



## How do we promote a love of reading?

At Lawn, our banded book provision for Years Three to Six was extensively updated in December 2021. Following an audit of existing banded reading material, the newly-appointed English Lead found that these year groups were in need of a wider, more up-to-date offer of reading from their banded books. It was important that our banded books reflected the shelves of well-known book shops, rather than being focused solely on reading schemes. We therefore sought the services of a company called Pandora Books, a team of reading experts who meet with publishers and look at a vast number of children's books to assess for interest level, reading level, quality of writing and production, and content that may cause concern. These were all levelled and labelled so that they always return to the correct section of our banded book libraries. It was indeed wonderful to see how excited the children were about this and they couldn't wait to begin to choose their new banded books.

Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) is a well-loved and protected part of our daily timetable at Lawn across all year groups. This is fifteen minutes of reading time (books, comics, online texts, etc.) that we all enjoy at the same time, straight after the lunch break. On Fridays, we really look forward to DEAR With Another Year. This is where our classes mix, with older children pairing up with younger children and taking turns to read to each other.

We are visited by a Roving Book Fair twice a year and these visits always cause a great deal of excitement among pupils and adults alike. Commission made by the school as a result of these events is spent either to enhance teachers' reading areas in their classrooms or our two libraries for EYFS / KS1 and KS2.

Teachers and pupils (supported by adults in school) completed questionnaires in February 2023 as a 'finding-out' exercise about their 'reading diets' and the sorts of texts they enjoy as well as those they'd like to see more of in their classroom reading areas. As a result of this, the English Lead worked with a company called 'Bookwagon'. The two owners of this unique online bookstore review every book they sell, thereby offering bespoke book selections specific to our reading and curriculum needs. Adults and children across school were excited to receive their new consignments of books for their classrooms; we therefore now are proud to say how wide and varied our reading offer is within class, introducing all of us to authors and titles that we may otherwise never have heard of or considered.

All teachers share stories, poems and rhymes as part of their daily story time. Through this and our WCR sessions, teaching staff model how to be expert readers and facilitate quality discussions. Book talk is an important part of reading at Lawn and children are encouraged to make connections between anything they've read themselves or have had read to them.

All children visit one of our libraries at least once a week and are encouraged to borrow and exchange books regularly. Our libraries had a 'face-lift' and were reopened in December 2021 to include a huge amount of brand new books. We continue to add to these, for example with the commission that we receive from our Roving Book Fair visits.

From EYFS2 to Year 6, all classes have (during the 2022-23 academic year), visited our local library to find out about how great and important it is to be a member and to see the wonderful books they could borrow if they joined.



The English Lead ensures that, by facilitating coaching sessions, teaching colleagues are empowered to promote a love for reading, thereby motivating and engaging pupils through their own pedagogies. She has recently completed an Open University course – Developing Reading for Pleasure: engaging young readers. This course will inform wider staff development during 2023-24 (to complement what we already do well) so that all teaching colleagues can:

- Understand how reading changes children's life chances;
- Recognise the relationship between reading for pleasure and reading attainment;
- Describe the social and emotional benefits of being a keen reader;
- Identify challenges and barriers to fostering readers and how to overcome them; and
- Apply research that demonstrates ways to establish a life-long love of reading.

A wide range of respected sources for research is utilised by the English Lead from experts such as: Open University Reading for Pleasure; UK Literacy Association; The Art and Science of Primary Reading (Christopher Such); and Reading Teachers – Nurturing Reading for Pleasure (Teresa Cremin et al).

Here is an overview of some of the ways that we promote a love for reading in our school:

- Sourcing 'real', recently-published banded books for KS2 to ensure a provision of texts which inspire, excite and engage;
- Putting high-quality texts at the heart of Lawn's new Global Citizenship Curriculum across the school;

- World Book Day events designed to ensure that the day was about so much more than dressing up. In 2022, our 'Book Café' day celebrated wonderful picture books across the school and this year (because the children asked for it) we repeated this event, celebrating the work of the Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho. He even sent us a Tweet to wish us well!
- Competitions including 'Book in a Jar', 'Book in a Box', 'Book on a Cake' and book recommendation posters;
- Class reading journals / scrapbooks;
- All classes have visited our local library;
- Derby Children's Picture Book Award 2023 participation;
- Improvement of all reading environments (I am the Learning Environment Lead);
- Regular pupil-voice opportunities and pupil-lead reading clubs;
- DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) and DEAR with Another Year;
- Virtual author events; and
- Successfully bidding for funding to add new high-quality texts to every classroom reading area based on pupil-voice questionnaires. A wonderful online bookshop called Bookwagon curated a bespoke list of recommendations for us to purchase.
- The English Lead, as a member of the UKLA, was a shadow judge for their 2023 Children's Book Awards in the 7-10+ category, sharing her reviews with the books on this shortlist on her school-wide newsletters.

**2023-24 Planned Actions:**

- Book-swap events;
- Pupil Reading Leaders;
- 'Every Teacher A Reader';
- First Chapter Friday; and
- Read for Empathy Day (Empathy Lab).