

## **Autumn Term English Newsletter**

### **Celebrating the Magic of Reading and Writing!**

Welcome to our Autumn term English newsletter, where we celebrate the joy of reading and writing! This term, our children have delved into a variety of exciting texts, sparking creativity and a love of language. Each class has engaged with at least two high-quality books, using them as the foundation for rich discussions, creative writing, and developing key literacy skills. Writing is a major focus across the school, with children exploring different genres and styles inspired by their reading.

#### **Books That Took Us Places**

- **EYFS: Marvellous me** – Children were introduced to whole class story times, talking about families, friends and sharing own experiences.
- **Year 1: Traditional tales and Rhymes** - Our Year 1 children have been building early literacy skills with an array of exciting stories and activities.
- **Year 2: *The Wolf, the Duck, and the Mouse***—This charming adventure brought laughter and creativity, with children crafting their own exciting tales.
- **Year 4: *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan**—Through this beautifully illustrated story, children explored themes of belonging, curiosity, and compassion.
- **Year 5: *Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver**—Children journeyed into the Stone Age with Torak, experiencing a gripping adventure and developing their understanding of nature and survival.
- **Year 6: *Holes* by Louis Sachar**—This thought-provoking novel encouraged discussions about resilience, friendship, and overcoming challenges.

*"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one."* – George R.R. Martin

#### **Writing Corner: Tips and Tricks to Refine Writing Skills**

We are focusing on helping children enhance their writing through engaging and creative techniques:

- **Power Words:** Vivid, descriptive words bring stories to life—small changes can make writing more dynamic.
- **Use the Five Senses:** Encourage vivid descriptions by engaging sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell.
- **Vary Sentence Lengths:** Mixing short and long sentences creates rhythm and keeps the writing interesting.
- **Metaphors and Similes:** These comparisons add style and expression to writing, helping children develop more creative descriptions.
- **Editing for Excellence:** We teach children that editing is an essential part of the writing process, helping them improve their first drafts into polished pieces.

## 📣 Get Involved at Home! 📣

Supporting your child's love for reading and writing at home can make a world of difference. Here are some fun ideas to try:

**Family Book Club** – Choose a book you can all read together and discuss over dinner.

**Encourage Questions:** After reading, ask your child questions about the story, characters, and what they think will happen next. This promotes comprehension.

**Be Patient:** If your child is struggling with a word or sentence, resist the urge to jump in. Give them time to figure it out and offer help if needed.

**Make it Fun** - Enjoy reading together. Give characters funny voices and engage with the pictures.

**Lead by Example** - Let your child see you reading for pleasure. Children often emulate their parents' behaviours.

**Story Starters** – Give your child a story prompt and take turns building the story together. You'll be amazed where your imaginations take you!

**Writing Letters** – Encourage your child to write letters to friends, family, or even their favourite author. It's a fantastic way to practice writing in a meaningful way.

*"Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are." – Mason Cooley*

### **Rachel Burge - Author Visit**

We were thrilled to host Rachel Burge, acclaimed author of *The Twisted Tree*, *The Crooked Mask*, and *Waking the Witch*, on 14th October. Rachel captivated our Year 5 and 6 children with insights into her latest novel, *Whispering Hollow*. Children were inspired by her spooky storytelling and the creative process behind her books, engaging in thoughtful discussions and learning about the art of writing.

**The Creative Writing Competition** encouraged children to write their own 500-word spooky tales. The entries were filled with imaginative twists and eerie surprises, showcasing the creativity sparked by Rachel's visit. Winners will receive book bags and book tokens, and all participants should be proud of their imaginative contributions. Many children also took home signed copies of Rachel's books as a keepsake from this unforgettable day.

Thank you for your ongoing support in encouraging a love of reading and writing in our school community!