



'DIGGING DEEP TO AIM HIGH'

5TH MAY 2023

NEWSLETTER

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Dates for your Diary

Wednesday, 24th May

The Link is off to the Circus! - details to follow

Saturday, 24th June

**Link Association Summer Fair at the Primary Site
12.00pm - 3.00pm**

Thursday, 29th June

Secondary Site Sports Day

Wednesday, 5th July

Secondary Site Parents' Evening - details to follow

Tuesday, 13th July

Transition Day

Friday, 14th July

Secondary Site Prom

Tuesday, 18th July

Secondary Site Leavers BBQ

Monday, 17th July

Primary Site Sports Day

Wednesday, 19th July

Primary Site Leavers' Assembly - invitations to follow

Thursday, 20th July

**Last day of academic year
Early finish for students:
Satellite Site - 1.00pm
Secondary Site - 1.00pm
Primary Site - 1.15pm**

There is no greater gift than being able to read.

From the very first stories we hear, when sitting on our parents' laps as young children or during story time at school, books can transport us into another time or place, fuelling our imagination, opening our minds and hopefully fostering our love of words and language.

As we get older, we also read to gain knowledge and information, be it from a book or on-line.

It really is a gift.

This week's focus is about reading. You will learn about the different reading strategies we use at the primary site and the foundations we use to teach children how to read, but more importantly we encourage them to enjoy it.

Once their thirst for reading is ignited, we take every opportunity to ensure their reading skills develop.

You will also have an update about the secondary site's new library, which is most certainly a hit amongst all the students.

So grab a coffee, have a sit down and enjoy reading this week's newsletter.

Let's Get Reading!

In Literacy at the primary site, this year we have focused on looking at the 5 key reading strategies used by individuals when they read.

1. Objects of Reference



An object of reference is any object which is used systematically to represent an item, activity, place or person. Understanding real objects is the first stage of symbolic development. Therefore using objects is considered the most concrete way of representing a word. Objects of reference are used with individuals who find it difficult to understand spoken words, signs, symbols or photographs.

The object can be:

- A real object, for example a toilet roll to represent going to the toilet
- Part of a real object, for example part of a towel to represent bath time
- Miniature objects, for example a toy desk to represent that it is time to work

- Abstract objects, for example a silk scarf to represent a particular person

2. Symbols for Use in the Environment

We all use symbols in the environment in our everyday life - consider road signs and logos. These are a natural form of communication.



Symbols can support and help develop children's communication skills as they help our spoken language to be more tangible. Providing these communication supports also gives children who do not have good communication skills extra methods with which to get their message across.

3. Symbol Use in Sentences

Some of the ways we use symbol use in sentences in school are by using

- communication books
- communication boards
- Communication in Print
- Colourful Semantics.

These use symbols in sentences to aid understanding. They are also used by the children to articulate their thinking.



The Link Library

The library at our secondary site is now up and running as a quiet study area and place to borrow or use resources. It is lovely to see so many of our students using the library and showing respect for the books we - and they - have chosen.

The quiet study area has become exactly as was intended; an area for quiet reading, playing board games or checking out our growing collection of Phoenix comics. Every Monday break-time Story Club is held in the quiet area : a chance for our students to come with their snacks and listen to a story being read. This term they are listening to 'Myths from around the World'.

We will soon have an electronic recording system in place where students can borrow and return their resources by zapping barcodes.

Alex's Book of the Month

One of our students writes a book review for display in the library.

This month he has chosen the book series 'Adventures on Trains'. It has been a great way to bring new books to the attention of all our students.



Favourite Reads

1. Heartstopper by Alice Osman
2. World of Football - How to Play Like a Pro
3. Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl



WEX

The library has been supporting sixth form students undertaking work experience ('WEX') by helping site manager Graham with preparing and painting furnishings, such as our new window seat and returns box. Other students have been helping with auditing returns and organising shelves.



International Women's Day

This was marked with a new book purchase. We are especially pleased with the new biographical books this includes, looking at important student activists such as Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg.

Previously, the library has marked the Football World Cup and Black History Month. These have been used to highlight the many great books held in our library, whether they are sport-related, or works written by black British authors and people of colour.



Reading Programme

We recently sent home some information about a student reading programme that we would like to launch at the start of the next academic year. If you are interested in volunteering, or feel you have questions to ask before being able to respond, please don't hesitate to contact us via Karen Hayward in the first instance.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE SATELLITE SITE?

This week 7 VIPs were made welcome at the satellite site chicks!

Arriving as eggs, they quickly hatched to meet our lovely learners. The students waited for at least 2 chicks to hatch before removing them from the incubator so they didn't get separation anxiety.



Visit to the Garden Centre

Last week we had our first big trip out! We went to Flittons garden centre to buy plants with the money Archie raised at the Christmas fair with his environmental storybook.

The chicks have been taught to eat and drink and the students have guided them to the heat amp so they can warm their feathers after a long hatch.

Everyone makes sure they have enough food and water before we tuck them in for the night.

The chicks are fuzzy and not yellow like we expected. Leyland says they are cute and calming.



We bought carrots, lettuce, strawberries, tomatoes, basil and thyme to grow and try eating once fully grown. Emily said "it was fun"; Leyland said "it was good and everyone looked out for each other".

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL?

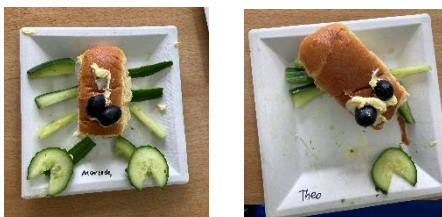
Building on the interest that Sue Denman's Special Moments assembly sparked last week, this week pupils have been discovering more about King Charles Coronation.

From making crowns to discussing the royal family, the pupils have embraced the importance of the occasion. Even their weekly dance sessions had a regal theme to them as the students donned a crown and performed very regal sashays under Rania's guidance.



Our week culminated in everyone wearing red, white and blue.

Hazel Class even designed their own special Coronation delicacies during their Friday wellbeing session.



We think you will agree, their healthy crusty crab sandwiches look far more appetizing than the Royal Quiche!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND AND ABOUT?

Would your child like to design a suit of armour for King Charles III?

The Royal Armouries have launched a competition for all primary and secondary school children to celebrate the coronation.

Children have until 2nd July to get creative and design a new armour for the King, with three age categories and VIP tickets to their Jousting Tournament in August as a prize for each category.

The overall winner will be put forward to be made into a suit of armour for His Majesty.

Attached to this newsletter you will find an information pack, together with the entry form.

AND FINALLY

Remember that there is no school on Monday, due to the additional Bank Holiday in acknowledgement of the Coronation. Enjoy your extra day - however you choose to spend it and try to fit in a little shared reading time.