

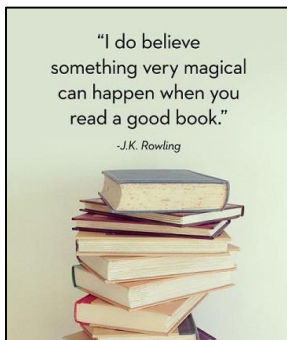
HELLO AND WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR AT ST BEDE'S!

Within school this year, we are promoting the joys of reading, with the hope of inspiring our children to become life-long readers. There is strong evidence linking reading for pleasure and educational outcomes but the benefits go beyond this and stretch throughout a person's life: increasing understanding of identity, improving empathy and giving insight into the world and views of others. We want to support your child on their reading journey, not only to become a competent and fluent reader, but also a lover of reading, taking pleasure in reading a variety of texts and being excited to share what they have learnt. Reading is great - reading for pleasure is greater!



The Joys of Reading

We have lots of exciting activities and celebrations planned but first, we must ensure that every child understands that reading is more than just story books. Reading can take many forms and have many purposes. Sometimes we read for pleasure, sometimes for work and sometimes for 'real life'. Reading is key to our daily routine.

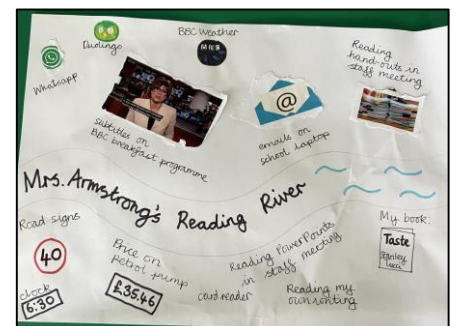
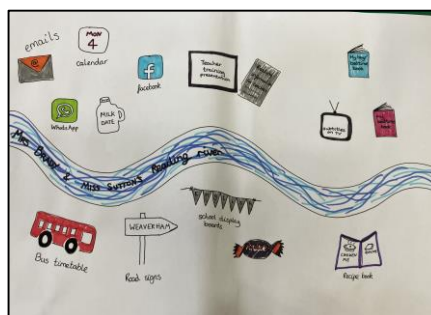
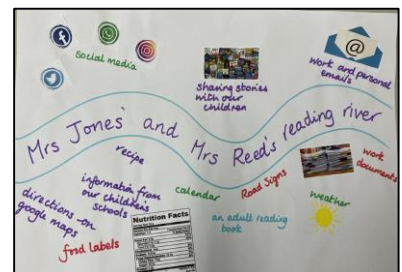
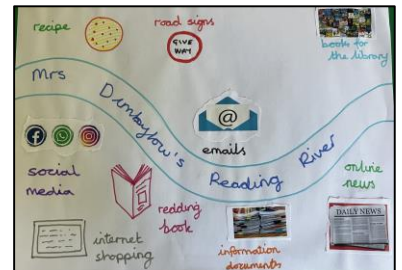


What have you been reading?

We are kicking off our term with a project homework where we are asking children to reflect on the reading that they have done over the summer holiday and to create a Reading River. Reading Rivers support children in not only recalling and reflecting on all the things they have read but also offers teaching staff insights into what children are reading for pleasure when not in school.

We ask that each child creates a Reading River of the things they have read over the holiday. This can be done over 1 or 2 pages in their homework book or you might decide to create a family one. But remember, reading is more than just books! Consider newspapers, comics, graphic novels, road signs, subtitles on TV, maps, instructions for games etc.

Have a look at our reading rivers to see what the St Bede's staff have been reading!



Reading for Pleasure at Home

We are often asked by parents for the best ways to support reading at home. Have a look at the fantastic information below (@Misterbodd2020) for some key ways to support your child's reading journey. These ideas are great for all children from Reception through to Year Six.

Reading Role Models

We need to make sure that the children see us reading. Many children see their parent on their phone and just assume that they are playing a game as that is what they would use the phone for. Not understanding that we may be reading. Similarly with kindles, children may think it is just a tablet.

The more they see the adults around them read, the more they will consider doing it themselves. Show them that it is fun!



Allow Their Choices

We need to allow children to read what they want to (within reason). Some children may find comfort in re-reading a book. There is nothing wrong with this at all. As adults we re-watch films many times and notice new things with each viewing, the same applies with books.

Comics, graphic novels and audiobooks are all valid reading materials and shouldn't be looked down upon. The same goes for the popular authors like Walliams and Kinney (Diary of a Wimpy Kid).

Imagine that books are like food... Comfort reads are not nutritional but we still love them (just in moderation). Harder richer texts are delicious, but too many can make us feel a little overwhelmed and needing of something easier occasionally.

