

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 a new, engaging wall mural 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)

Upper school nominates 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 school libraries tidy and functional. They will help the reading lead to promote a love of reading and books throughout school including making book recommendations, contributing to reading assemblies and holding discussions upon new reading initiatives.

Buddy Reading

Every other 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 a variety of different ways. Children bring in their favourite book to share with their class and teachers may go to a different class to read their own favourite book to a different group of children. The day is dedicated to activities around books and fostering that love and enjoyment for reading.

National Poetry Day and Annual Poetry Slam

We always celebrate National Poetry Day 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 take part in a local Poetry Slam competition along with our partnership schools. This is always a great success and the children love getting involved in this.

Book Fairs

We work closely with Chiltern Bookshops to run book fairs in school once or twice a year. This 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 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, thanks to Chiltern Bookshop, our children have enjoyed interesting and entertaining visits from a variety of famous authors. These have ranged from local author Steve Cole to Sam Copeland and Jenny Pearson. We have also been incredibly lucky to have a visit from the well known author and former Children's Laureate, Cressida Cowell. She told children all about her upbringing on a largely uninhabited island off the western coast of Scotland and how this hugely inspired her work.

We continue to have fantastic authors come through our doors to meet and inspire our children. Frank Cottrell-Boyce came to showcase and sign his books and we had a very interactive assembly led by Jack Megitt-Philips as he taught the children how to create a deadly beast of their own!

To have Dame Jaqueline Wilson visit was an absolute pleasure and a true delight! And it wasn't just the children who were a little star struck!

We look forward to continuing this treat for the children.

