

Literacy Newsletter: September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and to our new academic year. Firstly, I would like to reintroduce myself. My name is Mrs. Handford and I am the Literacy Across the Curriculum Lead at Woodlands, a role about which I am very passionate. I send out a newsletter similar to this at the start of each half-term to give you information about upcoming events, book recommendations and to share any other literacy news with you.

I'm looking forward to seeing what the new academic year brings! As always, if anybody would like to discuss anything literacy related, please email me: vha@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk. Thank you.



News and Events

Updates from the Summer term:

Our second-hand book sale was very successful and all of the funds raised went back into the school to help us promote a love of reading and of books.

There were lots of certificates of achievement given out to years 7 and 8 for excellent spelling bee scores (photo above of pupils working hard) and also to the winners of our daily Wordle challenge in each year group. We are looking forward to running similar competitions this year too.

Upcoming events and information:

Drop Everything and Read

DEAR time will continue this term, following the huge success of last term. This year, it will be for years 7, 8 **and 9**, who will all read for 20 minutes in the lessons listed below. Pupils should have a reading book with them as part of their essential equipment and should read this during the allocated time:

Monday 12th September – Period 1

Monday 19th September – Period 2

Monday 26th September – Period 3

Monday 3rd October – Period 4

Monday 10th October – Period 5

Tuesday 18th October – Period 1

Pop up bookshop

Bookworm's Boutique will be hosting a pop-up bookshop at the year 11 parents' evening in October, where there will be a range of books available to buy and order. Further information will be provided nearer the time.

There will be other fantastic literacy and oracy opportunities and more information soon!

Book recommendations

For KS3, I would like to recommend: **Proud Of Me by Sarah Hagger-Holt**. The story is told from the perspective of two teenage siblings and their experiences with LGBTQ+ and accepting yourself and others for who you and they are. This book was easy to read, interesting and thought-provoking. There are two copies of this in our Opportunities Hub.

For KS4, I would like to recommend: **Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon**. This book tells the story of Madeline, a young lady who is allergic to the world and has to spend her life at home, never being allowed to go out. However, Madeline finds herself falling in love with someone. What will happen?

Why should we encourage our children to read?

Despite the fact that reading is usually an activity people do alone, reading gives us a good topic of conversation with others and can improve our social skills. Nowadays, lots of book lovers also join book clubs, therefore making reading a more sociable activity than it once was!