



# WE ARE READING



Issue 6 – Spring Newsletter 2019

## Welcome!

Happy 2019! I hope the start to the new year has been happy and successful (and not too difficult with snow).

Once again we are pleased to share with you a wide range of reading activities and approaches that have taken place across Lancashire schools.

In particular, we are delighted that we can hear from the experience of English Martyrs in how they have used DigiTech to enhance current reading provision. (DigiTech is a network of around 50 Lancashire schools, led by adviser James Wright, working together to develop ways in which digital technologies can enhance teaching and learning). We are sure you will find it interesting and informative.



The year of We Are Reading is almost at an end. There is one more regular newsletter due next half term and please send us your contributions for this. However, we would like to celebrate this further by producing one final bumper newsletter in the summer term. This would include the highlights of We Are Reading over the year. So please send us your articles and photos telling us about the thing that has made the biggest difference to you this year. We would also welcome contributions from clusters.

We are also planning on holding a final We Are Reading celebration event – which will include authors, workshops and hopefully feedback from our clusters. Further information will be given as arrangements are made.

Thanks for all you are continuing to do to support reading for all our children in Lancashire schools.

## Contact & Social Media

E-mail: [WeAreReading@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:WeAreReading@lancashire.gov.uk) Mind Map: [mm.tt/1041391553?t=ZtymprHwIH](http://mm.tt/1041391553?t=ZtymprHwIH)

Facebook: [@LancashireWeAreReading](https://www.facebook.com/LancashireWeAreReading) Twitter: [#LancashireWeAreReading](https://twitter.com/LancashireWeAreReading)

## Events Calendar

### February 2019

- 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – International Book Giving Day  
 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – Open Day at School Library Service  
 26<sup>th</sup> Feb – National Tell a Fairy Tale Day  
 27<sup>th</sup> Feb - Reading Together at LPDS

### March 2019

- 6<sup>th</sup> Mar – Celebration at Lomeshaye  
 7<sup>th</sup> Mar – World Book Day  
 7<sup>th</sup> Mar - Blue Peter Book Awards Winners  
 13<sup>th</sup> Mar – Reading Conference at County Hall  
 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Mar – Shakespeare Week  
 20<sup>th</sup> Mar – World Storytelling Day  
 21<sup>st</sup> Mar – World Poetry Day  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar – Early Years Event  
 30<sup>th</sup> Mar – "What's your story, Chorley?"

### April 2019

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr – International Childrens Book Day  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr – World Book Night  
 29<sup>th</sup> Apr to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - Children's Book Week  
 (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

### May 2019

- All throughout May – National Share a Story Month  
 25<sup>th</sup> May – Elmer's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday

### June 2019

National Bookstart Week

### July & August 2019

Summer Reading Challenge

## Co-ordinating Schools List

District	Co-ordinating Primary School
1	Bowerham Community Primary
2	Charles Saer Community Primary
4	Heyhouses Endowed CE Primary
6	Alston Lane Catholic Primary
7	St Catherine's Catholic, Leyland
8	Ormskirk Asmall
9	Lancaster Lane Community
11	Balderstone St Leonard's
12	Rosewood Primary
13	Coates Lane Primary
14	St James-the-Less Catholic Primary

### District Co-ordinating Secondary School

1	Central Lancaster High School
2	Millfield Science & Performing Arts
4	Lytham St Anne's College
6	St Cecilia's RC College
7	Penwortham Girls' High School
8	Our Lady Queen of Peace
9	Parklands High School
11	St Augustine's RC High School
12	Sir John Thursby Community
13	Pendle Vale College
14	Fearn Community Sports College

*More details on the back page...*

## Submit an Article

Thank you for all the articles you have been sending to us. Please continue to share your good practice by e-mailing [WeAreReading@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:WeAreReading@lancashire.gov.uk). If you wish to supply an image, please make sure you have proper permissions\*. If you provide a Twitter account name for your school, it will appear with your article. Please note: articles should be limited to 200 words and can include only one image.

Issue	Term	Theme	Deadline
7	Spring 2	Celebrations	22 March 2019
8	Summer	Bumper Edition	21 June 2019

*\*by submitting an article with an image, you confirm that you have the rights and permissions to use the image you included, and that you give permission for Lancashire County Council to use this image for the purpose of publishing this newsletter.*

# Digitech

*James Wright (LCC Schools Adviser and Digital Technology Network Lead) & Annalisa Howarth (Headteacher, English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, Preston)*

English Martyrs' has historically had a passion for reading and all things books! We pride ourselves on engaging children in print from the moment they walk through the door, fostering and nurturing a belief that reading is at the heart of attaining our individual goals and aspirations.

Traditionally interventions to enhance pupils' outcomes for reading have been personalised and bespoke, working with new initiatives, curriculum and assessments, we have developed reading at individuals' pace and needs, embedding their passion for reading.

DigiTech is a network of around 50 Lancashire schools and academies working together to develop and share great ideas through which digital technologies can support high quality teaching and learning, enhancing and enriching all areas of the curriculum. Central to the network's activity, are small scale, high impact, school based projects that relate directly to whole school improvement priorities.



