



FLORA NEWS

Head's Blog

On Thursday we celebrated National Poetry day, Ms Graham read a poem in Assembly called "Playing with Stars" and next week we will be celebrating Book Week. Coincidentally, last Thursday, Education Secretary Nicky Morgan and children's author and comedian David Walliams launched a campaign to make English pupils the most literate in Europe within five years. International surveys show that nine and ten year olds in England are currently ranked sixth.

The Department for Education is working with the charity 4Children to equip parents and teachers with activities and resources to help develop pre-school children's language skills with the aim of getting more children reading before they start school.

Nicky Morgan also called on leading publishers to give schools access to classic novels by great English authors including Jane Austen, Charles Dickens and Emily Bronte.

David Walliams said: "At the heart of this campaign is a very simple shared ambition - to get more children reading. Few things can compete with the joy of getting stuck into a good book and I believe that is something no child should miss out on."

Whilst this is a laudable aim, one of the things I've learned through teaching for a long time is that the most effective way to encourage young people to read is to ensure that they have access to books about subjects and themes that interest, inspire and are relevant to them. It is also important not to exclude young people by offering a diet of literature that fails to acknowledge social and cultural differences. I was interested, for example, in a BBC news story last week where a 14-year-old boy, who was born with a disability, called on the UK's publishers to include more disabled characters in children's books, and asked why the villains of children's stories are so often "deformed".

Simply insisting that children to read 'the classics' will go little way towards encouraging reluctant readers. It is more important that teachers and parents make it clear that we value a wide range of literature. Diversity is key.

Here's a link to an interesting article:

<http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2014/oct/14/what-are-the-best-books-on-diversity-for-children-and-teenagers>



Flora Gardens Book Week

Book fair - books go on sale after school on Monday 12th until Friday 16th October.

Dress up as book character day for staff/children on Wednesday 14th October
Parents are invited to read to their child's class- see class teachers for time and information.

Reading competition - EYFS, KS1 and KS2 - who has read the most books- book reviews need to be written for KS2 and parents need to sign reading records for EYFS and KS1.

Storystock Assembly - Wednesday 14th October – 1.30pm in the hall. Author Mary Evans will give a presentation and performance about the literary festival.



We will be giving you a letter about the 'bag 2 school' project next week so look out for the bags in your child's bookbag. The filled bags can be returned to the school office in the week of 19th October, ready for collection on 3rd November. Bag 2 School collect unwanted textiles/clothes and sell them to importers and wholesalers in many countries of Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia. Over 70% of the world's population use second hand clothes. All will be explained in the letter next week!

Children should bring their coats into school now as it can be cold/wet at break/lunchtime and those without coats may have to be kept inside.

When waiting for your child to finish a club, we kindly ask you to wait outside of the school building.

Superstars

Nursery – Amelia
Reception – Eloise
Year 1 – Raya
Year 2 – Musa
Year 3 – Jahzyhia
Year 4A – Jehiah, Mia, Naiyah
Year 4S – Hopi
Year 5 – Alex & Kes
Year 6 – Ruweyda
Well done!

