



READING MATTERS

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path".
(Psalm 119:105)

December 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Imagine this: It's Christmas Eve and after receiving a brand-new book from your family, you cozy up in your favourite reading nook or in front of the fire with a mug of hot chocolate and spend the rest of the evening reading.

That's exactly how Icelandic people celebrate Christmas each year. This tradition is known as , which translates roughly to "Christmas book flood" in English.

Jolabokafloed started during World War II, when paper was one of the few things not rationed in Iceland. Consequently, Icelanders gave books as gifts while other commodities were in short supply, turning them into a country of bookaholics to this day. So this Christmas Eve, why not have your own "book flood" and enjoy spending quality time with your loved ones and a wonderful new book?

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Lathall

Mrs Lathall Reading Co-ordinator

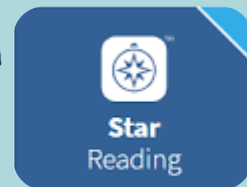


Year 7 and 8 STAR Reading Tests



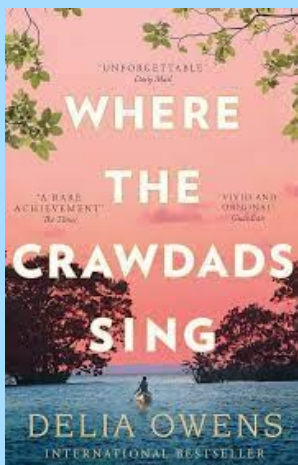
Pupils in Years 7 and 8 have completed their first STAR reading test this term.

Pupils have written their reading age and ZPD in their planners.



Staff book review

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens



The imagery in this book is phenomenal. The scenery that Owen implants into your head is amazing. Kya, also known as the Marsh Girl by the local town residents, is a very shy young woman who grows up within the deep of the marsh (hence her name), abandoned - one by one - by her entire family and left to fend for herself. For over 10 years, she lives off the land, exploring and learning by watching life in the wild. Through different circumstances, she encounters a few acquaintances along the way, most of whom disappoint her enough that she's permanently convinced life is better alone, despite yearning to be with someone. I feel as if Kya can be understood and empathised with by just about anyone. She's relatable in many ways, especially as she navigates the discoveries of new emotions, of life and love in general. You can't help but hurt for her, root for

her and wish to defend her against the prejudices she endures.

A fabulous book!

Review by G Janes

All pupils in Years 7 and 8 are involved in a program called Accelerated Reader. This program has not only been specifically designed to improve pupils' reading ability and continue to raise their reading age, but also to encourage and nurture a love of reading that will continue into adulthood.



Reading is a national priority for a number of reasons: being able to demonstrate competent reading skills is essential for subjects across the entire curriculum. Scientific research shows clearly that a pupil who reads regularly for 20 minutes per day is far more likely to be successful at GCSE level and beyond.

The Accelerated Reader Program works by identifying a pupil's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which is essentially a selection of books that will not only match their ability, but will also challenge them and develop their vocabulary. As pupils are not currently able to access the school library, we are encouraging students to read any books they have at home whether or not the book falls within their ZPD.

When they have finished a book, students can take a short, electronic quiz that assesses their understanding of what they have read. This enables us as teachers to have meaningful discussions about a pupil's reading: what they have learnt and how we can help them to develop. To check if there is a quiz available for any books your child has at home, please check www.arbookfind.co.uk. Students can access AR via the school website.

We would like to ask for your assistance in ensuring that your son/daughter reads regularly at home for short periods of time as this will help to boost their reading confidence and their reading ability.

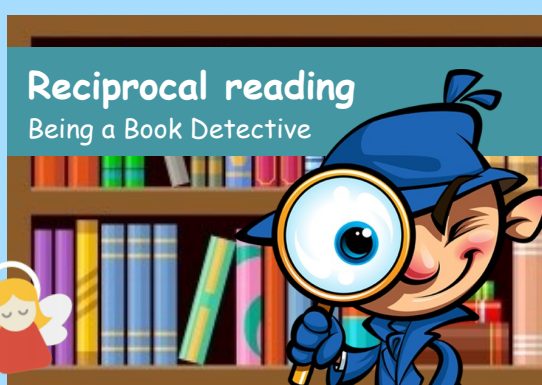
If you have any questions about reading or the program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Independent Learning Time

Reciprocal reading is a reading practice designed to develop and support comprehension. Students are encouraged to read, talk and think their way through a text using the following skills: Prediction, Clarify, Question and Summarise.

Every Friday, pupils in years 7 and 8 are developing their reciprocal reading skills by studying a selection of Gothic short stories.

During the sessions, pupils get the opportunity to listen to a story and then use reciprocal reading skills to help them with their understanding.



Reciprocal reading

Being a Book Detective



I'd love to hear your book recommendations. Please email me at Lathall.I@allsaints.notts.sch.uk with your top reads! You can also send me any reading related news that you'd like me to share. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lathall

Mrs Lathall



Millionaire Readers

Lots of wonderful reading has taken place this term. We have students who have already read over a million words and one student who has read over 5 million! Well done!

Year 7

Jetsy K 5,040,472

Lena K 1,029,743

Year 8

Lily K 1,598,199



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