

St Hilda's CE High School Library

Annual Report

2018-19



Jacqueline Hale

Librarian

Literacy Coordinator



Welcome

This has been an exciting year for the school library; a reconfiguration of the shelving has meant that the space has opened up considerably, bringing in more light and making it a nicer space for reading and working. Money raised on World Book Day, which was matched by Barclays Bank, has meant we could buy brand new tables and furnish our beautiful new mental wellbeing area.

We attended two awards ceremonies this year, both celebrating what can be accomplished by having a well stocked, professionally staffed school library at the heart of your school.

We strengthened our links with parents through the reading pledge, making them partners in literacy, and continued to build our links with our local primary school, sharing our love of reading with children as young as three.

Please read through this report to find out what has been going on in the library this year.



Jacqueline Hale BA MCLIP

Librarian / Literacy Coordinator

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Literacy and oracy across the Curriculum

Word of the Week

All of the words used for “Word of the Week” this year came from last summer’s GCSE exam papers. With the need for a wider and more varied vocabulary becoming ever more important, we need to keep looking for ways to improve the vocabulary of our young people, both written and oral. Lots of marks were dropped by GCSE students last year, not because they didn’t have the correct subject knowledge, but simply because they didn’t know the higher level vocabulary used in the questions.

It has been proven that poor vocabulary levels affect self esteem and success both at school and beyond. If pupils don’t understand the words being used in lessons, they can’t follow what is going on which leads to self esteem issues which, in turn, leads to behaviour issues. It is the responsibility of all of us to try to make our pupils word rich, rather than word poor, and to try to close the word gap in any ways we can.

Oracy training

Our school was chosen as one of the pioneer schools for Voice Liverpool’s oracy training program this year. I was lucky enough to attend several very informative training sessions on how to boost oracy across the curriculum. Next year we hope to disseminate this training to the whole staff and make oracy an integral part of our young people’s learning journey.



Achievements and Awards

Rotary Club Young Writer of the Year

This year, four of our year seven pupils, Robyn Davies, Robyn Jones, Tomos Rhodes and Christabel Iyen, were selected as finalists in the Rotary Club's Young Writer of the Year competition. They attended a dinner with Mrs Code and Mr Bellmon and were treated to a presentation of all of the shortlisted entries. Robyn Davies was chosen as the winner and we are extremely proud of her.

This is the third time one of our pupils has won this title in the past four years.

Pupil Library Assistant of the Year 2019

After winning this award in 2017, we were surprised and delighted to be invited back to London, to this year's finals, with our wonderful, and much deserving pupil librarian Emma Weeks (year 12). Emma has worked in the school library since 2014 and the work she has done to promote mental wellbeing through reading for pleasure will have a lasting effect on the school.

Emma was up against some amazing young people who have all done wonderful things for their school libraries and unfortunately she didn't win the award. However, she will always be a winner in our eyes and we are so proud of this amazing achievement.



Achievements and awards cont.

Liverpool Echo School Awards 2019

On Tuesday 25th June we attended the Echo School Awards ceremony at Liverpool John Moores University. We were finalists in two categories; team of the year, with our 'mini maths leaders' and I was finalist in the Support Staff of the year category. It was a wonderful afternoon which celebrated everything good about schools in our area.

I was overwhelmed to win my category and be named Support Staff of the Year 2019 for the work I have done in the library to promote reading for pleasure and mental wellbeing.



Whole School Events

Harry Potter Day

In November, we had our first Harry Potter Day. During the day, lessons had a Harry Potter / magic theme. Staff were invited to dress as a Harry Potter character (and many of them did) with the winner receiving cinema vouchers, to enable them to watch the latest film from the Fantastic Beasts series.

In the evening we held a Harry Potter quiz night, inviting parents, pupils and staff to come along and test their Potter knowledge. We sold Sweets and drinks inspired by the magical world and had some amazing raffle prizes. There was also a chance for our young people to show off their costumes and win prizes.

It was an amazing day and we raised £465 to buy resources for the school library. We are looking at making this an annual event.



Whole School Events

Libraries Week

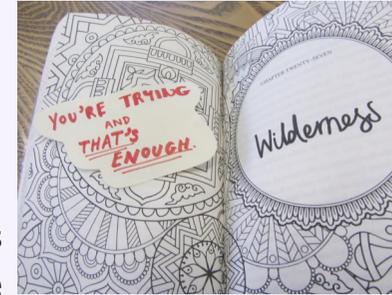
In October we celebrated National Libraries Week. This year, the focus was on the role libraries can play in improving mental health. We hid positive messages in books, created displays of books which could help pupils understand issues or find others going through the same as them.

We had performances from our talented musicians to show the link between music, reading and positive mental wellbeing.

I invited staff into the library after school, to share a drink and a snack and catch up with each other; to have a look around, to see what we offer and to pick up a book to get them back into reading.

Number Day

In February, the school took part in Number Day, led by the maths department. The library joined in by running a competition to see who could find the most fiction books with a number in its title on the library shelves. The winners received a free book of their choice. The library was packed all lunch time and lots of books were borrowed which might have been overlooked before.



