

Literacy Newsletter: June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers, I hope you all had a lovely break.

Last half-term we asked pupils to recommend which books they would like to see in the Opportunities Hub this September; we have had some fabulous suggestions and now have a wide array of ideas. I am starting to look at the current books, our donations and the book suggestions ready for a revamp of our reading section. It is a very exciting project!

Our pupils who have been working on their public speaking skills are going to be creating a video for us to share with form groups within the coming weeks. They have been working on speech delivery, a persuasive tone and matching their voice to the content and topic.

We have also received a generous pledge of money from Arkidec, who donated to our Community Book Pledge last academic year too; thank you so much, we are very grateful! Your donation will help us to get more children reading.

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



Book recommendations

For KS3, I would like to recommend: **War Horse by Michael Morpurgo**. As you know, I love Morpurgo's books, and I have just finished this one. Set in WW1, the book is told from the perspective of Joey, the horse and his tales of living through the war. This is a beautiful book and I would thoroughly recommend it for KS3.

For KS4, I would like to recommend: **Beauty Sleep by Kathryn Evans**. I read this last half-term and really enjoyed it. It tells the story of Laura, who has been frozen while she has cancer to see if a cure can be found. When she is cured, she wakes up almost 40 years later. She faces an entirely different world; what will happen?

For parents, I would like to recommend: **Hothouse Flower by Lucinda Riley**. I recently read this with my book club and I absolutely loved it – a book with every element going! It is set in both the past and the present, it has romance, a little mystery, love, loss, family and everything in between! One of my best reads so far this year.

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

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:

- Tuesday 6th June – Period 5
- Wednesday 14th June – Period 1
- Wednesday 21st June – Period 2
- Wednesday 28th June – Period 3
- Wednesday 5th July – Period 4
- Wednesday 12th July – Period 5

Please do encourage your child to bring in their reading books or a suitable piece of reading material, as they will enjoy the session much more.

Sponsored Read

From Monday 5th June to Sunday 25th June we will be carrying out a sponsored read. It would be wonderful to have as many pupils involved as possible. We are asking pupils involved to read for as many minutes as they can during this three-week period and to ask people to sponsor them. The money raised will be spent on new books. There will be prizes available for:

1. The form group who collectively read for the most minutes.
2. The form group who collectively raise the most money.
3. The pupil who reads for the most minutes in the school.
4. The staff member who reads for the most minutes.

You can donate via this link: [Crowdfunding to buy more books for Woodlands Secondary School on JustGiving](#)

Any sponsorship is gratefully received.

How can we encourage our children to read?

Gift them a book! Listen to their interests and find a book which links to that, for example, football, a celebrity, a topic in History, anything which they love...