

Transforming our School's Reading Culture

By Sarah Mulligan



Where our story began...



- Our pupils are provided with a range of quality texts and reading opportunities both in school and at home.
- Our Big Red Bus, the exciting destination for reading, stocked with lots of quality, diverse texts.
- Reading Ambassadors from each class, our designated librarians.
- Limited space for pupils to access reading independently.



Our Journey So Far...



The Big Red Bus



In late July 2022 we officially opened our 'Big Red Bus', our exciting destination for reading, packed with lots of quality, diverse texts as well as some favourite classics. Our Reading Ambassadors were responsible for choosing the texts for our bus. They went on a trip to our local bookseller to pick the books that they thought our pupils would like. Prior to our bus opening, books were stored in a small space within school - which wasn't very enticing and didn't have the same sort of space that we now have, or within class library areas.

The Big Red Bus, Continued

	8:45 – 9:00	9:00- 9:15	9:00 – 10:15	10:15 – 10:30	10:30 – 10:45	10:45 – 11:00	11:00 – 12:00	12:00 – 1:00	1:00 – 2:00	2:00 – 2:15	2:15 – 2:45	2:45 – 3:20
Monday	ES & GR Intervention			Break	ES & GR Intervention			Lunch	Y3	Break		Assembly
Tuesday			Peterhouse School		Peterhouse School	Peterhouse School	Peterhouse School				Y4 Bus	
Wednesday									Y2 Bus		Y5 Bus	
Thursday											Y1 Bus	
Friday									Y3 Bus		Y6 Bus	

Each class has a timetabled slot throughout the week to go on to the bus and read for pleasure, during this time pupils are encouraged to choose a book to take home, alongside their home reading books. We have a signing out procedure and library cards, just like our local library, to keep track of our wonderful texts.

To date, children aren't able to freely go on to the bus without adult supervision; however, we have recently upgraded our school gates to make the area safer for our pupils, so this could be something that we could look to implement in the future.





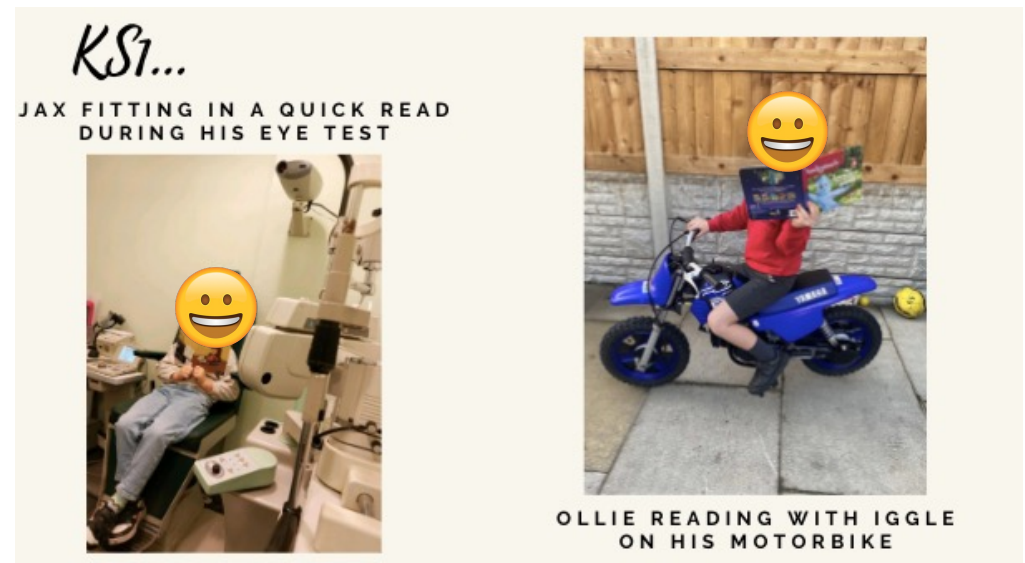
Creating an RfP Culture

As well as timetabling our bus, we have adapted our whole school timetable so that RfP is made a priority for all year groups. At 3PM, all pupils listen to an adult read, in KS2 this is often an opportunity for them to continue reading their English core text, as well stories from a designated author; whereas in KS1 pupils hold a class vote to choose from two stories to read.



