



FOCUS THIS WEEK

REVIEW

- Pupil AR data for tutors
- Reading levels to inform planning
- WWW with your writing support?

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# Literacy News



AUTUMN TERM, PART 2 008: 18TH DECEMBER 2017

## Autumn Term Review

### Editorial

*As the term draws to an end, we reflect on our achievements and successes, we reflect and plan to meet the challenges not yet met or the new work for the coming term.*

Looking at where Northern House stands now in terms of literacy, we should be proud of our achievements this term. Building on the hard work done last year, we have been able to develop the programmes and extend the opportunities we are providing our pupils.

#### Primary

The development of the literacy work in the primary unit continues to result in improving confidence in the students—this we have seen in their engagement with the reading programme. Throughout the last half term 4 of the top 5 achievers on AR have been from the primary classes.

Primary also continues to extend confidence with writing, mixing engaging topics and sound phonic & grammar work to stretch pupils when producing texts for different purposes. Of course Talk for Writing is the major mover here, and our training earlier this term provided an insight for all staff into this wonderful, if demanding, approach.

#### Moving Forward

The move into the secondary side has seen our year 7s continue to achieve. Obviously building a solid foundation in the primary stage has given this group a tremendous advantage when starting in their secondary phase. The challenge now is to preserve and then develop that fantastic start as we look forward to high achievement when

these pupils tackle end of school assessments. Having sound word, visual and number literacy skills should mean their access to all curriculum subjects is enhanced and we would predict their outcomes to start surpassing those of our year 8 group as next term unfolds.

#### One To One

Across the school there has been excellent work done in one to one sessions by all our fantastic specialists. We are seeing that those pupils receiving the additional support and carefully structured programmes are improving week after week, in terms of engagement, enjoyment and achievement.

One of the challenges ahead is to try to stimulate similar progress in those students who do not enjoy access to these focussed sessions.

#### Reading Focus

For this reason we have been working hard to ensure that a love of reading is shared in tutor time as well as in English lessons. We have seen the wonderful behaviour in the year 7 tutor time; the silent concentration on their books by every pupil in that group. This is not being inspired by Accelerated Reader as these boys are not quizzing, but by the encouragement and enthusiasm of their tutor clearly having an impact and allowing these pupils, who mostly do not have 1:1 sessions, to indulge in reading for the sheer pleasure. This is a much greater cause for celebration, especially as it shows embedded habit. Another challenge is to maintain this enthusiasm as these boys age, so ade-

quate access to entertaining, stimulating texts is on our agenda.

#### Literacy For Learning

In classrooms we have evidence of literacy being at the heart of all departmental thinking. The beautifully simple figure 8 display is consistently displayed and hopefully teachers are referring to the linguistic terms when they are delivering new vocabulary or supporting written response. Lead teachers are contributing to our shared focus by collecting their good practice and sharing it through this bulletin, that we may all think about what we already do well and how we might meet the EBI targets in our own teaching. It is also very positive to note keywords being displayed in some lessons to support pupil understanding of new vocabulary or important aspects of the activity. This will always pay dividends as the pupils build their own word bank over the years.

#### Continuing Professional Development

This term we have also sought to develop our literacy training and support.

*Continued on page 3*

**Coming Soon!**

**Six Book Challenge**

**January 2018**

Accelerated Reader Updates

18 December 2017					
Accelerated Reader Quiz Top Ten					
		Quizzes	100.00%	Accuracy average	Points earned
1 <sup>st</sup>	Jay	10	6	95.00%	30.9
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tristan	27	17	88.10%	16.2
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Deano	5	3	94.00%	11.8
	Theo	8	1	62.50%	8.1
	Reece	18	13	91.10%	8.0
	Tyler H	9	3	87.80%	7.4
	George	3	0	70.00%	6.7
	Armani	12	12	100.00%	6.0
	Alex	7	4	90.00%	5.6
	Aaron	4	2	81.30%	3.9
<b>Totals</b>		<b>155</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>82.32%</b>	<b>129.9</b>
			56.77%		

Weekly School Pass Rate = 85%

WORD RACE				
18 December 2017				
	Quizzes		Word Count	
	Passed	Taken	2017-18	This week
Jay	10	10	216,357	
Tristan	24	27	78,016	6,198
Deano	5	5	77,773	
Tyler H	9	9	53,775	6,589
Theo	5	8	52,657	
George	2	3	49,068	
Alex	7	7	45,232	
Connor H	6	8	37,106	33,003
Aaron	3	4	30,203	
Phoenix	4	4	21,524	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>138 (+16)</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>750,670</b>	<b>48,917</b>
<b>Northern House: Words Read</b>				
<b>750,670</b>				

“Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope”

Kofi Annan

“There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book.”

Frank Serafini

Every Lesson A Literacy



# Review: Continued

With significant input from Katie Newman, and the work done on AR across the 2 units, and the previous year's CPD, we are ever improving our own understanding of the demands of the curriculum and our resources to support pupils access and progress in each subject. While we still have significant mountains to climb with some of our young people, knowing that we have a huge willingness and pool of expertise across many staff means we are well placed to continue to develop at a swift pace. With some pupils already making several years' worth of 'catch up' in one academic year, we are certainly headed at full speed and in the right direction.

### Making A Difference

We should end our review with a hearty pat on the back for the whole team. We have to juggle many demands from many sources, even before we take account of our prime concern, i.e. working with the pupils, and sometimes it can seem like we are being asked to work miracles. Indeed, we are being asked exactly that, for while we might like to make progress over the long term, we must always remember that our pupils need us to be remarkable, committed professionals every day. They need us to be outstanding now, not next year or beyond. We are the difference.

