



Branstons Church of England Infant Academy

Reading News

Issue: 16

Spring: Term 3

At the end of the Christmas term, we launched our Winter Reading Challenge where we asked you and your children to visit the library 3 times during the course of the holidays and January. We hope that you have enjoyed taking part in this challenge. There were lots of challenge cards brought back into school and the children were awarded a certificate and prize.

There will also be a Summer Reading Challenge in conjunction with Lincolnshire Libraries and we will let you know more about this next exciting challenge later in the year.



Our book recommendations.

This term Mr Brownless, Vice Chairman of the Academy Committee, visited school during National Storytelling Week to read one of his favourite books to Hedgehog Class: *The Lion Inside* by Rachel Bright. The children enjoyed listening to the story (and joining in) and then hearing about why this story is one of his favourites.



Mr Brownless told the children that this story has a fantastic lesson which we can all learn from. It doesn't matter how small we are, we can all be incredibly brave. Sometimes we might not feel brave but if we look deep inside ourselves, we will find that little bit of bravery which will help us through any situation.



National Storytelling Week



All of the children in school had a fantastic time during National Storytelling Week (30th January—5th February). We began the week with a wonderful virtual event with professional storyteller Wendy Shearer who told the creative story and gave the children top tips about how to be a great storyteller. Hedgehogs then put this excellent advice into practice when they went to Little Owls to read to the children in Tawny Owl and Barn Owl class.



Throughout the week, we had a variety of guest readers including Mrs Hall and Miss Lennie (Clerical Assistants), Mr Green (Caretaker) and Mrs Wilson (member of the Academy Committee). Mrs Cook hosted a virtual story time for those children who were at home on the Wednesday and Mrs Dickin led a Godly Play session for all of the children in Squirrel Class. We also had a Booknic (picnic with books!) for Hedgehog and Squirrel Class.

It was the most wonderful week and the children (and adults!) enjoyed the variety of different stories (and storytellers) that they encountered throughout this special week.



Fox Class Visit to Branston Community Library



Fox Class had a fantastic time when they visited Branston Community Library. They loved exploring and reading new books and old favourites. The librarian, Lesa, creates super activities for the children to help them explore the full range of children's books that the library has to offer. There were lots of smiles all round and the children can't wait for their next visit!



Free Reader Books

There has been a great deal of excitement amongst the children this term as we have purchased a new selection of Free Reader books. These books were purchased with the money raised from the Big Christmas raffle. A huge thank you to everyone who bought a ticket!

Free Readers are the stage after Read, Write, Inc phonics where children have been fluent readers. These books will complement the books that we have to offer the children. They include early chapter books which have a wonderful mixture of exciting stories and eye catching illustrations to captivate our young readers!



A spotlight on...

We began the term with a spot light books all about birds to celebrate The Big School Bird Watch. There were lots of different non-fiction books and magazines all about birds. The children loved learning facts about these animals and sharing these books with their friends underneath the beautiful nature display. Birdwatching club especially enjoyed reading a selection of birdy books! They looked through the books to see what birds they had seen and discovered lots of facts about them.



For the month of February, our spotlight was on books about love. This is our current value of the term and the books helped to promote this value. The books we have chose show all different types of love: love between parents and children, between grandparents and between all different types of families. It is important that children recognise that love takes many different forms and books are the perfect window in which to explore this.



World Book Day



We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March. Children will be asked to come to school in pyjamas and dressing gown to take part in a cosy day of reading and exciting 'booky' activities!

At Branston CofE Infant Academy, we strongly believe in developing a life long love of reading. Follow us on Twitter @BranstonInfant1 and @BookBranston (our very own Twitter account dedicated to all things reading related!) to see how we promote a passion for reading.