



## Spring 2 Reading Newsletter

Welcome to Christ the King's Reading Newsletter for Spring 2 2023. In this newsletter and those that follow, we would like to share updates with our community about what is going on in school to promote a love of reading for pleasure. At CtK, we aim to open the minds of our children through the power of reading. Using our wide and growing collection of books we want to; inspire and engage children, support their understanding of the wider world including culture and diversity and provide role models for the children through a variety of authors. We hope this newsletter keeps you up to date and provides you with ideas and inspiration to foster a love of a reading at home with your child. If you have any recommended reads, please let us know!

### World Book Day 2023!

CtK celebrated World Book this term in our pyjamas and brought in our favourite book and teddy. The day started with story time in the Hall with Mrs Barker for KS2 and Mrs Jones for FS1-KS1. Our new Reading Ambassadors led a book quiz for the children and teachers to take part in to test their knowledge of well-known books. Throughout the day, the children focused on the theme of Traditional tales in their classrooms; reading them, acting them out, re-writing the endings and craft making linked to the stories - year 3 even baked bread!

We also had our first Book Swap Shop, which was a huge success. We had hundreds of books donated that we displayed in the hall and any children who had donated were able to exchange a raffle ticket for a book to take home, the children loved this opportunity!

In the afternoon, all KS2 classes merged with an FS or KS1 class to share their favourite book. It was lovely to see an excitement for reading and listen to our older children read so confidently to the younger children (who listened very intently).



FS1, FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoying story time with Mrs Jones.



KS2 story time in the hall with Mrs Barker.

Year 5 choosing their books at the Book Swap



Year 4 spending time in our school library on WBD.



Year 6 sharing stories with their buddies.

### COMING SOON...

#### Reading Café at CtK

Come along to a morning session in our school hall to read with your child. From 8:45 to 8:55 you will be able to grab a biscuit and look at some of the recommended reads provided by teaching staff for your child's age group. Then you will be joined by your child's class to take the opportunity to read a story with your child and their friends. We will be starting with **1SH on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April** in the Junior Hall. Drop your child off at the gates and sign in at reception. The session will finish by 9.30am. For those children whose parent or grandparent is unable to make it, books will be shared with another parent or a Teaching Assistant.





# IDEAS FOR PARENTS...

Ideas of books for your child to read that are age appropriate and in a similar genre to one they may have read previously:

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/what-should-i-read-next/>

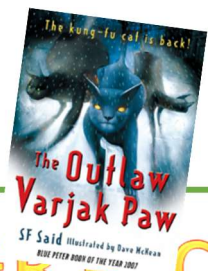
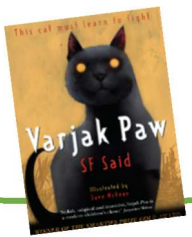
More books suggestions in age appropriate pages:

<https://clpe.org.uk/books/corebooks?f%5B0%5D=year-group%3A346>

Reading with your child tips:

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/parent-support/reading-your-child/>

**Year 4** have enjoyed reading Varjak Paw so much! Did you know there is a sequel book called 'The Outlaw Varjak Paw'? If your child is in year 4 (or 5/6) and is looking for a new book to read this might be the one to keep them hooked on reading.



# PHONICS SUPPORT FOR PARENTS...

Our Reception and Year 1 children have been busy learning lots of new graphemes this year. We teach them to say and blend sounds into words using 'Robot Arms' and 'Blending Hands'. Some children may need more practice to develop this skill. Here are some top tips...

Model blending the sounds in words yourself. "I need to get my c-o-a-t, coat!"

Use pure sounds and encourage your child to do the same. It will be easier for them to merge the sounds together. This means drop the /uh/

Ensure your child knows the sounds of the graphemes you are asking them to identify. Gaps in knowledge might be causing the issue

When blending for reading start by identifying the letters and blending the sounds in VC words (in,at,on)

Encourage your child to orally blend sounds. This means you say the individual phonemes and your child says the word

Peg cards on a washing line to spell a word. Move them closer together each time you say the phonemes to demonstrate the sounds blending.

