

# Library Newsletter

## November 2016



As this is my first newsletter for this academic year, welcome back to the new School year everyone; especially to the

new Year 5 pupils who joined us in September. I hope you are settling into life at Birchensale; it has been great to see so many of you using the library regularly changing your reading books.

I am glad to say that the library has been as busy as ever since we got back; we have had Bookbuzz (free books for Year 7's) and the Scholastic monthly book club leaflet, as well as draughts and chess club taking place on Friday lunchtimes. Also next week the Book Fair is in school, so there is a lot going on in the library!

### 'BookBuzz' - Free Books for Year 7's

All of the pupils in Year 7 received a free book courtesy of the 'BookBuzz' Scheme, which is an annual initiative that hopefully will encourage them to carry on reading as they get older.



There were some good titles again this year and the books have now been given out, so I hope the Year 7's are enjoying their great free books.

Don't forget, when you have finished your book, you can swap with your friends. Also most of the books have Accelerated Reader quizzes so you may want to try and quiz on your book when you finish it.

The library has a copy of the complete set of books that were on offer for this year's BookBuzz Scheme; come and try out some of the other great titles.

### Scholastic Book Fair

**Please Note** - This year's Book Fair will take place next week.

The Book Fair will be open for all pupils during lunchtime from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November. There will be a great selection of books, stationery and posters to choose from and everything that is sold earns free books for the school library. A leaflet is attached showing some of the books that will be on offer.



Last year's event raised over £500.00 in free books, so please support us again this year, as every book sold makes a real difference and enables us to continue to have such a super library; which all the pupils benefit from.

### Accelerated Reader

Parents and Carers should now be familiar with Accelerated Reader; which is a great reading programme that we use at Birchensale focussing on improving reading levels across the school.



If you are not familiar with the system, the AR programme is designed to develop and improve reading ability through on-line tests and book quizzes where pupils are guided to books appropriate to their reading age and ability and are rewarded for their reading progress.

The Accelerated Reader programme helps pupils to:

- be motivated readers
- improve reading
- choose books suitable to their reading level and/or suitably challenging

- develop a lifelong love of reading

To achieve this, pupils will:

- ✓ Take a Star Reader Test
- ✓ Be given a Reading Age and AR zone
- ✓ Borrow a book from within that zone
- ✓ Read the book
- ✓ Take a quiz
- ✓ Aim to achieve at least 85% in the quiz
- ✓ Earn points for each quiz
- ✓ Achieve rewards and certificates
- ✓ Progress through the AR zones
- ✓ Always have their AR book with them
- ✓ Improve their reading!

By doing this pupils will progress through the levels and improve their reading ability. They will also pick up points as they go as each book has a set number of points allocated to it. The higher the quiz result the more points they earn.



There are set levels for pupils to achieve and at each level they will be rewarded with certificates of achievement and prizes such as book marks, items of stationery and other great prizes!

Also, each time a pupil attains 100% on an AR quiz, a raffle ticket will be allocated to them and at the end of each term we will hold a draw, the raffle tickets that are pulled out will receive a book and/or other great prizes! So, the more times a pupil gets 100% on a quiz the more raffle tickets they will have in the final draw; which will give them more chances of winning!

Letters have now been sent home outlining how parents can get access to your child's Accelerated Reader record via the Home Connect System. Please do try out the Home Connect as it is a great way of seeing what your child is reading and how well they are doing with their quizzing!

**Please** encourage pupils with their reading at home and when they are in school, by making sure they bring their Accelerated Reader book into school each day and read regularly at home. There are great rewards, not only in the short term with the prizes to be won but in the long term as well; reading well is a skill for life.

## **The Reading Passport**

Year 5 pupils will soon be introduced to the Reading Passport.



The Reading Passport is a reading challenge for all pupils to embark on a voyage of reading discovery that will enthral and challenge them!

We have pulled together a list of 100 books, using the recent list published by The Times newspaper. These books should be read for both fun, enjoyment and knowledge as well as to expand the range of books that pupils read.

Every pupil is issued with a Reading Passport which has the full list of 100 books. The aim is for pupils to target these books during their time at Birchensale and they will be rewarded for each step of their journey of discovery.

Once a book on the list is completed, pupils have to fill in the details of the book on their passport and get it signed. They can also quiz on the book if there is a quiz available. When they have completed the first 10 books, the passport should be handed into their English teacher to be signed and they can then visit the library to receive a reward. They will also receive achievement points for their endeavours.

All books are available in the library at Birchensale and we hope that this will be a new way to inspire everyone to explore different genres and ways of reading and enjoying books.

We wish everyone good luck and an enjoyable journey!

## **And Finally**

Remember to visit the Book Fair next week; keep reading and quizzing and see you in the library soon!

**Mrs Willis**

