

Swalecliffe Community Primary School's Reading Newsletter, Term 3



Phonics

The English Team thought we'd have a bit of a phonics focus this term. Here at Swalecliffe, we are a Twinkl Phonics School.



Twinkl Phonics is a validated (approved by the Department for Education) systematic, synthetic phonics programme that provides a structured route for the teaching of reading (and writing) in which words are broken up into their smallest units of sound 'phonemes'. Children learn to associate a written letter or group of letters, known as 'graphemes', with each phoneme. Sounds are then 'blended' together into words for reading. We also aim to ensure that children are able to read tricky words. Codebreakers is used to support some pupils in KS2.

phoneme - the smallest unit of sounds in a word.

grapheme - the written representation of a sound

blending - joining individual speech sounds together to read a word.

tricky/ common exception words - words that are not fully decodable, such as 'the' and 'was'.

Our children are absolutely amazing at using the technical vocabulary that we teach them in phonics sessions. To support families with this vocabulary, we have added an '[Introduction to Twinkl Phonics Guide for Parents and Carers](#)', which also includes information about the Twinkl Phonics Levels, to our website ([please click here](#)). There are also videos and sound mats.

[Useful Phonics Websites for KS1](#) : Just click on the highlighted words and the link will take you there.

[Phonics Play](#) - A wonderful website with a selection of interactive games for children to practise phonics.

[Alphablocks](#) - A CBeebies TV programme for children using phonics. There are lots of online games on the website but there is also an app.

[Teach Your Monster to Read](#) - Free phonics games in a 'groundbreaking' game.

[TwinklTV](#) - More than just phonics but a channel with a range of songs, videos and cartoons to support learning.

And on Instagram and Facebook ... go follow '**Phonics Family**' for great tips on blending, games and other ways to support reading at home.



Three Phonics Games for Home:

1. **Pop it** - Write tricky words on post-its for your child to read, push down a button on a pop-it toy. Can they pop them all? Set a timer?
2. **I Spy** - The classic game but instead of letter names use initial phoneme or words containing a certain grapheme like /ai/
3. **Simon Says** - You (Simon) segment a word (s-a-t) and the children blend (sat).



Reading News for our Families



Here are some upcoming reading date reminders.

Infant Open Library - On the following mornings from 8.20 - 8.40, we will be opening our Infant Library for specific year groups each term. This is a chance for parents to join their children to share books in our lovely library:

Year 1 - 19/01/24

Year 2 - 08/03/24

Year R - 19/04/24

Year 1 - 14/06/24

Pre-School Storytime - If you have another child due to start school in September 2024, we would love for you to come along and join us at one of our storytime sessions which run from 2.45 - 3.10.

You do need to book by calling the office please:

02/02/24

08/03/24

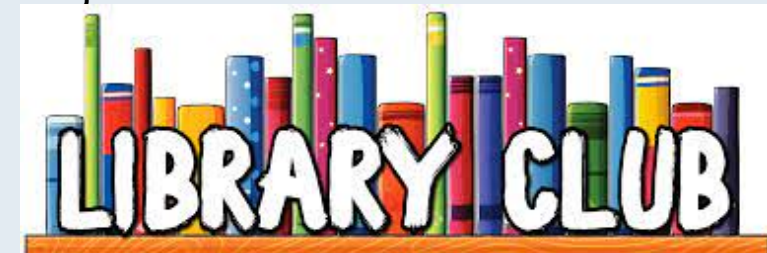
03/05/24

Lunchtime Library Clubs - These will be running at lunchtimes on Mondays for the Infants with Mrs Back and on Wednesdays for the Juniors with Mrs Hughes. There is no need to book as the children can just come along should they wish. Please note that in the Infants, it is a year group per term as we get lots of children who join:



Term 3 - Year 2

Term 4 - Year R



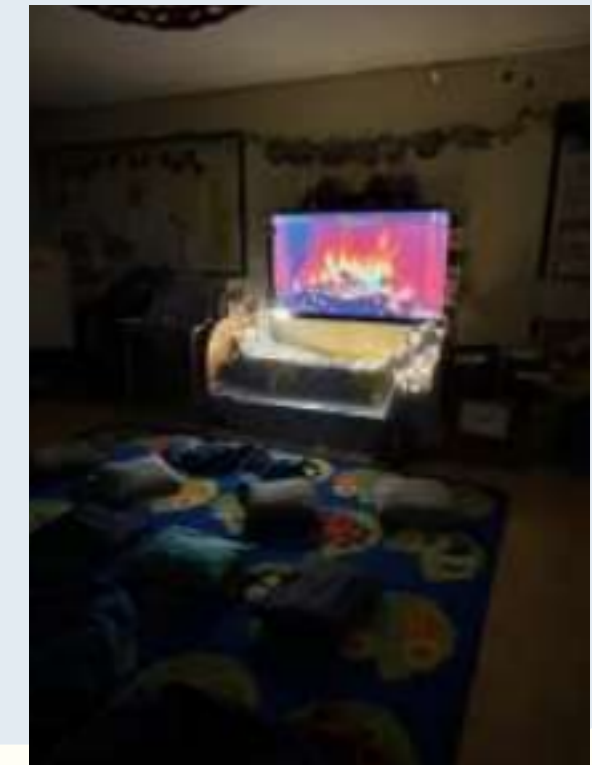
Family Workshops -

Supporting Reading for Pleasure at home 05/03/24 - [click here](#).