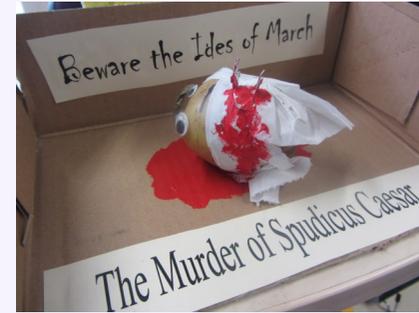
Whole School Events

World Book Day

Still one of our most popular days in the library. A chance to celebrate reading for pleasure by dressing up as our favourite book characters, sharing a whole school read and just enjoying books!

This year, as well as the costume competition, we had a cake themed bake sale, with prizes for the best cakes and a competition to turn a potato into a character from a book. There were some really interesting and imaginative ideas.

We raised a total of £540 on the day, which was matched by Barclays Bank. This money was then used to buy lovely new tables for the library and to create our new mental well being area.



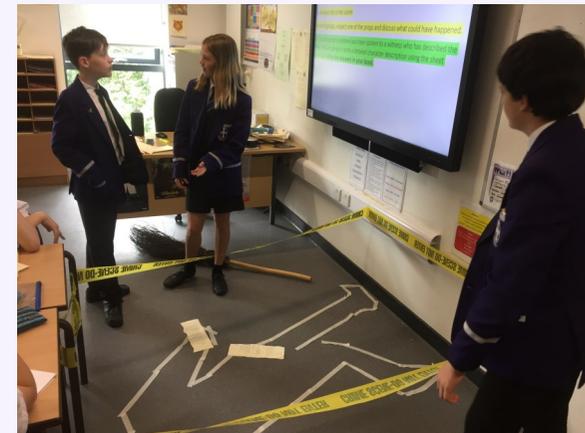
Whole School Events

Reading Week

As in previous years, the last week of June became St Hilda's reading week. This year we had a fairy tale theme. Lessons throughout the week had a fairy tale or folk lore theme and we saw stories read and written in foreign languages, crime scenes involving well known story characters, lessons about the origins and gruesomeness of the original tales and—the highlight of the week—a real working spinning wheel in the library.

MFL showcased some beautiful posters supplied by the Goethe Institute, using artwork from Grimm's tales. We had a 'wear your slippers to school day' and a sponsored read to raise money to provide books for children in hospital. At the end of the week we Dropped Everything and Read, which always creates a wonderful atmosphere of calm throughout the school.

Borrowing rates increased by 49% on the same week in March. There was also a table of free books for pupils and staff to take away and keep (which lasted about 10 minutes!) It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying books!



Building Readers

Borrowing rates

Getting pupils into the library and encouraging them to read is so important. One of the best ways to encourage regular library use is for form tutors to send pupils down during registration. This year, our star form group was 7WF, Mr Fitzpatrick's form who, during one half term period, borrowed more books than all of year eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve and thirteen combined!

To reward them we went on a trip to Liverpool Central library. An afternoon away from school, surrounded by books. What could be better?



Boys borrowing

We are proud to say that we don't need to worry about 'getting boys into reading' in our school. Our boys are enthusiastic and dedicated readers. This year, 48% of all boys in school have borrowed a book from the library, while on 32% of girls have.

Our pupil librarian team is now made up of three girls and ten boys. The boys are definitely making their mark on the school library!

Reading Rewards

This year I have piloted a new reading reward scheme. Any pupil 'caught' reading in the library will be given a raffle ticket. This allows them access to the library every day that week and the potential to earn up to ten tickets per week. A ticket is drawn every Friday and the winner can choose a prize. This has meant that readers always have access to the library.



Literacy in the community

Greenbank Primary

We continue to build our links with Greenbank Primary school and were lucky enough to be invited there twice this year. The first time to celebrate National Poetry Day when we read poems with the children, from the nursery through to year six. We also watched their poetry performances and saw how much hard work they had put into learning about poetry.

We were also invited to an author session visit with Sophie Anderson, author of *The House With Chicken Legs*. Ten of our pupils were selected to go along and listen to the author speak. I purchased a copy of the book for each of them, which they had signed by the author.



Liverpool Festival of Children's Literature

We were invited to take part in a mini conference on diversity and inclusion within children's literature. Schools from across the city were invited to bring two or three pupils from years five to eight to join this discussion. This session fit in really well with our school culture week and the themes we were discussing. The pupils came up with some excellent ideas.



Reading Pledge Success

Almost 1500 books have been added to the Reading Pledge since September, meaning that pupils, parents and staff are recording what they are reading. I know that there many books not being recorded so next year I hope to exceed this total, reminding everyone to log their books as soon as they've read them.

There will be house points for the pupil who has added the most books, the pupil whose parent has added the most books and the staff member who has added the most books. A little bit of healthy competition really gets people motivated!

We already have some books being logged by next year's year seven pupils – that shows real dedication to reading!



Competition Winners!

As a final note. We were thrilled to find out that we won a competition earlier in the year, organised by James Patterson and Scholastic books. I had to tell them what was special about our school library and why we deserved new books. They were really impressed with what I had to say about our amazing library and, a few weeks ago, £250 of brand new, beautiful books arrived!

