

Head Teacher's Newsletter



Reading Presentation Evening

Thank you to those parents who braved the cold last Wednesday evening to join us in school for Mrs Dollard's presentation on reading in school.

We have three main targets for reading:

1. Ensure all children leave Irthlingborough Junior School with reading in line with their age so children are ready to access texts at their secondary school.
2. Ensure children have a good understanding of what they read. We want our children to be able to comprehend texts; retrieve information from texts and also understand how to use inference to understand how authors and poets give clues to meanings.
3. We want our children to love reading.

There are lots of ways in which we are trying to meet those targets for children. Accelerated Reader will increase children's reading ages and help to improve their understanding of texts.

Giving children a love of reading is more complicated. We are working on promoting reading as adults and making reading high profile throughout our school. Year 6 have a project to encourage children to read the 100 books that children should read before they leave Primary school. Every class in Year 6 has approximately 80 of those books and we are setting each class the challenge of reading them before the end of the school year.

If you want to explore the list, you can find it here:

<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/100-fiction-books-all-children-should-read-leaving-primary-school-%E2%80%93>

Year 3 Christmas Play

Good luck to the children in Year 3 who are performing their Christmas play at the church this week.

They have been trying to fit singing practices in between lessons ready for the performances this week. The children are performing at 6:00pm on Wednesday and Thursday.

Collapsed Curriculums

We reviewed our curriculum in the summer and made the decision to plan in collapsed weeks where the focus will be on history, geography or science. The idea is that the children do less literacy lessons but still read and write through a different subject.

This week, Year 6 have designed a collapsed curriculum week for science. At 2:45pm on Friday the year team are inviting parents in to share in the work that has taken place this week. If you can make it, please come in and take a look at their work.

Forest School Update

We have two members of staff who have been on a training course to learn about how to run a Forest School. Mrs Godfrey and Mrs White attended a day's training and the project is now ready to move on to the next level.

Thank you to all those parents that offered to get involved with clearing spaces or developing areas of the field. We don't need a lot of development but will be looking to improving the security by improving the fencing.

There is more training which is scheduled for January and hopefully the first children will begin Forest School in the spring of 2018.

We would like to purchase tools for working the land and outdoor warm, waterproofs for children. If you know anyone or a company that could support us with this, please get in touch with me, Mrs Godfrey or Mrs White.