

19th February 2024

Dear Parents,

At South Farnham School, we believe that reading is a crucially important skill with a wide range of benefits. Reading allows children to better understand the world around them, to engage with ideas and concepts beyond their own reality, and to spark and fuel their imagination and creativity. We consider reading to be not only fundamental for accessing the full curriculum, but also to be integral for personal fulfilment.

We are therefore delighted to be participating in a wide range of reading related events and activities over the coming weeks. Please see below a reminder of the details of these special events, alongside some information about how you can continue to support your child's reading development at home.

Book Fair – Wednesday 21st – Monday 26th February 2024

This week, both the Infant and the Junior Site will be visited by the Scholastic Travelling Book Fair. Purchasing books at the Travelling Book Fair helps to support the school as a percentage of total sales are donated back to the school by Scholastic. All children will receive their £1 World Book Day token this week.

To enable all children to access the fair and minimise queuing, we have suggested the following days for different year groups below.

| Infant Site Fair (3.15pm – 4.15pm) <i>Held in the Studio</i> | | Junior Site Fair (3.30pm – 4.30pm) <i>Held in the Main Hall</i> | |
|---|---------------|--|-----------------------|
| Wednesday 21 st February | Year R | Wednesday 21 st February | Year 3 |
| Thursday 22 nd February | Year 1 | Thursday 22 nd February | Year 4 |
| Friday 23 rd February | Year 2 | Friday 23 rd February | Year 5 & 6 |

The Book Fair will also be open on Monday 26th February for a final opportunity to purchase books and support the school.

Please note that the Travelling Book Fair is cashless, and payments can only be accepted via debit or credit card on the day.

World Book Day Dress-Up Day – Thursday 7th March 2024

The children are incredibly excited for our annual World Book Day dress-up day on Thursday 7th March where they are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. The costume can be as simple or as elaborate as you like. You can find some costume ideas here: <https://www.worldbookday.com/dressing-up-ideas/>. We would also like to invite children to bring to school the book that their character is from so that they can share this with their class. Children will take part in reading-themed activities throughout the day to help foster a love of reading and literature.

There will be a special World Book Day menu served on Thursday 7th March, please book via ParentPay (the menu is attached to this message).

Reading at Home

In addition to children's scheduled home learning tasks each week, we strongly encourage that children are given the opportunity to read with, to, or under the supervision of, an interested and supportive adult. Not only does research suggest that reading for as little as 15 minutes per day can have a significant impact on a child's reading skills, but there are also many other benefits relating to their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Children in Years R – 3 are provided with reading records within which your comments from reading at home with your child should be recorded.

More information about how to support your child's reading at home can be found on our website here:
<https://www.southfarnhamschool.org/page/?title=English+and+Languages&pid=374>

Parent Readers

We are always delighted to invite willing parents to volunteer in our school as class readers. This initiative is a lovely way for you as a parent to become more involved in school life by supporting children in your child's class and year group as they continue to develop as young readers.

We are incredibly fortunate to have spacious library facilities at both sites which are available for use throughout the day. As timetables vary across classes and year groups, please do let us know which times work best for you and your lifestyle via our registration form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/aE9UyNq4zJ>.

Please note that all volunteers at South Farnham School require an enhanced DBS check, specifically for the purpose of volunteering with children at South Farnham School, which can be obtained via the office. Please do not hesitate to contact the office at either site for support with this.

Once you have registered as a parent reader and we have conducted the relevant checks, your child's class teacher will be in contact to arrange a suitable time for you to come in and read with members of the class each week.

A love of reading fostered at an early age has consistently been identified as the single biggest indicator for children's future successes. We were therefore delighted to have recently received a letter of commendation from the Minister for Schools regarding our exceptional teaching of phonics, and to have been named as the number one school in Surrey and Hampshire.

As ever, your support is truly appreciated, and we look forward to a fun-filled half term celebrating the joy associated with a love of reading.

Best wishes,
Miss Whitbourn