



Our Lady of the Rosary RCVA Primary School

Spring Term 2021 English Newsletter



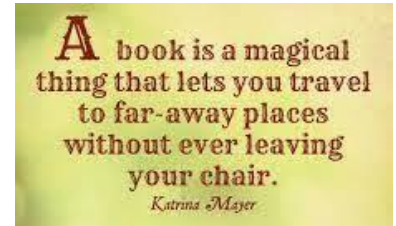
Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

Welcome to our second English newsletter for the 2020-2021 academic year!

In this term's newsletter, we aim to provide you with:

- The latest information about each class' reading and writing successes.
- Top tips for helping your child with their reading journey.
- Information about reading and writing activities in the community.

As always, your support is hugely appreciated,
Miss A. Duke (Year 6 Teacher, KS2 Leader and English Leader)



Top Tips: Reading with your Child

I Spy

Play 'I Spy' games. Can you find words beginning with...? Can you find a picture of a ...? How many ... can you see?

Ask Questions

Ask questions about the story as you read it e.g. What is the story about? Why do you think they made that choice? Was it a good choice? Why did that happen? What do you think will happen next? What was your favourite part of the story? Why?

Make it Fun

Enjoy reading together. Give characters funny voices and engage with the pictures. Make a game out of finding words that rhyme or start with the same sound.

Be Seen

Make sure you are seen reading. Keep books and magazines at easy reach.

Get Out

Go to your public library regularly. Find the books you loved as a kid to read together.

Create

Use reading to inspire drawings or new stories.

Go Online

Look online & in app stores for appropriate word & spelling games.

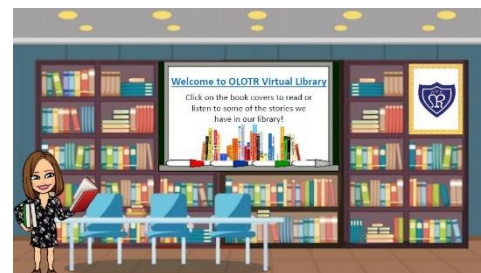
Make Space

Have a special place or a certain time when you read together.

Read everything out loud.

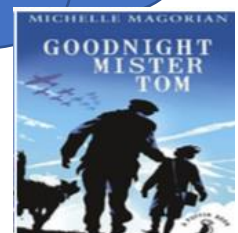
Books, poems, nursery rhymes, newspaper & magazine articles, food labels... anything that is close to hand!

OLOTR Virtual Library



Our Virtual Library has had a Spring update! Please check out the latest additions by accessing it through Class Dojo and the school website!

This term's recommended read for UKS2 is 'Goodnight Mr Tom' by Michelle Magorian!



Easter Reading Activities

Sunderland Library Services have a whole host of free Easter reading, writing, and illustrating sessions for you to attend via their **Sunderland Libraries Facebook page**, including:

- Create fabulous Healthy eating themed posters in an amazing draw along video, with Liz Million.
- Reading of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carl and Supertato by Sue Hendra
- Easter Crafts
- Sir Fruit-a-lot Crafts

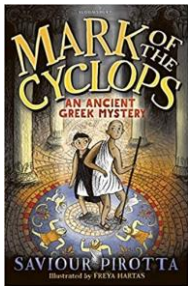


Durham Library Services

Peterlee Library may still be closed, but **Durham Online Library Services** has 32 online storytelling sessions for you to explore with your child! Simply search 'Durham County Council Libraries Online' into YouTube!



Top Tips from the Author (YES – a REAL author!)



Saviour Pirotta The Mysterious Island out now.
@spirotta

Write about the stuff you like and the stuff you hate and write it with passion. Go over the top in your writing. You can always tone it down later.



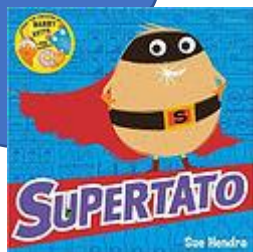
Lucy Strange @theLucyStrange · Mar 28

- VISUALISE before you write. Make sure you can see everything in your head before you try to put it on the page. Mood boards can help with this!

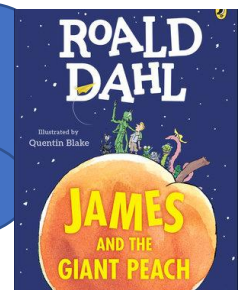


Each term, I will share top tips for reading and writing from various famous children's authors! This term we have Lucy Strange, author of Year 6's core text *Our Castle by the Sea*, and history story author, Saviour Pirotta!