**How can I help my child to blend?**

Reading words that start with a continuous consonant, like ssss, fff and mmm, can make it easier to blend the sounds

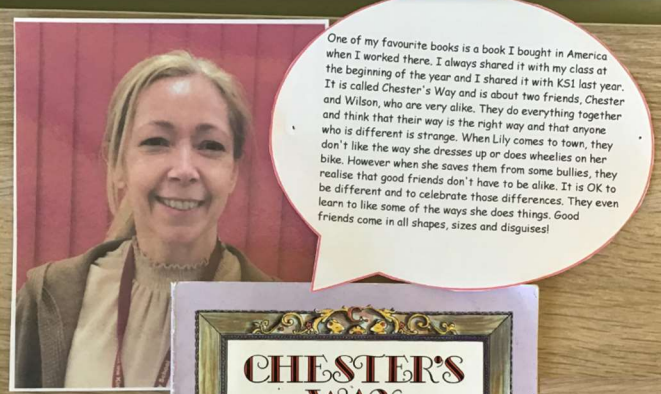
Play games that develop auditory memory, like sound bingo or matching shakers, as this skill is vital for children when they begin reading. Reading involves holding the sounds in our heads, recalling them and blending them together.

Use sound buttons under the word. Each time your child presses the button they say the sound. Press them increasingly faster and blend the sounds together at the end

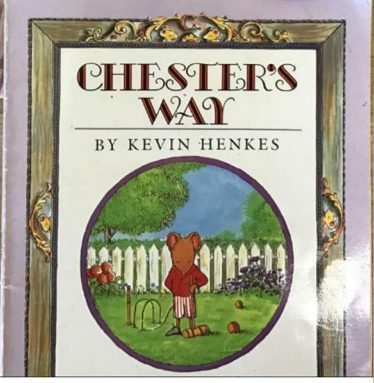
Use multi-sensory, hands-on ways to model and support blending like pushing a train or car under the word

@Phonics Family

# ★ TEACHER RECOMMENDED READS ★

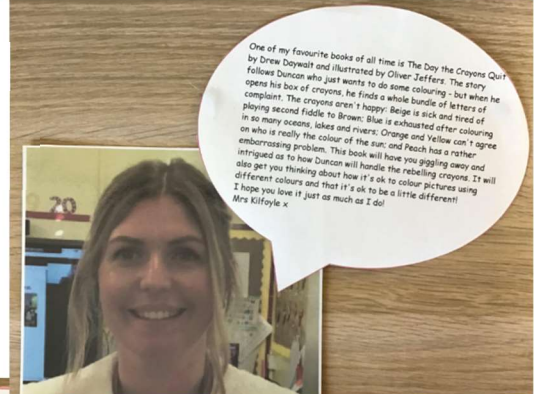


One of my favourite books is a book I bought in America when I worked there. I always shared it with my class at the beginning of the year and I shared it with KS1 last year. It is called Chester's Way and is about two friends, Chester and Wilson, who are very alike. They do everything together and think that their way is the right way and that anyone who is different is strange. When Lily comes to town, they don't like the way she dresses up or does wheelies on her bike. However when she saves them from some bullies, they realise that good friends don't have to be alike. It is OK to be different and to celebrate those differences. They even learn to like some of the ways she does things. Good friends come in all shapes, sizes and disguises!



Mrs Barker recommends

Mrs Kilfoyle recommends



One of my favourite books of all time is *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers. The story opens with a box of crayons, he finds a whole bundle of letters of playing second fiddle to Brown. Blue is exhausted after colouring in so many oceans, lakes and rivers. Orange and Yellow can't agree on who is really the colour of the sun, and Peach has a rather embarrassing problem. This book will have you giggling away and also get you thinking about how it's ok to be a little different. I hope you love it just as much as I do! Mrs Kilfoyle x

One of the books I have enjoyed reading recently is *Holes* by Louis Sachar. I decided to read this book whilst I was on holiday in Spain and I couldn't put it down! It is about a group of boys who are unfortunate enough to end up in a place that no one would want to be. The things that happen next lead to adventures and drama that you would never expect. This book is witty and mysterious at the same time, making you want to turn the next page to find out what may happen next.

Trust me, pick up this book to read and you won't be disappointed.



Mrs Jones recommends