

Literacy Newsletter: November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers, welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term.

We started last half-term by giving all of our year 7 starters a brand new reading book as a gift on their first day of Woodlands. It was a true pleasure to be able to do this; I hope they have enjoyed their books!

Very well done to years 7, 8 and 9 for their efforts with DEAR time last half-term. Overall, it was very successful and the atmosphere was very purposeful and calm. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all pupils should remember to bring their reading book with them to ensure they benefit from the time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can help with anything literacy or oracy based:

vh@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk



News and Events

Congratulations:

To Abbi G and Samiyah H who both wrote beautiful letters of application to be KS4 Literacy Ambassadors – I was very impressed and am looking forward to working with you. They will be a great asset.

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 1st November – Period 2

Tuesday 8th November – Period 3

Tuesday 15th November – Period 4

Tuesday 22nd November – Period 5

Wednesday 30th November – Period 1

Wednesday 7th December – Period 2

Wednesday 14th December – Period 3

Public speaking

The public speaking extra-curricular opportunity starts in two weeks. This will be an excellent opportunity for all year groups to improve their confidence in speaking, their oracy skills and their speech writing. More information will be sent to pupils via form tutors very soon.

Writing competition

There will be a competition for year 7 shortly; they are invited to write a book review of a book they have read since starting at Woodlands. Certificates and epraise points will be awarded to the most impressive reviews. More information will follow.

Book recommendations

For KS3, I would like to recommend: **The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo**. I read this book recently and it genuinely touched my heart. I love the way Morpurgo writes – he writes about emotive topics in a truly beautiful way. This book is moving, sad and beautiful and I think it is a perfect choice for years 7 and 8.

For KS4, I would like to recommend: **To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee**. If I had to pick one book which made me a true book lover, this would be it. This novel focuses on injustice, prejudice and childhood innocence. Another truly beautiful book, I think this is a wonderful choice for key stage 4.

Why should we encourage our children to read?

Reading books is a good way for children to see how other people cope with situations or problems similar to their own. A good way to encourage children to read is by asking them about what they are reading and to show an interest in their opinions and thoughts on the book. You could even read the same book so you can discuss it together.