



## St John's Autumn Reading Newsletter

October 2019

Welcome back to our new school year. I hope you had a lovely summer break, enjoying reading and sharing lots of our summer recommended books.

Our termly reading newsletters are a great opportunity for us to share with our families how we develop reading in school and promote a love of reading. We recognise the importance of reading and want to encourage our children to read for pleasure, both in school and at home.

Our staff work extremely hard to teach our children to read and also share their love of reading. Our English text-led curriculum ensures that our children are immersed in books which support their development in reading and writing. This year, like any other, our children will be drenched in books and reading will be a key priority on our School Development Plan.

**Mrs Losada**  
Reading Assistant Headteacher



### Parent Reading Workshops

Please come along to one of our reading workshops

#### Nursery:

Nursery will be hosting three workshops:

15<sup>th</sup> October 9.00am

16<sup>th</sup> October 9.00am

18<sup>th</sup> October 9.00am

#### Reception:

17<sup>th</sup> October 9.00am

**Year 1:** 15<sup>th</sup> October 9:00 – 9:30 am

**Year 2:** 16<sup>th</sup> October 9:00 – 9:30 am

## The Importance of Reading at Home

**At St John's we know how important it is for teachers and parents to work together to give your child the best start in education.**

Reading together at home is one of the easiest but most important ways in which you can help your child.

Your child's reading diary plays an integral part of their home learning and forms a record of their reading habits and progress.

**We ask that every child tries to read for at least 20 minutes per night.**

Children from Year 3 upwards can write in their reading records themselves and this is checked by their class teacher 3 times a week. When we come together to do this, it is also an opportunity for children to recommend texts they are reading to their friends.

### Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

**Student "A"**  
reads **20 minutes** each day

3600 minutes in a school year

1,800,000 words



**Student "B"**  
reads **5 minutes** each day

900 minutes in a school year

282,000 words



**Student "C"**  
reads **1 minute** each day




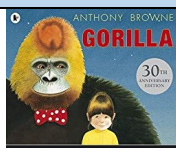

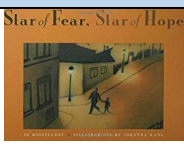
180 minutes in a school year

8,000 words



How reading supports your child's development

## Our Autumn Key Texts and Themes

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
						
Trust and friendships	Friendships and feelings	It's Good to be me and difference	Diversity and inclusion	Animals in captivity and parenting	Inspirational women and striving for goals	The impact of war and bravery

**We have a fantastic text-led curriculum at St John's which drives all our topics. Have a look at the fabulous texts your child will be studying this half term.**



## National Poetry Day Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October



**National Poetry Day** is a UK-wide celebration of poetry taking place every October. Each year there's a different theme and in 2019 **the theme is Truth.**

This year **Mr Freeman** led a great day to celebrate poetry. Have a look on our school twitter account to see some of the children performing their very own poems.



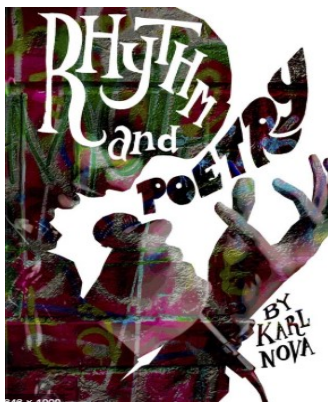
## Poet Visit

Inviting authors and illustrators to schools is a fantastic way of inspiring our children to read and write.

We are delighted that the award winning poet, Karl Nova, will be visiting our Federation on the 20th and 21st November to inspire our children's love of poetry.

Karl is a Hip Hop artist, author and poet. He is the winner of CLIPPA 2018 for Rhythm and Poetry.

Karl will share stories of his childhood and how he wrote his early poems. In his workshops, he will make the children think about how they too can write fun poetry on just about anything.



## Our Termly Teacher Recommendations

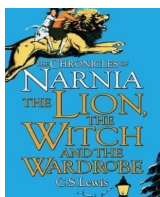
### Mrs Robinson

My recommendation is the '**Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**'. I love this book as it's a real classic. My last

Year 5 class thoroughly enjoyed reading it and it was fantastic to see them engaged in reading a famous classic. The author uses such

powerful descriptive language so that you feel, as a reader, that you are actually in Narnia with Edmund, Lucy, Susan and Peter. It makes your imagination run wild! I love how the

book has moments of humour, sadness and suspense too. Everyday we wanted to read on (even when the school bell rung for home time!).



### Mrs Zaman

I'm a big fan of historical fiction and ghost stories, so I have chosen '**A Christmas Carol**' by Charles Dickens. This is a famous classic which set in Victorian England and every child in KS2 should read it! As a child, I was hooked. I spent many mornings before school reading this book.

I love how good triumphs over evil, but not until tremendous trial has been gone through. From Oliver Twist to Great Expectations one is never disappointed. Mr. Dickens is amazing and addictive.



### Mr Smith

One of my favourite authors is Jim Field so my Year 2 class and I have loved rereading '**The Lion Inside**' by Jim Field.

We have enjoyed revisiting a book they explored in Year 1 and thrived from reading it with expression and adding actions for different characters. It's great to discuss the meaning behind the story and we have embraced the tenacity of never giving up! A message that runs throughout the story and one which we will use throughout our time in Year 2.