In the ever developing world of technology, English Martyrs' wanted DigiTech to enhance current reading provision, focusing on its benefits for key individuals and groups, applying the four key areas of potential impact championed by the initiative:

1. **Improve rates of pupil progress** through modelling and reference strategies.
2. **Underpin Assessment for Learning** goals by providing opportunities for review and reflection.
3. **Raise aspirations** through increased challenge, expectation and opportunities.
4. **Enhance learning environments** through greater access, engagement and support

Within this project the aim was to explore how technology might add to current provision with regards to home reading, in particular how it might be used to assist pupils

where adult support at home was not always available. Working together, we investigated how the technology could provide either additional tutoring or a medium through which quality teaching could occur.

The two targeted groups were:

- Reluctant readers who needed to rediscover an interest in reading supported by secure video conference call facilities for after school Guided Reading support.
- More Able EAL pupils for whom home language is a potential barrier to both discussion and the development of inference, using virtual comprehension support via secure message board facilities.

Headteacher, Annalisa Howarth, recounts the school's perspective in delivering the project.

*'An initial 'traditional' Guided Reading with a group of reluctant readers did not end well! One child said that reading was a waste of time, boring and pointless. We needed something fun, inviting, new and engaging to 'hook' them.*

*Looking at our IT provision, we decided to use some of our iPads, not as eBooks, rather as a medium for remote reading. Having chatted to the 'reluctant' readers, we found they did not like reading face to face in a group as they felt 'on show' and 'embarrassed' when they could not decode or explain texts. We wanted a Facetime style app to enable reluctant, vulnerable readers to read from home, with quality teaching, albeit at the other end of an iPad. After much research, help, advice and tech support from our BTLs tech Geoff, with bribes of biscuits and cups of coffee, the simple free app, Zoom, was found!*

*Fundamental to the initiative was that online safety was a paramount consideration throughout. Safeguarding wise Zoom was positive: children have a unique number for each conferencing meeting; up to 32 people could sign in at once, easily fitting the criteria. It's free and simple to use!*



*Agreement from Governors was provided; permissions from parents were sought with strict contracts regarding the use of iPads linking and mirroring our whole school 'Acceptable Use of Digital Technologies' agreements.*

*We had lift off! Each child was assigned a school iPad which*

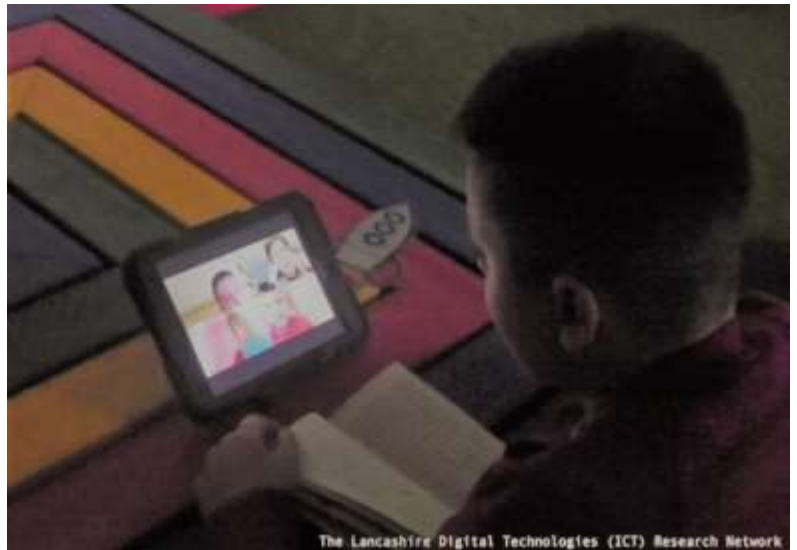
was then stripped of all other apps including Safari (so no unfiltered internet searches could take place). The only app accessible is Zoom. Simply, children login to Zoom and away we go!

The difference in confidence has been amazing. The boys independently ask to read/Zoom, most of all, they can discuss the texts calmly with confidence and clarity, using quotes and evidence. They now enjoy reading!

For our second group, More Able EAL children, we wanted a safe, child friendly, easy to access discussion board. One where multiple users could respond to a question or statement about a text, as part of a broader group discussion. Once again, safeguarding was paramount. Yammer, through Outlook 365 provides accounts which are tightly controlled and can only be accessed by key school staff; it is easy to use, free and safe!

It is an 'added extra' to their weekly class Guided Read. A statement or question about the text is posed using Lancashire English Team's reading prompts and LAPs, responses are typed online, all out of school hours (with an 8pm curfew!).

The responses have grown from simple statements to more detailed online discussions with minimal prompts from the supervising adult. The children are taking ownership of their responses; this in turn has had a positive impact on progress (all have made 2 terms + in Autumn).'



From the outset of initial discussions, our aim has been to inspire reading, prompt and ignite responses, developing children's confidence in reading underpinned by digital technology. It therefore had to be quality assured. We sought the opinions of our EYFS Class Teacher/CLL Lead in school. She was very positive, agreeing that it was the hook to get the children reading, always being the key to success in a child's development, attainment and progress. However, she was keen to

stress that there was and is a need to constantly evaluate, ensuring the 'hook' of an iPad does not go stale. Something we are continuously monitoring.

Two months on and so far so good! Our children are reading, responding and wanting to read more, by adapting our mindset towards using technology as a tool to entice, engage and inspire, not just to play Fortnite on!

