

# Literacy Newsletter: January 2023

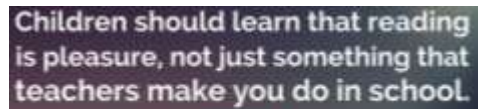
Dear Parents and Carers, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and I would like to wish you a very happy new year.

It was a pleasure to present and talk to year 7 parents and pupils last half-term at the Preparing for Success evening. It was very encouraging to speak to parents afterwards about the importance of reading for enjoyment and of making time for that in our busy daily lives.

DEAR time has continued to be a success for years 7, 8 and 9 and will continue as per the timetable below.

Public speaking club has also started and I'm looking forward to hearing the presentations from the pupils. More details are below.

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](mailto:vha@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk)



Children should learn that reading is pleasure, not just something that teachers make you do in school.

## Book recommendations

**For KS3**, I would like to recommend: **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**. I read this book last year for the first time – I am an avid reader, but had never read any of the Harry Potter series, so thought I would give it a try and I really enjoyed it! I loved the characters, I found it easy to read, engaging and enjoyed being lost in a mystical world!

**For KS4**, I would like to recommend: **Twilight by Stephanie Meyer**. This is the first in a fantasy series of 4 books involving vampires and werewolves. The series is easy to read and perfect for curling up with when you want to lose yourself in a book.

**For parents**, I would like to recommend: **This is Going to Hurt by Adam Kay**. This book was very popular in my book club – we all enjoyed it and the book has now been turned into a comedy drama series due to its popularity, but we all know the book beats any televised version, right?

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

## News and Events

### Congratulations:

A very huge well done to all of our year 7s and 8s who were nominated by their form tutors for excellent engagement in form time reading – certificates were awarded at the end of the Autumn term.

### 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:

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Period 4**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Period 5**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Period 1**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Period 2**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Period 3**

#### **Public speaking**

The public speaking extra-curricular started last half-term but it is not too late for pupils to join! This is open to all year groups in M11 on a Monday lunch time. If you are passionate about a topic, enjoy giving your opinion and want to develop your confidence in speaking, come along!

#### **Pop up book shop**

Bookworm's Boutique will be available as a pop up book shop at year 10 parents' evening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. There will be a range of books for you to order and purchase.

## Why should we encourage our children to read?

One of the most influential factors on your child's literacy level is their enjoyment of reading. It has also been found that 16 year olds who read for pleasure are more likely to end up in a managerial or professional job. This is why it is essential that we promote reading for enjoyment at all ages.