

# READING AT OATLANDS JUNIOR SCHOOL

At Oatlands Junior School, we want our children to develop a love of reading. We encourage them to view reading as a social activity through which they can relate to and empathise with perspectives other than their own.

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## **Reading Ambassadors:**

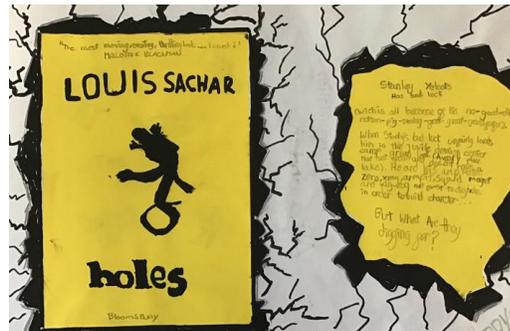
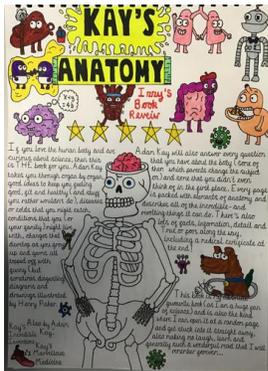
Each class has a Reading Ambassador and these students are our reading enthusiasts! They are in charge of sharing their love of reading with their classmates and the whole school. Here are some of their roles and responsibilities:

- updating and maintaining displays which recommend books to the whole school
- choosing new books for their reading corners based on peer recommendations and book talk in class
- presenting book recommendations in class
- sharing ideas about how we can promote a love of reading here at OJS!



## **Reading Scrapbooks:**

Each class has a Reading Scrapbook in which the children can make reading recommendations. Every child has the opportunity to take the scrapbook home for a few days and complete a page of artwork to promote something they have recently read and enjoyed! Children can then share this with their classmates.



## **The KS2 Reading Fluency Project (Herts for Learning):**

This intervention aims to enhance comprehension skills through prosody, expressive reading, echo reading and exposure to a wide variety of increasingly difficult texts, over a period of 8 weeks. The children take part in two sessions per week with the first focusing on repeated and expressive re-reading of a text, and the second focused on children showing how they know an answer and where to find it in the text.

## **Reading Passports**

Reading Passports aim to encourage children at OJS to explore a range of different genres and topics, by recommending a variety of age-appropriate texts for children to read over the course of the year. This helps them broaden their reading horizons as well as adding to their contextual knowledge.



## **Chatterbooks**

Chatterbooks is a Book Club which aims to engage some of our more reluctant readers through enticing and engaging texts. The children meet once a week within their year groups for adult-facilitated discussion around what they have been reading, in an engaging and social environment.



## **Author Visits/Events**



This year we have been lucky to have a mixture of virtual and real-life author events here at OJS, from SF Said to Katherine Rundell! We also had a very inspiring poetry slam workshop from poet/rapper Rob Bradley, who led a full day of activities for our Year 6 pupils. Visits and events with authors inspire our children to read, write and express themselves, and give them a forum to articulate their thoughts and views on the world.

## **Phonics**

Phonics teaches the links between letters and sounds in order to support younger children in becoming proficient readers. When children require more support with their phonics, they have small group or 1:1 support with an LTA, following the Read, Write, Inc phonics scheme.



## **Daily Class Story**

Each class has a class story read aloud to them everyday by their teacher. The story is read aloud for the children's enjoyment rather than for analytical purposes, and this supports children in developing a love for reading. This in turn develops language, enhances knowledge, vocabulary and cognition, and creates shared bonding through books and stories in common. As children get older, data shows that for a variety of reasons, parents/adults read aloud less and less to their children, so here at OJS we want to ensure every child benefits from hearing adults reading aloud at school.

## **Weekly Library Slot**

In each class' weekly library slot the children are given the opportunity to visit the library, browse different texts and read independently. Many of our children here at OJS enjoy the social aspect of sitting in a comfortable space, sharing books with one another and having time to escape into a story! One in seven public primary schools do not have a library, so we feel very lucky here at our school to have such a wonderful space to enjoy!

## **Reading Corners**

As well as a shared school library, every classroom has a well-stocked reading corner filled with texts that aim to entice our young people and foster a love for reading. Children are encouraged to browse and borrow from class reading corners, and make reading recommendations to one another.

## **Reading Aloud with Adults**

Reading aloud supports children in developing reading fluency which in turn, supports reading comprehension. It also develops children's oracy skills, supporting children in remembering vocabulary, as well as improving their ability to articulate themselves and express themselves aloud.