Each workshop runs from 8.50 - 10.00. Please arrive at the office where a member of staff will sign you in. Thank you.

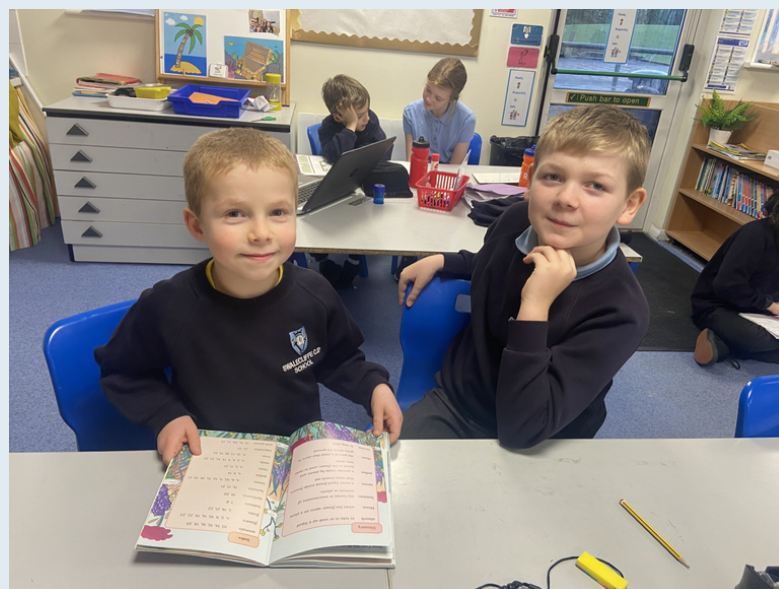
Bedtime Stories - Year R

Last week, our Year R children came back to school in their PJs and dressing gowns for some bedtime stories with their teachers, followed by some warm cocoa and shortbread. They loved it! Whilst the children were enjoying their stories, I took the opportunity to talk to parents about the importance of reading for pleasure and how families can support this at home. Thank you to all the families who attended (it was a great turn out) and to the parents/ carers for being brave in sharing their own reading experiences.



Book Club & Reading Buddies

Every week, our classes in Year 1 - 6 have a Book Club session at the end of the day where they read and talk about books. Their teacher does the same to model a love and enjoyment of reading. There are some wonderful ways that our staff are running their weekly Book Club. Ask your children all about it! Twice a term, during these sessions, our older children 'reading buddy' with our younger ones, for example Year 4 go to Year 1. All the children and teachers thought this opportunity was amazing! Our brilliant English Subject Champions are buddies for Year R.



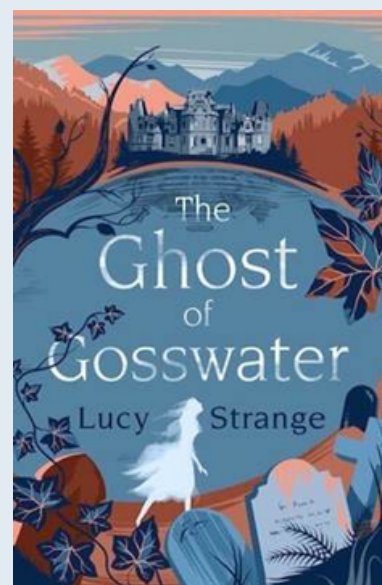
Subject Champion Recommended Reads

The Ghost of Gosswater by Lucy Strange

This book is about a girl whose father has died and she has been 'kicked out' of her home by her cousin Clarence. She gets her revenge! I chose this book because it wasn't too tricky to read even though there's a lot going on.

Interest Age: 9-11
Reading Age: 9+

By Ellis T 6P



The Storm and the Minotaur by Lucy Strange

I read this book on my holiday and it was amazing! I personally loved it. The storyline is really good and the book also has illustrations so it was fun to see what the characters looked like. I also met our adopted author, Lucy Strange, at the launch for this book.

By Clem 6P

Some Reminders/ Asks ...

We have a wonderful range of books in our libraries but many are being spoiled in the wet weather or by water bottles. Please, please help us to look after our books. We are still looking for any donations of books (in good condition) and wicker baskets for class libraries please. If you have any, pop them into the office.

Thank you for taking the time to read this term's Reading Newsletter. I hope that you have found it useful. As always, myself, the rest of the English Team and your class teachers are always here to speak with you about how to help with your child's reading. Please also remember our plea for any small basket that we can use in our class libraries please.

The kindest regards,
Miss Garton
Deputy Head and English Lead