### ...And Finally,

From my perspective, joining this incredible team this term, I am grate-

ful that every day I witness some of those miracles – the simile knowingly dropped in banter in the tuck queue, the pupil reading his first book independently, the one who writes the amazing story and then has to show it to everyone, the student reading aloud in one lesson, or silently on the field. You have all helped make these things happen, providing safe spaces in a high expectation driven environment. I know I am one of those always asking a lot of our team, but what else would you expect when I am working with such gifted and talented colleagues?

**To you all, have a wonderful holiday, with heartfelt thanks for all your hard work this term. We have begun...**

## EVENTS

**This Week**  
*Literacy Audit ends.*

**Pupils take home their free books.**

**Next Term**  
*New ladders start for AR*

*Library Week*

*The Six Book Challenge*

## Exhausted Alex

We were fortunate to be visited by award winning author Alex Wheatle on Friday, 15th December.

Pupils from all groups across the secondary side spent time hearing his inspirational, upsetting life story.

What struck them most appeared to be the revelation that he didn't know how to write when he wrote his first book as he had stopped attending school in his early teens.

It just goes to show that we should never limit ourselves according to what we can do!

### BookBuzz

We are delighted to have given every pupil a free book to take home this Christmas.

We were touched by the enthusiasm and joy exhibited by most pupils when they received theirs.

## KEYWORDS

### Rest

A period of respite before another onslaught. Enjoy yours!

### Key Terms You Need To Understand

- Accelerated Reader
- Star Test
- ZPD
- TOPS
- The 8 Parts of Speech

**"We read to know we are not alone."**

**William Nicholson**

**"People don't**

**realise how a man's life can be changed by one book."**

**Malcolm X**

## Recommended Reads: Festive TV Treats

*Wonder*, among the many seasonal cinema releases, is just the latest example of screen adaptations of popular fiction. If you are staying snug at home this holiday, there are a few coming to the small screen too.

David Walliams has been something of a literary phenomenon over the last couple of years, so perhaps no surprise that two of his novels have been picked up. *Ratburger* will be on Sky and *Grandpa's Great Escape* will air on the BBC.

Fans of the classics might want to

check out the BBC three part treatment of *Little Women*, while there are reruns for the *Harry Potter* and *Hobbit* movies.

For younger viewers, a host of stars line up to join the animated version of Julia Donaldson's *Highway Rat*.

For my part I will be immersing myself in a couple of favourites— the wordilicious *Fungus the Bogeyman* and the bardic *Upstart Crow*. Of course, for the ASD in us all, there will also be a generous slap from Mrs Brown.

Whatever your taste, find time to enjoy a good story!



## VERBOSITY

We've found a few synonyms to wrap up some seasonal songs, but which ones?

1. Move hitherward the entire assembly of those who are loyal in their belief.
2. Listen the celestial messengers produce harmonious sounds.
3. Nocturnal time span of unbroken quietness.
4. An emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good given to the terrestrial sphere.
5. Embellish the interior passageways.
6. Exalted heavenly beings to whom harkened.
7. Twelve o'clock on a clement night witnessed its arrival.
8. The Christmas preceding all others.
9. Small municipality in Judea southeast of Jerusalem.
10. Diminutive masculine master of skin-covered percussionist cylinders.
11. Omnipotent supreme being who elicits respite to ecstatic distinguished males.
12. Tranquillity upon the terrestrial sphere.
13. Obese personification fabricated of compressed mounds of minute crystals.
14. Expectation of arrival to populated area by mythical, masculine, perennial gift-giver.
15. Natal celebration devoid of colour, rather albino, as a hallucinatory phenomenon for me.
16. In awe of the nocturnal time span characterized by religiosity.
17. Geographic state of fantasy during the season of Mother Nature's dormancy.
18. The first person nominative plural of a triumvirate of far eastern heads of state.
19. Tintinnabulation of vacillating pendulums in inverted, metallic, resonant cups.
20. In a distant location the existence of an improvised unit of new-born children's slumber furniture.
21. Proceed forth declaring upon a specific geological alpine formation.
22. Jovial Yuletide desired for the second person singular or plural by us.

## PUNISHING TRIVIA

The answers to the following tricky questions can be found in the literacy folder of the staff drive.

1. What do we call the first part of Christmas?
2. How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus?
3. How did Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
4. How many presents can you fit into an empty sack?
5. Who brings presents to children in Holland on the 5th/6th December?
6. How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
7. What do we see in December but never in any other month?
8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?
9. In what decade was the first Christmas card sent in the UK?
10. What country did the family escape to when evading 13?
11. How many of Rudolph's eight companions names start with 'D'?
12. When is the next time New Year will proceed Christmas?
13. Who was the 'King of the Jews' who ordered the babies to be killed?
14. What's the third line of "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"?
15. When is Rasta Christmas?
16. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
17. Who were first people to see the baby Jesus?
18. What's lucky to find in your Christmas pudding?
19. Why is Father Christmas' garden divided into three sections?
20. How do we know Santa is a man?

*We wish you a safe, peaceful and very happy holiday season, whatever your faith and customs.*



## Festive Frivolity



What can do before the internet

### In Our Next Edition:

- \* Literacy in Art
- \* AR updates
- \* 6 Book Challenge
- \* Department Reviews