This term's recommended read for KS1 is 'Supertato' by Sue Hendra!



This term's recommended read for LKS2 is 'James and the Giant Peach' by Roald Dahl!



Spring Term Reading and Writing at Our Lady of the Rosary

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| <p>Year 1</p> | <p>Year 1 have been reading the text 'Meerkat Mail'. We had a visit to the school from Sunny the meerkat. He explored the school and then we made our own 'letter maps' of his journey. We then used these maps to write a letter to Sunny's parents to tell them all about his journey and visit to the school. We have also been working hard learning how to extend our sentences using the words 'and' 'but' and 'so'!</p> |
| <p>Year 2</p> | <p>Year 2 have worked extremely hard this term and have loved reading Greta and the Giants by Zoe Tucker. We found out about the brave Greta Thunberg's stance to save the world and discussed all the ways we can look after our magnificent planet Earth. We then created our own non-chronological reports that included all the skills we have learnt over the last few weeks to explain how we can protect our planet. In our reading lessons, we developed our inference skills. We were able to find the hidden messages in the text and its fantastic illustrations!</p> |
| <p>Year 2/3 Year 3</p> | <p>We have continued to read yet more amazing books during this Spring term. During lockdown, we started reading Grandad's Island by Benji Davies, and discovered how Syd and his grandad journeyed to a wild, beautiful island awash in colour where Grandad decided he would remain. At the end of the story, Syd received an envelope from Grandad, so we wrote our own short stories as a sequel to Grandad's Island. We also developed our letter writing skills, where we wrote a letter about our adventures on the island. We were fortunate enough to welcome all children back to school during the second half of the Spring term, where we enjoyed reading The Hedgehog by Dick King Smith. We have learned lots of facts about hedgehogs and written a set of instructions on how to make a hedgehog home. Because we have our very own resident hedgehog on the school grounds, we have decided to test out our instructions and make a real hedgehog home for it to rest during the Summer and Winter months. We will keep you updated on our little project and hopefully our little prickly friend will feel safe and cosy, tucked up in its home.</p> |

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| Year 4 | Year 4 have had a very adventurous spring term! We kicked off our lockdown learning by writing diary entries all about Tadeo Jones, an Egyptian explorer who was trapped in an Egyptian pyramid. We then moved on to writing non-chronological reports, telling our reader lots of interesting facts about cheetahs and lions. Finally, we wrote an adventure story based on the escapades of Frank and Jason – a couple of brothers who get up to lots of mischief! In reading, we have discovered Flat Stanley’s Egyptian adventure in ‘The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery’ and all about a wild wolf in in ‘Run Wild’. Year 4 have worked extremely hard and we can’t wait to see what they do next term. |
| Year 5 | During the Spring term, Year 5 have explored the features of a range of text types including biographies, reports and, most recently an advice guide. The children particularly enjoyed inventing their own mythological creatures to write an entry for the ultimate guide to elves and sprites. Throughout this term, Year 5 have been reading the text Cosmic by Frank Cottrell- Boyce, as their class core text. The story, about a boy who pretends to be an adult, has taken them on a funny and engaging cosmic adventure! |
| Year 6 | What a fantastic term we have had in Year 6! The children have thoroughly enjoyed reading their core texts: ‘Rooftoppers’ by Katherine Rundell and ‘Our Castle By the Sea’ by Lucy Strange, both very exciting stories which had the children on the edge of their seats! These texts have enriched the children’s vocabulary and have extended their reading skills. During our home learning time, the children explored a variety of different writing genres such as poetry, character descriptions and portal stories. Since being back at school, the children have written persuasive letters about plastic waste and endangered animals. Within their writing, the children have developed their use of skills such as semi colons, colons, emotive language, passive voice and embedded relative clauses. We cannot wait to see what we will be reading next term! |



The following children have been selected by their class teachers for showing excellent effort and making excellent progress in their reading and writing this term. They will all receive a special certificate, 10 dojo points, and a chocolate treat. Congratulations!

Year 1 Writer of the Term: **Kendall**

Year 1 Reader of the Term: **Alfie**

Year 2 Writer of the Term: **Alec**

Year 2 Reader of the Term: **Layla**

Year 3 Writer of the Term: **Anna**

Year 3 Reader of the Term: **Oliver**

Year 4 Writer of the Term: **James**

Year 4 Reader of the Term: **Polly**

Year 5 Writer of the Term: **Trai**

Year 5 Reader of the Term: **Grace**

Year 6 Writer of the Term: **Jacob**

Year 6 Reader of the Term: **Leo**

**WE ARE
SO PROUD
OF YOU!**