

Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Victoria Handford and some of you may know me as your child's French or German teacher; in this newsletter I would like to introduce myself as the new Literacy across the Curriculum Lead, a role about which I am very excited and passionate.

I will be sending a newsletter to you once per half-term to outline our upcoming events for the half-term, to share ideas and successes and to recommend books for our pupils to enjoy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at vha@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk.



Upcoming Events

Drop Everything and Read

This half-term sees the return of **DEAR time for years 7 and 8**. A reminder that for the first 20 minutes of the lessons below, all pupils in those year groups will be reading. All pupils should have a reading book with them to enjoy.

Monday 25th April – Period 1

Tuesday 3rd May – Period 2

Monday 9th May – Period 3

Monday 16th May – Period 4

Monday 23rd May – Period 5

Pop up bookshop

We are working with Bookworm's Boutique, who will be hosting a **book fair at year 9 parents' evening on 4th May**, where you can purchase a variety of fantastic books.



In addition to this, we will also be doing a **sponsored read after half-term**; more information to follow in due course.

Published author visit

We are thrilled to announce that **N.J. Simmonds, a published author**, is coming into school to speak to and work with year 9 on Thursday 5th May on creative writing skills; **what an exciting opportunity!**

Why should we encourage our children to read?

There are so many benefits to reading but in this newsletter, I would like to focus on the **positive impact reading can have on stress and anxiety**.

Reading is a wonderful way to distract ourselves from the world around us; we can lose ourselves in a story and temporarily forget our own troubles.

The National Literacy Trust did some research and found that children who engaged well with literacy had **better mental wellbeing**.

A study in America also found that reading reduces stress and tension and is **600% more beneficial in combatting stress than playing computer games!**

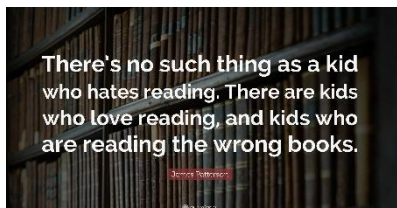


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Book recommendations

For **KS3**, I would like to recommend: **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne**. This is a very emotive book, exploring the relationship between a boy in a concentration camp and a German boy.

For **KS4**, I would like to recommend: **Divergent by Veronica Roth**. This is a futuristic fantasy novel, which explores a life where society is split into factions.



There's no such thing as a kid who hates reading. There are kids who love reading, and kids who are reading the wrong books.