For further information, please contact [James.Wright@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:James.Wright@lancashire.gov.uk).

#### **APPs used in the video**

**Yammer Enterprise Social Network | Microsoft Office 365** - <https://products.office.com/en-gb/yammer/yammer-overview>

**Zoom Video Conferencing** - [https://www.zoom.us/?zcid=1378&creative=200920318284&keyword=%2Bzoom%20%2Bvideo%20%2Bconferencing&matchtype=b&network=g&device=c&gclid=Cj0KCQiAurjgBRCqARIsAD09sg9pNyA1\\_NNZVWjHz\\_0aDoTILxkxWz8g5Zj1TGI-ac1KFbum6BhlG-AaAmdEALw\\_wcB](https://www.zoom.us/?zcid=1378&creative=200920318284&keyword=%2Bzoom%20%2Bvideo%20%2Bconferencing&matchtype=b&network=g&device=c&gclid=Cj0KCQiAurjgBRCqARIsAD09sg9pNyA1_NNZVWjHz_0aDoTILxkxWz8g5Zj1TGI-ac1KFbum6BhlG-AaAmdEALw_wcB)

**A video recording of key elements of this project may be viewed at:**

<https://upload.teachertube.com/video/digitech-eng-mart-y5-aut-2018-481376>

**Additional DigiTech information:**

<https://www.teachertube.com/video/digitech-network-promotional-video-may-2018-473384>

# Teaching & Learning Section

## We Are Reading with Teens

*Helen Seddon, Education Consultant, Virtual School.*

We thought it was time we gave you an update about the work we planned with the young people who reside in our children's homes.

- We now have Reading Champions in each unit. We also have one young person who is a Reading Champion!
- We developed a working group of Reading Champions who helped us gather the views of the young people.
- The young people said they would like to receive book loans from the Library Service. This is currently being arranged.
- Young people have signed up for monthly subscriptions for magazines linked to their hobbies, interests or future career aspirations.
- Young people are involved in reading projects. For example, one young person read Roald Dahl's Matilda and then went to see the musical. Other young people are currently reading the Harry Potter Books and are looking forward to visiting the Harry Potter Studio Tour.
- Our Employment Support Team have offered to do literacy workshops linked to careers.
- We have asked Reading Champions to consider nominating Young People who engage in We Are Reading for a Proud Award. For anyone who doesn't know, this is an annual event where we celebrate the successes of our Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

## Secondary Update

*Katy McWean, Secondary Teaching and Learning Consultant*

As we begin a new year, it's a great opportunity to think about what 'reading resolutions' we can encourage our teenagers to make for 2019 - a great opportunity to challenge them to try something new: to read every day, to read 365 books in one year, to read a book in under 365 minutes or to read for at least 365 minutes every week!

It's great to personalise challenges, but we all know it's easier to succeed when we have the support of a group, so maybe 365 books could be read between class reading groups, members in competition with other groups. There's nothing like a bit of competition to incentivise!

Our eager readers can all too easily to fall in the trap of reading yet another of their favourite authors' books, but why not encourage them to branch out with something totally out of their comfort

zone through a lucky dip of titles provided by <https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/>, Lancashire library service or the school librarian? Could eager readers be challenged to read as many texts from the literary canon as possible in 2019, or as many past Carnegie Medal winners as possible?

Or maybe the Year of the Pig is a great opportunity for all subject teachers, and particularly senior leaders, to overhaul their own reading habits and commit to reading some teenage fiction every day in 2019. What a wonderful opportunity then for all staff to directly recommend some engaging books to our reluctant readers, and talk about the books they've been reading in the library every fortnight as part of a new staff and student reading group.

Happy New Year to you all! Hope it's full of reading – whatever reading challenges you embark on!

## Eco Books for Children

*Nicola Martin, Learning & Services Consultant, LPDS*

The importance of protecting the planet has never been greater, with the increase of landfill sites, production of palm oil and the problem of plastic pollution being hot topics in today's media. The importance of teaching the future generations how to look after Earth is imperative. We need to teach children about living responsibly, with a strong emphasis on 'going green' by ensuring that we recycle, upcycle and minimise the amount of waste we create, starting to introduce these concepts to children

early on can have a massive impact on their awareness as they get older.

Below are a few examples of books that use the positive power of stories to do this; stories that bring home the message of looking after our beautiful planet.



**Exodus** – A science fiction novel written for teens to young adults by Julie Bertagna, published in August 2002. The story is set on an island faced with the problem of a rising sea level, caused by melting ice caps and other forms of global warming.

**Song of the Dolphin Boy** is a moving tribute about the impact of plastic pollution on our seas, and the campaigning power of friendship from the award winning Elizabeth Laird.

**Running Wild** - a moving story of a boy and an elephant that survived the Indonesian tsunami, with links to the production of palm oil.

**Dinosaurs and all that rubbish** - After humans leave the barren Earth for a distant star, the dinosaurs come back to life and tidy up the mess that the humans have left behind. The dinosaurs will only then allow the humans to come back to Earth once they have



agreed that the planet should be shared and enjoyed by everyone

**The Unexpected Visitor** is a beautiful picture book which introduces the notion of sharing, sustainability and taking care of the creatures within our oceans.



