



Welcome to the Summer term edition of our Reading Newsletter! Spring was filled with lots of lovely book led events and we are looking forward to completing lots more reading activities this term and hopefully we'll be able to enjoy some reading outdoors in the sunshine too!

World Book Day!

World Book Day is always a memorable event at St Charles and this year was no exception!

The focus for us is always about the reading and the pleasure we can get from books. This year's text, *The Island* by Mark Janssen, really captured the children's interest across school. Our children in EYFS explored sea themed continuous provision and in Reception they wrote some sentences independently exploring the senses using images from the book. Year 1 and Year 2 designed their own sea creatures and wrote character profiles and in Key Stage 2 the children wrote poetry, descriptive pieces about the Island, postcards and non-chronological reports.

Everyone looked fabulous in their ocean themed outfits. Thank you for all of your creative efforts, the children and staff had a wonderful day!

St Charles Book Week!

Just before half term the children enjoyed celebrating Book Week together. It was a week full of books, reading and fun! Book cafes and story picnics appeared all over school and it was lovely to see all of the children reading and enjoying reading a variety of genres with their friends. During the week, the children visited the school library, listened to staff reading a range of books and enjoyed story-time together. Great fun was had by all and the children really valued this reading for pleasure time in school.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported the Book Fair in school this term. We managed to raise £470 which will be used to buy books to support the curriculum and children's learning in class.

Author visits:

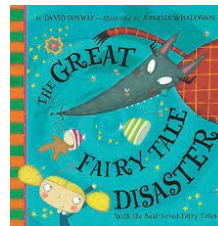
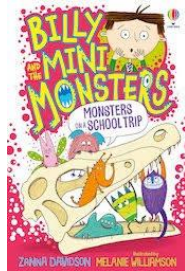
This term we have enjoyed a visit from local author Marie Basting and in June we are looking forward to welcoming Melanie Williamson to St Charles!

Marie Basting

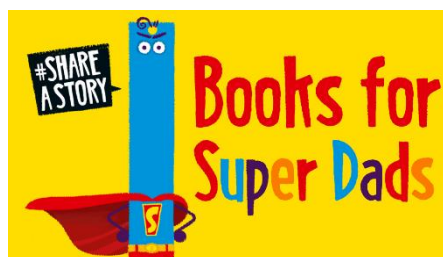


Marie is a local author and has written two novels, *Princess BMX* and *My Family and Other Romans*. Her books take inspiration from myth, history and fairytales, mixing up traditional stories and giving them a hilarious contemporary twist. Marie loves to write books about children who have amazing adventures and learn to be true to themselves and the children really enjoyed her visit in April.

Melanie Williamson



As a children's mural and book illustrator, Melanie has had the pleasure of working on over 50 published books, most notably the *Pirate Pete and Princess Polly* titles, and the 12-book series *Billy and the Mini Monsters*. For two years running her work has been selected for the Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge, and nominated for the 2019 Sheffield Children's Book Award. We are all looking forward to Melanie's visit in June!



With Fathers' Day approaching (Sunday 16th June), you could take some time to share some stories with the special men in your family. The World Book Day website has some great Fathers' Day suggestions. One of my favourites to read is "Peace at Last" by Jill Murphy, where poor Daddy Bear is up all night because he can't sleep.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/2020/06/brilliant-picture-books-to-share-together-for-fathers-day/>

Summer Holidays

Another school year is coming to an end and the long days of summer lie ahead. Even though leisure time activities start to take over the evenings, I would like to encourage you to keep reading high on your child's list of summer activities. It really is true that readers are leaders! Just like other skills your children are learning, such as how to hit a cricket ball or play the piano, reading needs to be practised every day to maintain and strengthen skills.

There is an extensive body of research that tells us that academic achievement is directly related to how much time children spend reading outside of school. This is in large part due to the fact that reading builds vocabulary and background knowledge. Often schools are concerned about summer reading loss or "summer slide" that takes place when children don't read over the summer. It may take a month or two for children who did not read over the summer months to get back to the level at which they were reading at the end of the previous year. While missing out on reading for one or two months may not seem like much, when it happens year after year, the effect can be very detrimental. Please make sure your children keep up their reading!

So how can you make reading a natural fit for your summer?

Here are some pointers...

- Make sure your children read every day! Make reading a part of your daily routine.
- Make sure they are reading books that are on their level—not too easy and not too hard.
- Help your children find books about things they are interested in—sometimes the key to getting a child to love reading is simply to find the right genre or author.
- Read to your children—they aren't too old for this! Snuggle up and read them a book that is above their own reading level, but which you can read and discuss together.
- Bring your children to the library. The Swinton Library has a free summer program to encourage reading.
- Make a trip to the book shop an occasion for fun.
- Find a series your children enjoy; they'll want to keep reading the next book in the series.
- Encourage them to try new genres—magazines, graphic novels or nonfiction books about a topic they are interested in.
- Talk to your children about what they are reading. Open-ended questions (What would you have done if you were that character? What do you like about this book?) can start a meaningful discussion and show your children that you value what they are reading.
- Turn on the closed captioning on your TV! This is especially good for children whose second language is English.
- Play word games with your children (rhyming, synonyms, opposites, etc.). Google "word games for children" and you'll find many free websites with fun word games.
- Look for websites and apps that reinforce skills. Scholastic.com is a good place to start!
- I can't overstress the importance of being a reader yourself and letting your children see you reading every day. Have fun exploring books and enjoy them together!

Additional reading resources



Books for Topics have a wide range of videos of stories online and have created some great collections for different age groups. Click on the link to find these.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/storytimeonline>

SPELLBOUND

Guiding you through the magic of children's books. Spellbound is a podcast hosted by Melissa Thom that explores books for early years, right the way through to young adult readers.

<https://www.spellboundkids.com/>

Books and Nature



I've has been out exploring the beach with my family this weekend. I'm enjoying reading the book "A Sprinkle of Sorcery" with year 5 at the moment so made my family search the beach for a stone with a hole in it, like the one from the book. It looks very magical! Can you go on a book related adventure like me? Maybe there is something in your garden that reminds you of a book...



