

Dear Parents and Carers, I hope you all had a wonderful half-term.

Last half-term was a short one but DEAR time and tutor time literacy resources have continued to be successful.

Public speaking club has also had some interest and the pupils involved are due to speak about some very interesting topics soon. They have been thinking about how to engage their audience and ensure they can write a persuasive and engaging speech.

At year 10 parents' evening, we hosted our pop up bookshop Bookworm's Boutique and this was very successful with several orders and purchases – thank you very much.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can help with anything literacy or oracy based: vha@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

News and Events

Upcoming events and information:

Drop Everything and Read

DEAR time will continue this half-term for years **7, 8 and 9**, who will all read for 20 minutes in the lessons listed below:

Thursday 23rd February – Period 4

Thursday 2nd March – Period 5

Friday 10th March – Period 1

Friday 17th March – Period 2

Friday 24th March – Period 3

Published author visit

Year 9 will be meeting published author N. J. Simmonds on 27th February. This is an excellent opportunity for them, where they will learn how she became an author. Her presentation last year was very inspiring and we are very fortunate to be able to hear from her again. She will then do an hour's writing skills workshop with 30 selected pupils.

World Book Day

Thursday 2nd March 2023 is World Book Day and we are keen to celebrate this! We will be organising various form time competitions and lunch time activities. In addition to this, we will be doing a book swap in school. If your child has a reading book they have read and would like to swap for a different one, please ask them to bring it into school by Friday 3rd March and to hand it in to Mr. Palsler in the Opportunities Hub. They will then be given a raffle ticket, which they will be able to swap the week after for a different reading book.

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Workshop

90 year 10 pupils will be taking part in a workshop to develop their confidence with their speaking skills. More details will follow nearer the time, but this event will take place on 14th March.

Pop up book shop

Our pop up bookshop Bookworm's Boutique will be available at year 8 parents' evening on the 2nd March and at year 11 parents' evening on the 30th March. There will be a range of books for you to order and purchase.

Book recommendations

For KS3, I would like to recommend: **Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo**. I do love Morpurgo's books; they are simply beautiful. Set in WWI, this book tells the past and present story of a soldier.

For KS4, I would like to recommend: **The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**. This is one of the best books I have ever read! This is the story of a young girl who faces the war and politics of Nazi Germany; an emotive story, I genuinely feel this is a must read for all.

For parents, I would like to recommend: **The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams**. I recently read this book and found it to be uplifting and heart warming! With elements of true sadness but also of hope and comfort, I would thoroughly recommend this.

I would love to hear from any pupil or parent who reads one of my recommended books!



How can we encourage our children to read?

One of the most effective ways to encourage our children to read, is to be a reader ourselves. If children see parents or teachers reading for enjoyment, they will mimic this and see reading as an enjoyable activity!