Welcome to the world of **Big Bear Hug**, a contemporary fable about a bear who has an appetite for hugging everything in sight - even creatures that bears have been known to eat. One day, the benevolent bear meets up with a human. This human proceeds to do something the bear cannot understand: he raises his axe and begins to cut down a tree. Suddenly the bear doesn't feel like hugging anymore and must make a difficult decision on how to stop this destruction in his forest.

**Where's the Elephant?** - a near wordless picture book which powerfully demonstrates the devastating effects of deforestation as Elephant, Parrot and Snake find their simple game of hide and seek is no longer possible as the trees of the forest have been cut down to make way for houses, road and cars.

## Exploring the Great Outdoors

*Jill Anderton, Early Years Consultant, School Improvement*

Finding out about nature and the amazing world around them is important for each child's learning and development. Exploring the great outdoors is the key to stimulating a child's understanding of nature, but using books and stories can help us take a child on a journey beyond their immediate environment. Books allow us to enhance a child's experiences, to ignite their interest and curiosity to show them the wonders of the natural world. Here are links to three websites to get you started.

[www.runwildmychild.com](http://www.runwildmychild.com) has selected 30 beautiful picture books about nature. The website provides a list of fantastic books as a starting point to exploring nature with your children.

[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) allows children to step into the lives of some amazing animals through audio books and stories.

[www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk) has 10 books about wildlife chosen by author Nicola Davies, including 'Big Blue Whale' and 'Surprising Sharks'.



Use a story stick or a journey stick to encourage young children to remember and retell their journeys and adventures in the outdoors. Children can collect a range of sensory objects and items and attach them to their stick using wool, string, glue or rubber bands. As well as being fun, interactive and personal to each child, it's a great opportunity to develop and expand children's vocabulary and awareness of the world around them.

## Valentine's Day Open Day

*Zoe Davies, Support Manager, Lancashire School Library Service*

There is nothing we love more at the School Library Service than visiting schools and delivering our popular reading workshops.

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 10am to 4pm, we are inviting schools new to School Library Service to an Open Day.



Come along and chat with the team and browse our extensive book collections. Find out about The Brilliant Book Award (KS1), Fantastic Book Awards (KS2) and how we support reading for pleasure.

To book a time and to ensure we have your free book gift ready, please contact:

To book a time and to ensure we have your free book gift ready, please contact:



01772 534042 or email: [preston.sls@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:preston.sls@lancashire.gov.uk)



## Reading Together

*Roxana Sardais, EAL Team Leader - Teaching & Learning*

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019, LPDS are running a course which prepares you to deliver the "Reading Together" programme to parents and year 2 to year 5 pupils in your school.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February  
2019**

### Getting EAL Parents and Children 'Reading Together'

This course will prepare you to deliver the 'Reading Together' programme to **parents and year 2 to year 5 pupils** in your school

The "Reading Together" programme explains and models to parents how to

support reading at home, ensures parents know the importance of reading and teaches them some shared reading techniques and promotes children reading for pleasure.

Reading for pleasure has been shown to have a positive relationship with educational attainment and this is a stronger indicator of educational success than the family socio-economic background (DfE, 2012). We focus on changing parents' behaviour in terms of talking about books and promoting parental engagement in children's reading. EAL pupils particularly benefit from book talk as they are very often well-able to decode, but struggle to comprehend as they cannot link the language to their own experiences and knowledge.

After trialling this project in a number of schools in Lancashire, we found:

- Parents all said that they felt very confident supporting their children with their reading.
- Pupils all had a more positive view of themselves as a reader.

If you are interested in more information or would like to book a place on the course, please click the link below:

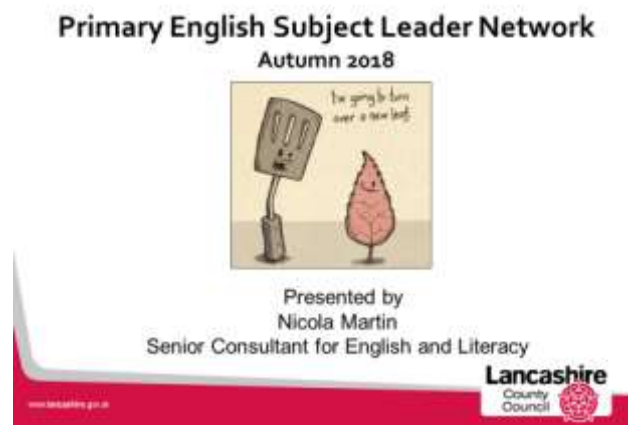
[https://lccsecure.lancashire.gov.uk/lpds/course\\_details.asp?course=EAL143&suffix=a&year=2018/2019](https://lccsecure.lancashire.gov.uk/lpds/course_details.asp?course=EAL143&suffix=a&year=2018/2019)

## Reading Conference

*Nicola Martin, Senior Teaching & Learning Consultants, LPDS*

To celebrate the We Are Reading campaign, the Primary English and Literacy team are delighted to announce that there will be a Reading conference taking place on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at County Hall, Preston. In attendance will be Bob Cox, author of the 'Opening Doors' book series and the Shakespeare Schools Foundation. For more on the Conference details please go to [https://lccsecure.lancashire.gov.uk/lpds/course\\_details.asp?course=ENG301&suffix=a&year=2018/2019](https://lccsecure.lancashire.gov.uk/lpds/course_details.asp?course=ENG301&suffix=a&year=2018/2019).

