



Fosse News

Issue Number 13

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World Book Day – Next Thursday, March 5th

Next Thursday is World Book Day. We will be celebrating this, as usual, by asking children to dress up as their favourite book character. Members of staff will also be joining in the fun – costumes do not need to be complicated or expensive. More than anything is an opportunity to celebrate reading. You may want to talk to your child about favourite books – theirs and, if you have one, yours.

For your information, this term we have been looking at how we teach all the different aspects of learning to read. All Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 teachers have been on training to further improve the way we teach: phonics (understanding the sounds each letter or group of letters make to help reading and writing); guided reading (where teachers support small groups to understanding what they are reading) and shared reading (where the whole class share in the reading of a whole book).

Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions or want further information on what you can do to support your child to develop their reading. Essentially though the most important thing you can do is to listen to your child read and read to them, whatever their age!

We have also bid for a large amount of money in order to increase the amount and range of books we have at school – we will be spending around £15,000 to make sure we have enough books to give every child the right resources to help teachers support them to become confident, independent readers.

Our new website – which we hope will be online for the start of the summer term (at last!) will have more information on how we teach reading at Fosse.

Is your child safe on-line ? Are you sure ?

I have received information today from the Police about on-line safety, particularly in relation to video chat sites. Several children across the city have been approached by adults when chatting on on-line video chat sites. This is now beginning to be a real concern. I will not share the site names because children can read this newsletter and it may encourage them to take a look for themselves. If you want to know the name please ask at the office. There are plenty of services aimed at children but it is still our responsibility to check what children are doing.

At Fosse, we pay for a secure filtered service and also receive support so that, for example, if a child types an inappropriate word into a document or search engine we are warned immediately so that children can be reminded about appropriate behaviour.

As far as families are concerned, please make sure that your children do not have unsupervised access to the internet. You should also be using some form of filtering or parental controls to make sure your children cannot access inappropriate material; you should check browsing histories and, particularly for older pupils, make sure that they are not chatting on-line to people that they do not know. I am sure that I don't need to remind parents that it is illegal for children under the age of 13 to have a Facebook account.

Times Tables and 'Postcards Home'

A huge thank-you to all the families helping to support their children learning their times tables. You are making a real difference to your child's learning and future!

Children have said how proud they feel when a postcard drops through their letterbox. We hope you appreciate them too.

Best Wishes Richard Stone

Diary Dates

5th March: World Book Day
13th March: Red Nose Day, Year 5 assembly
17th March: Governors' Committee meetings
19th March: Parents' Evening
26th March: International Day
27th March: Term Ends for Easter
13th April: Summer Term starts