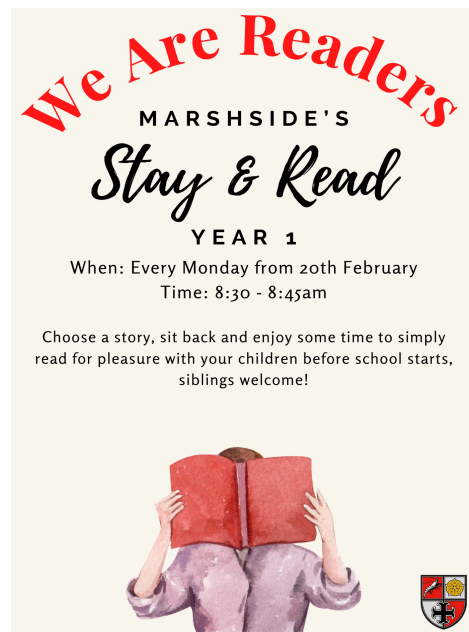
We Are Readers Competition

To encourage our pupils to read for pleasure, in the first half of the Autumn term we held a reading challenge, Marshside's Strangest Places to Read to recognise and celebrate children's reading. 27/172 pupils entered the competition, all pupils that entered received a prize. This wasn't quite the numbers we'd hoped for; however, all pupils enjoyed seeing what their peers had been up to. *In the future, we intend to hold more RfP competitions, with the next being 'Read to your Knees!'. In addition, exploring Pupil Voice to ascertain barriers to RfP.*



Stay & Read

During the second half of the Spring term, Y1 trialled a 'Stay & Read for parents and pupils. I found that during the initial few weeks lots of families attended; however, toward the end of term there were less and less each week. *We have since identified parental engagement as an emerging area for improvement in order to build a community of readers. 'We ask, you said, we did'.*





World Book Day 2023

14:43
Spud-tacular!

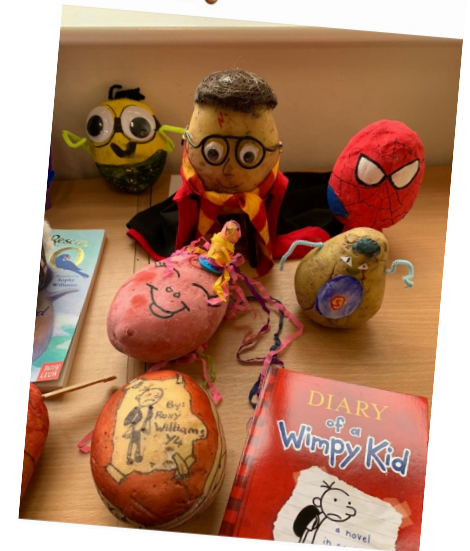
“Year 4 at Marshside Primary School have been decorating potatoes as their favourite books!”
Year 4 at Marshside Primary School, Southport



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Sefton Live
11 m ·

This is such a creative idea. Marshside Primary School marked #WorldBookDay2023 by bringing in decorated potatoes in the style of their favourite book characters.



On 11/1/2023 I attended the 'Making World Book Day Purposeful' course ran by New Vision English Hubs. From this myself and our English lead planned a 'purposeful' World Book Day for our school, and we made it on to the BBC and Sefton Live Twitter pages! On the day we invited a local author to visit and read with our pupils, he also sold signed copies of his books to our families at the end of the day.

Where to next?

- Use *Pupil Voice* and *Parent Questionnaires* to understand barriers to RfP at home.
- Knowledge - Continue to develop staff knowledge of RfP as well as of quality texts, graphic novels.
- Knowledge - Complete the Open University's *Developing Reading for Pleasure: engaging young readers* free course.
- Access - create a space for children to read independently, *outdoor classroom – book box, similar to 'Little Library'*.
- Hold more reading competitions to encourage RfP.
- Opening the Big Bus to parents before and after school.
- Engaging with National / International reading days.
- Featured author for each class.

