

## Reading for Pleasure at Haddenham Community Junior School

At Haddenham Community Junior School we believe that encouraging a passion for reading in our children is an essential part of our job as educators. We celebrate and value reading for pleasure in the following ways:

### A Space to Read

We have created a well stocked and up to date main library accessible to all children. It includes bright and engaging reading displays and comfortable reading areas where you can relax with a selected book. We also have a recently refurbished Lower School library, which includes chapter and picture books for younger children to enjoy. Lower school are also given the opportunity to use the main library.

Each class has a dedicated library slot and the children visit the main library with their teacher each week. They choose, recommend and share books during these sessions. Class librarians are trained to loan and return books during this library slot and class teachers often choose to read aloud to the children whilst they are there.

We encourage our children to read everywhere! There are dedicated reading areas all around the school. Importantly, many of these are outside, including the outdoor classroom, the log circle in the woods and the new reading pagoda. The display in our library demonstrates that adults and children love to read in all kinds of unusual places!



### Classroom Libraries

All classes now have access to a class library. This should ensure that all children have the opportunity to engage with a variety of current and engaging texts at an age appropriate level. Going forward we will be encouraging children to review and recommend books to each other and further developing classroom displays encouraging a love of reading.

### Haddenham Community Library Visits

In order to both develop links within the local community and demonstrate the vital role access to a library can have to children as readers, we aim for each class to visit Haddenham Library once during the school year. When they are there, they will explore and investigate the library with the aid of the librarian. During the sessions, they will develop an understanding of how libraries work, resources they can access and how to find the books that they want. The librarian will also be given the opportunity to share her age appropriate 'Book of the Moment' and read an extract to the children. Further developments once this is achieved will include children further developing their own school and classroom libraries as well as creating book and reading related displays for the village library.

### **Librarians (reading ambassadors)**

Each class will nominate two class librarians (reading ambassadors). Currently their role is to become trained in our school library system and to help the teacher in issuing and returning books during the class library sessions. They are also involved in keeping the three school libraries tidy and functional. They will help the literacy lead to promote a love of reading and books throughout school including making book recommendations, contributing to reading assemblies and holding half termly meetings to decide upon reading initiatives.

### **Buddy Reading**

Twice every half term, during the Wednesday assembly, all classes will take part in a buddy reading session. Each class will be paired up with a 'buddy' class where younger readers can read with older readers. Year 5 classes will be paired with a Year 3 class and Year 6 classes will be paired with a Year 4 class. The class pairs will then split across two classrooms where the buddy pairs can share a book together. Pairs can each bring a book to share and the pairs will read the books together during these sessions. This will be an opportunity for children to read their colour banded book as well as share another book they may be enjoying at the time.

### **World Book Day**

Every year we celebrate World Book Day in school. Children bring in their favourite book to share with their class. Teachers go to a different class to read their own favourite book to a different group of children and the day is dedicated to activities around books and reading.

### **National Poetry Day and Annual Poetry Slam**

We aim to celebrate National Poetry Day (Thursday October 5th) in school with activities centred around reading and performing poetry on the day. We try to arrange a visit from a poet if possible. We have also taken part in our first Poetry Slam along with our partnership schools. This was a great success and we look forward to continuing this in the future.

### **Book Fairs**

Over the last two years we have worked with Chiltern Bookshops to run a book fair at our school. This happens at least twice a year and is very popular with children and parents. Children visit the fair with their parents to browse a selection of the newest books from popular authors. The staff from Chiltern Bookshops are on hand to recommend books and new authors. Our school will also earn a commission on the funds raised which is directly used to buy new reading books or books for the school library.

### **Class Reader**

Each year group has a class reader list that they have decided upon. These class readers have been carefully selected and range from classic novels to topic linked stories. Class teachers have designated time at least three times a week to read from their class reader. They will take on the approach of demonstration reading. This involves the teacher pausing at a sentence that interests them or perhaps makes them question the story or character. The teacher will then give the children insight into the 'Reader's brain', displaying how to think and question as a reader to really get the most out of the books that we read.

### **1:1 Reading - Parent/community volunteers**

To ensure ALL children get ample opportunity to read aloud and share a love for reading is paramount. To make sure this happens for all HCJS children, we encourage volunteers in each year group to come into school and listen to readers. This will include pushing our more able readers so that they can discuss their book in depth with another adult, to ensuring our SEN, PP, traveller community and CiN children are given the opportunity they need for reading aloud and developing a love for books and reading.

## Visiting Authors

An engaging and interactive author visit can inspire children to read and to write. Over the last few years our children have enjoyed interesting and entertaining visits from authors including Steve Cole, Sam Copeland and Jenny Pearson. This year, the well known author and former Children's Laureate, Cressida Cowell visited our school. She told children all about her upbringing on a largely uninhabited island off the western coast of Scotland. This has hugely inspired her work. She shared her detailed author notebooks and sketches and explained how her How to Train Your Dragon series of books was turned into a major Hollywood film. Our next author visit will be happening on the 10th October 2023. Frank Cottrell-Boyce will be visiting our school to talk to the children about his career and his selection of books as well as promoting and signing his new book, 'The Wonder Brothers'.

