 25th March – 10.30- Celebrating something on a stick day

Monday 3rd April- 10.30 - Mini egg marble run



Donation of books: We are currently having a huge surge in school to promote a love for reading. We are looking at our libraries/class libraries and texts that children can access in school. As a school we want to keep these texts as up-to-date as possible and relevant for the children. If you have any books at home that your children may have finished reading or are planning to pass on, please think about donating them to the school.

Have a look here for some excellent online reading books that you can share with your children at home:

[Unite for Literacy](#)

[Oxford Owl for School and Home](#)

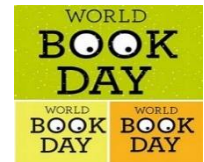
[Get 40K+ of the Best Children's Books, Videos & More | Epic \(getepic.com\)](#)

[Storyline Online - Library](#)

[Amazon Best Sellers: Best Children's eBooks](#)

Key exciting reading events:

World Book Day: We will be celebrating World Book Day on the **3rd of March**. For a donation of £1 the children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character and share an extract of their favourite book. The day is filled with a variety of reading and performing opportunities to encourage and foster a love of reading.



Shakespeare week: Shakespeare week is an annual National Celebration. We will be celebrating Shakespeare week on week commencing **27th March**. This celebration gives primary school aged children a chance to have a great first encounter with Shakespeare - his characters, stories and language.

Sponsored Read: Ready, Steady Read is Usborne's simple sponsored reading challenge! The sponsored read helps to promote reading for pleasure in your school, while allowing you to earn free books for your child's school. Every penny raised can be used to buy books for your library and classroom library, and the more money you raise, the more free books your school will earn. The sponsored read will take place over the Easter holidays **3rd April to 17th April**.



Performance poetry week: Each year, during the Summer term, we hold a performance poetry week. This allows the children an opportunity to become immersed in poetry, both contemporary and classical and develop their own literacy skills. Children will learn to memorise poems and take part in both whole class and solo poetry performances. These will be shared with the rest of the school community in assembly. We will be celebrating performance poetry week on week commencing **5th June**.

Book Club: during a book club session, each Key Stage group learns about a different author, both modern and classical. Each class get 45 minutes in the hall to learn more about an assigned author. During the month, children will be encouraged to explore their author at home and come to book club ready to discuss. The children can access the author through books, audios books, online or movie adaptations. Book Club is week commencing **26th June**.

