



# BOOK BOX BITES

February Newsletter: Vol 7

## WORLD BOOK DAY SPECIAL!

Hi wonderful reading advocates,  
How has January been for you? I'm already noticing the lighter mornings and evenings on my drive to work - I can once again see the beautiful scenery of the Dales - albeit dimly!

I'm dedicating this issue to the incredible event that is WBD! I know the excitement is building in so many schools! As well as some Ideas for the day itself, I'll be sharing some ways we can continue the book buzz beyond just a day and ensure we celebrate reading all year.

Do get in touch with your WBD ideas too - I love knowing what other schools are doing. Have a WONDERFUL time celebrating all things reading.  
Esther x



*1 in 7 pupils (13.2%)  
said the book they  
had 'bought'  
with their World  
Book Day book  
token had been their  
first  
book of their own.  
(NLT 201)*

## Useful Dates coming up

- Jan 30th - start of National  
Storytelling  
Week
- 6th Feb - Children's Mental Health  
Week  
(I have resources on my website that can help with  
planning this.)
- 26th Feb - Tell a Fairytale Day



## WORLD BOOK DAY - SOME THOUGHTS

The aim of WBD is to create readers for pleasure. The day provides an incredible starting point to create reading habits that last a lifetime, which in turn will improve life chances. They also do vital work to get books into children's hands.

Research over 27 countries has shown that having as few as 20 books in the home has a significant impact on a child's ascent to a higher level of education. The more books in the house, the greater the benefit. Having 500 or more books in the home propelled children on average 3.2 years further in their education.

I definitely recommend using the WBD site and taking advantage of virtual author videos and the fantastic bank of ideas there.

All the ideas I'll suggest will work go beyond WBD and help develop a rich R4P culture in school where children choose to read, have lively chatter and discussion around books, make recommendations and share their love of reading.



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## Promoting Social Reading Environments

- Reading picnic/cafe/ campfire stories and hot choc (can be a fake campfire using the interactive whiteboard and rugs on the carpet)
- Inviting parents in for Starbooks Cafe or Breakfast and a Book and having books to browse so they can chat with their children and see what they enjoy or like the look of and get a glimpse beyond the supermarket shelves. You can also share reading research with parents
- Ask the children to design their ideal book areas/ library spaces
- Older classes pair up and read with younger classes
- Create a book trail around school or the local area - teachers record stories or snippets and place the QR codes around for children and parents to find.



## Just for Fun

- Have an Extreme Read competition
- Set up the classroom as a publishing house and make/share books
- Create bookmarks
- Watch a film of a book
- Create
- Have a bookish quiz

## DISCLAIMER

This is not an exhaustive list and many/if not all, I am sure you will have seen elsewhere. Some ideas have been kindly shared by friends but these are mostly ideas I have used in the past or seen used successfully. I've also tried to be mindful of the cost of living crisis.



## Promoting Booktalk and reading recommendations

- Create a class or whole school reading river to display everyone's favourite books and generate discussion about which they'd like to read
- Library scavenger hunt
- Find a book for a friend. Give 3 criteria and swap with a partner. They find a book for each other.
- Drop Everything and Read for 15 mins, even the office staff, teachers, TAs - everyone. Reading role models are important
- Just have time to read and talk about books. Share your favourites
- Create a whole school display with everyone's favourite book covers
- Get children to create recommendation vlogs, 1 minute videos or 30 word reviews and share them
- Start a 'Third chapter Thursday' or 'First chapter Friday' initiative where you read a chapter to entice children to read - or they can take ownership

## Getting Books into Homes

- Invite in a local bookshop so children can swap their tokens and go home with a book rather than the token getting lost. Many will also offer story times or bring a pop up shop for parents to browse after school.
- Have a book swap - bring a book from home you no longer read and swap for another (you can also top it up with books that you may want to replace from the library)



## Alternatives to dressing up

- Dress a potato, spoon or paper cup as a book character
- Make a paper hat to represent a book or a character
- Decorate a plain T Shirt or 'story pillowcase' for sweet dreams - one each or as a class cushion for the reading area.
- Cook a meal for a character as a class
- Give each class a bookish gift to open.
- decorate your class door as if you are 'entering' a particular book.







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## The Power of Author Visits

A brilliant way to keep children enthused and engaged with books is through author visits. For some, it can be so powerful to see that authors and illustrators are 'real people' and come from their communities. For other children, an author visit can open their eyes to something completely new to their own lived experience.

And it's not just the children, they are so inspiring for teachers too.

*A 2019 National Literacy Trust report found that pupils who had an author visit this academic year:*

*Were twice as likely to read above the expected level for their age (31% vs 17%)  
Were more likely to enjoy reading (68% vs 47%) and writing (44% vs 32%)  
Were more likely to be highly confident in their reading (37% vs 25%) and writing (22% vs 17%)*

## Virtual Visits

Lots of creators now offer virtual workshops at very reasonable rates. There are lots of places to look out for free virtual author visits too such as Puffin Virtual Vists.

This week Kid's Literature Festival London | Stepping Into Stories | England has some free virtual author visits as part of it's programme (you can still sign up!) and the brilliant Reading Rocks has just launched a virtual author visit subscription package. You can take a look here: Virtual author events - Reading Rocks (wherereadingrocks.com)

## Local Authors

There are some fantastic local authors out there who make their living from enthusing children through lively in person visits. If you're in the Manchester area check out teacher turned author Tess Singh here: Tessa Singh (ampbk.com)

She has some super educational resources to go alongside her book. [Ad-PR]

