

St Thomas Church of England Junior School

Celebrating Reading!



"I'm wondering what to read next." - Roald Dahl

*"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."
— J.K. Rowling*

Since the last newsletter was circulated, I'm pleased to report that the Essex Education Task Force, having seen how successful this initiative has been, now plan to extend the Essex Year of Reading into a second year to reach the aim of ensuring every Essex child leaves school able to read at their age level or better. Over the course of the rest of this academic year and beyond, we will continue to offer exciting initiatives for the children to enjoy, which will also help to encourage a love of reading.

Reading Tree for 2022/23

Library lunchtime drop-ins continue to be extremely busy. It's wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the children who are working their way towards the next reading award (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum) as they read books across the different branches (genres) of our school tree. So far we have awarded the following number of certificates:

Bronze – 61

Silver – 15

Gold – 3

Platinum - 1



The children are decorating the tree with their 'book recommendations'. So far, Adam Kay's 'Kay's Anatomy' is proving to be very popular!

Podcasts

A lot of the children tell me how much they enjoy listening to podcasts. Following on from the last newsletter, I have found a couple that may be of interest to those who prefer facts rather than fiction. We also stock the magazines they are linked to in the library.

[Mysteries of Science podcast - Fun Kids - the UK's children's radio station \(funkidslive.com\)](https://www.fun-kids.com) The team from The Week Junior Science+Nature magazine investigate the unexplained and bust some myths.

<https://omny.fm/shows/the-week-junior-show/playlists/podcast> The Week Junior Show takes you behind the scenes of the magazine.

Football!

Since the start of the World Cup 2022, we have had a lot of requests for football related books which is fantastic to hear. Frank Lampard's Magic Football series (aimed at lower school readers) has been flying off the shelf. You may also have noticed that there are a number of women in football books on our Gift a Book at Christmas list for 2022. I have three football related book recommendations that would make a perfect last-minute stocking filler.

Girls FC 1: Do Goalkeepers Wear Tiaras? by Helena Pielichaty

Nine-year-old Megan Fawcett loves football and is desperate to be on her school team. She tries everything to get the coach to notice her (even wearing a tiara!), but nothing seems to do the trick. Then Megan has her big brainwave: she could start her own team. An all-girls team!

The Story of the World Cup by Richard Brassey

From the first tournament in Uruguay to England's legendary 1966 win and beyond, with red cards, penalty shoot-outs and goals galore, this book is full of fun facts football fans can use to impress their family and friends.

Barry Loser is the Best at Football - NOT! by Jim Smith

Everyone at Barry's school has gone football crazy, but Barry gets thrown out of the team for being rubbish. Then it turns out that his best friend Bunky is a super striker – so Barry becomes his manager. The cup final match is approaching and Bunky's getting carried away with his football fame – can Barry keep his head in the game?

Gift a Book at Christmas

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your kind and generous donations to the 'Gift a Book at Christmas' scheme. The idea of this new initiative was to seek parental support in enhancing our school library so that our children have access to the very best books and continue to develop a love of reading. I look forward to adding the new books and magazines to our library in the New Year. There is still time to donate – we have extended the time period on Parent Pay to the end of December 2022.

Mrs Clare Emery, School Librarian