If you do feel that your child is 'stuck' on a particular author or genre and you need book recommendations, speak to your child's class teacher or check out these reading tube maps that may help. <https://tinyurl.com/reading-tubemap>



Book Talk

Sometimes, children will just want to sit and listen to a book because they are so engrossed in the story. This is completely fine, there is no need to quiz them after every chapter that you read.



But sometimes informal book talk can be a fantastic way to discuss what has been read. Picture books lend themselves well to informal book talk because children want to explore and discuss the pictures, which often tell us so much more than the words.

Bedtime Stories

Due to time restraints, many families miss out on bedtime stories but the benefits are huge! Reading to your child for just 10 minutes a day/night can improve their vocabulary, encourage them to read independently and can also improve parent/child relationships. This is not just a KS1 issue. Older children love a bedtime story too (even if they won't always admit it!)

Bedtime stories can be whatever you and your child want to read together!(Extra tip – Do the voices! You can have a good giggle together at your brilliant/miserable attempts at doing various accents...)

If you don't feel confident reading aloud there is always the CBeebies bedtime story, but do this as a family activity rather than the children on their own, then you can talk about the story together afterwards.



Are you a member of your local library? Cheshire Libraries have made it easier for you to sign up. You can register yourself and your family online. Once you have received your library card number, you will be able to access a range of free audiobooks, eBooks, eMagazines and eResources!

For more information about what's on offer at your local library, visit [Cheshire East Libraries](#) and [Cheshire West and Chester Libraries](#) or follow them on Twitter/X [@CELibraries](#) and [@cwaclibraries](#).



Mystery readers are special guests who join us via Zoom or in person to read the children a story.

Mystery readers can be parents, grandparents, older siblings or other relatives and the children adore seeing a familiar face pop up on the screen. If you would like to volunteer to be a mystery reader for your child's class, then please contact their class teacher. Remember to keep it a secret! The surprise is all part of the fun!



We've Got Mail!

We have been incredibly lucky to receive lots of fantastic letters from a variety of children's authors over the holiday. Have a read of the letter we received from the lovely Lindsay Littleton. You will find some of her books in our library soon!

To everyone at St Bede's Catholic Primary School,

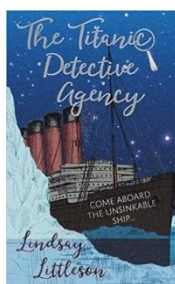
I hope you've all had a relaxing summer break and are looking forward to the new term.

When I was school-age, I often felt a bit gloomy when the holidays ended and cheered myself up on my first day back by choosing a brilliant new book from the class or school library. Libraries are Very Important Places. You can go there to escape into funny stories or travel on magical adventures whenever real-life gets sad or boring or lonely. You can visit to learn fascinating facts in the non-fiction section. Your friends might recommend books, and that's great, but remember to choose the stories that interest and excite YOU. When I was a child I was an avid reader. It's a brilliant feeling, isn't it, when you're enjoying a story so much you don't want to put it down? Two of my childhood favourites were *Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C O'Brien and *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton. What's your favourite story? If you haven't found one yet, keep looking. Somewhere, in a bookshop or on a library shelf, is a story you'll love forever.

Keep reading!

Best wishes,

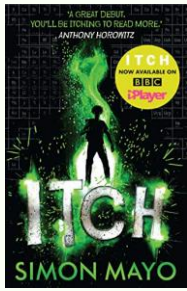
Lindsay Littleton



Recommended Reads

Each term, some of our Reading Ambassadors, along with a member of staff will be sharing their recommended reads. Perhaps you will choose one as your next reading book!

Age 9+



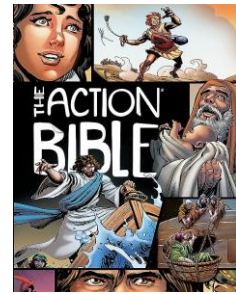
I recommend the 'Itch' series for anyone in Upper Key Stage Two who loves science, adventure and mystery!

You can find the series in our central library area now!

Ms Conlon

I enjoyed The Action Bible because it is intense and cool. It pulls you in and makes you want to read more!

Daniel Y6



Age 7+

Age 5+



We recommend the Smeds and The Smoos by Julia Donaldson. We like it when they go in their rocket ship and love the baby at the end – she has hair like her mummy, a nose like her daddy and a smile like both of them!

Ollie and Phoebe Y2

Useful Links

[Books for Topics Branching Out Booklists](#)

Do you feel your child is stuck on one author? Have a look at the branching out posters to find similar books that they may enjoy.

[Book Trust](#)

They have a great book finder tool to help you find books of interest for all ages and abilities.



Dates for your diary

13/09/23 – Roald Dahl Day

19/09/23 – Picture This Reading challenge begins – focus on picture books for all ages.

02/10/23 – Libraries Week

05/10/23 – National Poetry Day