We have also presented the Primary Subject Leader Network this term for which we produced a PowerPoint handout.



For more information, please check the **We Are Reading Spring 2019 Newsletter School Portal** posting.

## Co-ordinating Schools

### Tom Palmer Visit

*District 14 – story from Fearn Community Sports College*



Author Tom Palmer visited all of the High Schools in Rossendale during January. He provided two hours of informative, entertaining and interactive discussion about his books, life and everything in between. After using his World Cup resources last summer, our District decided an author event from him would be a great way to round off our year of pledging to be Reading Schools.



All of the pupils involved loved meeting him and having their books signed. The

Librarian's goal keeping skills were also put to the test. None of our schools would have been able to have Tom visit without the funding we received from We are Reading, so thank you. Some great memories have been made for all our pupils and, hopefully, he has inspired them to continue reading or even start reading.



### Closing the Word Gap Event

*District 13 schools – story from Coates Lane*

On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019, we delivered a full day training session based on 'Closing the Word Gap' for schools in District 13. Nicola Martin and Roxana Sardais delivered the training and Lomeshaye Junior School were kind enough to host it for us. Every school was given the opportunity to send 2 staff members. 26 schools (52 people) attended the day.

Here are some quotes from people who came:

*Thank you for forwarding the information from the Word Gap Day. I went away from the day buzzing with ideas to implement in my class and activities*

to adopt across the school. I found the whole day very useful; the location and facilities were brilliant and the delivery of the sessions were engaging. Together with someone from a school in our MAT, we are going to feedback to English leads in our MAT schools who will benefit too. Thanks to all who organised the event.

I really enjoyed the day and came back with lots of ideas to share with the rest of the staff.

An extremely informative day, with transferable and engaging resources that can be shared with my colleagues as we strive to create vocabulary rich learning experiences.

Thank you for the course yesterday. It was very informative with lots of practical ideas, some of which I have already started implementing in the classroom today! I will be passing on the information to the rest of the staff soon and will hopefully begin to see an improvement in the children's vocabulary.

The training was really interesting and gave lots of practical ideas some of which I can use with our younger children. I am putting together a training session for staff by taking out the relevant parts from the presentation and will deliver later this month.

I thought that both Nicola and Roxi were lively and enthusiastic which made the training very engaging. Thank you for organising the day. It

was very useful and gave a good oversight for all year groups.



## Celebration at Lomeshaye

District 13 schools

District 13 are holding a get together for schools to share and celebrate all the wonderful things they have done, organised by Sarah White, headteacher at Coates Lane. Schools in District 13 are invited to meet at Lomeshaye Junior School on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March and bring along photos of reading events, activities and displays from their schools, as well as up to five pupils.

This sounds like an exciting event and we look forward to sharing the event with you in the next newsletter.

# School Projects

## Nurseries

### Storytelling Week at Duke Street

*Duke Street Nursery School, Chorley*

Once upon a time at Duke Street Nursery School, some exciting characters came to join us to make our Storytelling Week magical!

A large brown owl flew into a nursery with her baby owls to tell the story of Owl Babies. We listened to the sounds of the woods at night, 'tit twoooo' and felt the wind in our faces with fans.

Next a skeleton appeared! We enjoyed the story 'Funny Bones' by torchlight. The skeleton shared some amazing x-ray pictures which we were very interested in. We danced to the song 'Dem Bones' and laughed lots!



Then a beautiful tiger bounded in. He ate all the food in the cupboards and drank all the milk in the fridge! We couldn't believe how greedy he was! We acted out the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' in our role-play kitchen.

## Primary Schools

### Boys Enjoy Reading Together

*St Joseph's Catholic Primary*



Here are some pictures of the BERT sessions we do in school. BERT (Boys Enjoy Reading Together) is done on a Wednesday afternoon where the boys in each class have a weekly session in the library and we invite dads and grandads (or any other positive male



role model) into school to promote the enjoyment of reading.

### Pinfold are Readers

*Pinfold Primary School*

As part of our pledge to inspire children to love books, we decided to ask our Key Stage 2 class, 'Oak class', to write a story to be enjoyed by our mixed Key Stage one and EYFS class, 'Ash'. Oak class has mixed ages, from Y3-Y6, so we had a wide variety of ideas.

To ensure Oak class understood the qualities of Picture Books for younger children, I read my favourite books to them, from 'The Witches Hand' to 'Sam I am'. We discussed the 'audience'. They noticed the rhyme, the pace, the morals, the loud onomatopoeias then Oak class began to write ideas for their books.

They worked in teams and discussed characters, settings, genre and having a beginning, middle and an end. Children thought about the audience they were writing for.

Once the class had written and illustrated their books, they practised



how they were going to present them to the younger children by reading them to their team. Children then read their stories to the younger children. Some read 1:1, others read to a few children. The younger children loved it; the older children were very proud.

The stories were fantastic. The children were very proud that the younger children enjoyed them so much. Some of the stories were rhyming, some had a repeated phrase, some had great onomatopoeias. There were some very funny characters and storylines. One book had a moral that the children had to ponder.



We are now asking the children to read their books out each week at assembly. Then the books will be left in the Key Stage 1 library so the children can read and re-read them! What a fantastic project!

## Cosy Corners at Digmoor

*Little Digmoor Primary*

Our children have redesigned our library based on the way they like to read books! The new 'Cosy Corner' library has

beanbags, cuddly animals and quiet spaces where they can snuggle down and read.



We have also added a 'Parents Corner' to the library, following a successful Book Swap Launch last month.

## Bringing the Boys to Book Club

*St Anne's RC Primary, Ormskirk*

Having run a successful book club for children in Year 6 for several years, I thought I had developed a winning formula. Each group had comprised a fairly even boy/ girl mix and last year my two most avid members were boys. This year, however, started rather differently. As the potential book club members filed into the library, I saw eleven excited female faces. No boys. Following a meeting with our head teacher, I collected the boys together and tried to



find out why none of them had attended. It seemed that the main stumbling blocks were the idea that book choices would be forced upon them, they would have to write reviews on what they had read and the general 'girliness' they perceived.



The head teacher offered to be a part of the club and we called a meeting to discuss how it might be run to encourage a wider membership. The children voted, overwhelmingly, for two separate groups: the boys with Mr Bates and the girls with me, joining together at times for joint projects. Both genders said that they felt 'more comfortable' with this arrangement. All the children voted for their favourite new read and we ordered the books. At the first meeting after this, we had 14 girls and 11 boys. Subsequently, 2 more boys and another girl have joined.

These numbers were clearly a good indication of the success of our new strategy; however, the best result, for me was the sight that met me as I went onto the playground for break duty last week: a group of Year 6 boys, huddled up on the bench, engrossed in the book

they had chosen. We had brought the boys to book club, and they were bringing their enthusiasm to the rest of the school.

## Reading in the New Year

*St Veronica's RC Primary, Helmshore*

St Veronica's children enjoyed taking part in the 'Don't Judge a Book by its Cover' book fair event. Our PTFA donated money to enable us to purchase two hundred brand new books. All the children were invited into the school hall to choose a book, which they then unwrapped and spent time sharing and showing their friends. We raised £482 from the event which has been used to purchase new books for our school library.



To start the New Year, we are also taking part in the Winnie the Pooh National Reading day. Children can bring in their own Winnie the Pooh books to share and their very own Pooh character.

During February, we have invited Lancashire Reading Services to come and visit each of the classes, where they will be holding story telling reading

sessions. Andy Tooze, a local poet, will also be visiting the children for the day and holding workshops with all the classes.

We have also sent out a second newsletter to all parents keeping them informed with upcoming events and to promote and communicate the, We Are Reading initiative

## FBA Diorama Competition

*Barden Primary School*

Our year 5 and 6 children and myself are currently reading our way through our 6 Fantastic Book Award titles.



We have also just submitted our entries for the above competition. We decided as a team to create a book in a box for each of our titles:

- Knighthood for Beginners

- I Swapped my Brother on the Internet
- The Matilda Effect
- The Children of Castle Rock
- The Creakers
- Wizard of Once.

## LCC Cards for Kindness

*Great Eccleston Copp CE Primary*

As part of the LCC Cards for Kindness incentive, on 10th December 2018, the Junior Leadership Team and members of the School Council from Great Eccleston Copp CE Primary School visited Bowgreave Rise Home for the Elderly. During the week beforehand, the children had written Christmas cards, telling the residents a little about themselves and what they did in school. On the day of our visit, the children talked to different residents and they read the cards together, before singing them some Christmas songs.



*The Manager commented: "It was so nice for the residents and they really enjoyed themselves too. It made a great difference to their lives, having young people visit. A great talking point for them afterwards."*

However, it was just as special a day for us, because it gave the children a real-life purpose for their writing and their reading. It was so successful that we have decided to continue with it; children will visit and read work they have done in school and perhaps look at different books also.

## Pop Reading Festival

*Aughton Town Green Primary*

Aughton Town Green Primary School organised a Pop Up Reading Festival in response to a 'We Are Reading' meeting held at Asmall School.



We had an amazing day in which all staff dressed up and decorated their

rooms according to an author or genre and the children were timetabled to visit the different rooms for 20 minute slots throughout the day. The genres/authors ranged from Elmer, Julia Donaldson, Percy the Park keeper, Space poetry, Mr Men and Winnie The Pooh in Key Stage 1 and Harry Potter, Adventure Stories, Football Poems, Scary Ghost stories and Coraline by Neil Gaiman.



They were entertained and read to by the teachers and children were heard to say it was one of the best days ever in school!

It was definitely an excellent way to promote reading and to engage the children and parents in the world of books.

## Trip to the Atkinson

*Banks St Stephen's CE Primary*

The Pre-school and Reception children from Banks St Stephens Primary School

went to The Atkinson Library and Theatre in Southport last week. We started with a talk from the librarians who explained how to use the library and read the story *Dear Santa* by Rod Campbell to us. Then we spent the rest of the morning exploring the library and choosing books to look at and read. After dinner, we had a special treat to watch 'Dear Santa' at the theatre; we loved watching the story on stage and even got to meet Father Christmas!



## Diorama Drama

*St Thomas the Martyr CE Primary*

Children from St Thomas the Martyr CE Primary School's Reading Club recently took part in the Lancashire Schools Fantastic Book Awards Competition. The Year 6 children created their very own diorama. This is a miniature, three dimensional scene displayed inside a box. The dioramas were based on the different FBA book titles.

All of the children tried extremely hard to create their scenes in Miss Pugh's after school club and, as a result of their

attention to detail, one child won the competition!



The winner created a unique scene based on the book 'Letters from the Lighthouse'. It depicted a miniature light house, complete with a battery powered tea candle. This was located on a rocky cliff with many letters flying around in the wind. Well done to all of our children who entered and won the hamper of thirty brand new fiction books! Well Done!!

## Golden Tickets

*Ashton Primary, Preston*

In order to try and promote and improve the number of children reading at home, we identified key children and families with class teachers. We then promoted and built up some excitement around a 'Golden Ticket' event. The children received a golden ticket and were invited in for a family afternoon. We held the event working alongside our family support worker and had a story time, crafts links to *Gruffalo*, made *Gruffalo* crumble (apple crumble) and gave all the children, including

younger brothers and sisters, a book to take home as a gift.

## Reading in the Community

*St Pauls Rawtenstall*

We began the school year by unveiling our newly revamped library which is based around the story 'We are Going on a Bear Hunt'. Proudly displayed in the library is our personalised signed copy of the book from Michael Rosen!



We have created a 'Reading in the Community' initiative which began with Year 5 and 6 children visiting our local residential home to read to the residents. As well as this, we invited children from our local nursery to listen to stories in our new outdoor reading area. Both events were thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

Our 'Reading Warriors' are currently taking part in the Fantastic Book Awards which they are really enjoying. You can spot them across school glued to their books! They are also working collaboratively to plan events for our World Book Day—we are looking forward to hearing their ideas!

Our Year 3 children also took part in a reading workshop which was planned and delivered by Year 10 pupils from BRGS. The children absolutely loved this and we are looking forward to our next session which will take place later in the year. Where will our reading take us next?

## Reading at Willow Lane

*Willow Lane Primary*

This week has been our school Book Week. Everywhere you go in school there is reading all around! Classroom doors have been decorated as favourite books; families have shared books at our reading breakfast, as well as croissants and fruit juice; and some amazing story jars have been created as part of creative homework. Children are recommending 'a good read' to others and enjoying some very challenging books by new authors. Our book fair sales have 'gone through the roof' as children have been spending their pocket money on exciting new books to take home. Here is just one of our amazing classroom doors!



## Fable Festival

*Goosnargh Oliverson's Primary*

On Friday 30th November, Goosnargh Oliverson's Primary School held their first 'Fable Festival'. Parents, friends and class governors were invited to the afternoon where they enjoyed refreshments served by the Year 3 children before the readings began. Each child read the fable that they had written following the study of them in their reading lessons, and the characters ranged from harpy eagles to polar bears! The fables were fantastic and they taught us the morals marvellously.

Feedback from the audience was really positive and everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

## Willow Classroom

*Coppull Parish Primary*

At Coppull Parish Primary School, we are lucky enough to have an outdoor classroom made of willow. It's the perfect space to take your class to relax in the sunshine and listen to a story. Our children love reading outdoors and it's a tranquil place away from the usual, busy classroom.



We also have a reading shed on our main playground for the children to read in at break and lunch times. The reading shed is filled with colourful bean bags, a comfy couch and lots of books. We have reading shed monitors who open and lock up the shed and tidy it up at the end of each day!



## Reading Challenge

*Richard Durning's Endowed Primary*

We were very excited to launch our whole school Reading Challenge last term, which ran through to the first week of this term. Members of the KS2 Library club devised some interesting challenges for the pupils to complete, such as reading a book in an unusual place and reading a book by an author that they had never read before. Our KS1 children also had their own 10 challenges, including making reading dens, reading recipes and baking, as well as acting out and retelling stories they had read. The children were

encouraged to borrow books from the newly reorganised library and our wonderful library monitors from Year 5 and 6 gave advice and help to all visitors. We had some fantastic work from all participants which is now on display for all to see.



## Picture Book World Cup

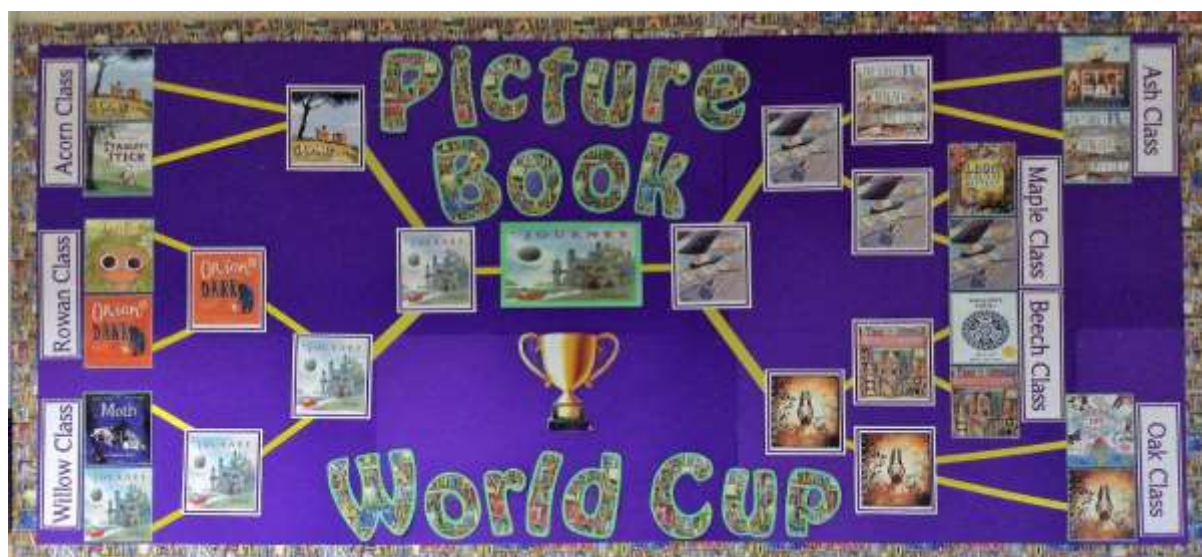
*Garstang Community Primary*

Picture books aren't just for "little kids"; they work equally well with all ages. That's what we found out when we ran a Picture Book World Cup to promote reading for pleasure. Although we had already run a number of activities, we

wanted something visual that could have pride of place in our hall and get everyone talking, including our parents who were coming in soon for parents' evening.

To run the World Cup, each teacher chose two picture books, one fiction and one non-fiction (many of these were based around a nature theme), to share with their class. After a launch assembly, teachers set aside time each day to read to their class with children voting for their favourite books before swapping and voting again. Winners would go up on the World Cup Board at each stage so that the children could see the progress of their favourite stories.

Towards the end of the week, we had narrowed it down to 'Journey' by Aaron Becker and 'The Man Who Walked Between the Towers' by Mordicai Gerstein. At this point, there was a lot of enthusiasm in school with children talking about their books in class and on the playground and staff sharing thoughts and observations. The week culminated in our celebration assembly where we revealed our 2018 winner - Journey.



All of the books were then put into the library for children to borrow and we are now making this an annual event!

## Woodlea Book Tweets

*Woodlea Junior School, Preston*

We have been reading an abundance of books here at Woodlea, with many activities and schemes running.

We have each year group taking part in a reading challenge. Year 6 have Book Tweets; they can use a maximum of 140 characters to review a book which goes on a display. Year 5 have reading miles; they obtain a number of miles which is dependent on how much they read. The aim is to get to Australia, but we already have a pupil on her way to Mars!

Year 4 have reading races which reset every half term. They work in groups to be the horse that runs the longest distance.

Year 3 have author battleships.

We have even had some amazing entries for the Extreme Reading Challenge: two brothers have been reading in their Nanna's hot tub and another boy has taken his book to the top of Ben Nevis!

We are very excited to have recently re-designed our playground and we are having some wonderful benches installed which will be useful for the children as we are still running our 'Get Caught Reading' scheme. Whenever a child is caught reading in their own time, they are given a raffle ticket and a winner is chosen at the Headteacher's awards assembly every half term.

We are really enjoying reading at Woodlea!

## 'We Love to Read' Day

*Baxenden St John's CE Primary*

Children at Baxenden St John's CE Primary School took part in a whole school reading day. Each class worked on activities themed around reading favourite books or their class novel.

We had a fantastic visit from Tony Pedley, who thrilled and excited the KS1 children with a live storytelling of Roald Dahl's *The BFG*. Then, KS2 children watched him perform 'A Taste of Dahl' - a show in which he recalled Roald Dahl's life and works, including performance readings.

The Baxenden Reading Leaders also helped to arrange a book swap; many of the children across school brought in their favourite books from home to swap with their peers and we certainly had a fabulous range of literature to choose from!

Finally, Year 5 and 6 were visited by Zoe from the Lancashire Library Service, who left us with a fantastic selection of new books for our class libraries!





## Secondary Schools

### Word Millionaire at Lathom

*Lathom High School*

John Frederick joined the most exclusive club at Lathom High School this week by becoming an AR Word Millionaire. John, who is in Year 7, has read 1,012,401 words since September this academic year. He has read all of the Harry Potter series, Diary of a Wimpy Kid and his favourite author is J.K.Rowling. His enthusiasm and passion for reading continues to grow.



All students in Year 7 are on the Accelerated Reader programme which promotes reading independently and gives students a ZPD range of books to read for their ability. By reading and quizzing on each book, students can climb the levels and increase their word count. Becoming an AR Word Millionaire is a phenomenal achievement and something that John is extremely PROUD of.

### Reading Rocks

*Cardinal Allen High School, Fleetwood*

This winter term was a busy one as we commenced our multi-school/cross curricular joint project involving students decorating rocks and pebbles with a book character/theme. These rocks/pebbles will then be swapped with other schools and used to create part of a comforting and relaxing outdoor reading garden area in each of the schools. We are also busy sourcing recycled items such as wood, furniture and bee-friendly plants from local DIY stores and gardening centres. These items will then be used to make nesting boxes, bird feeders etc. and placed in the reading garden.

We also recently hosted fantastic author and illustrator, Curtis Jobling, at Cardinal Allen and Baines High Schools. Millfield also joined us for this fantastic event promoting the Max Helsing and Wereworld series.

For the spring term, our District is organising a reading conference with various activities. Watch this space!



## Co-ordinating Schools

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