

The Vale Academy
Wilbury Drive
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU5 4QP
01582 211150

19th September 2016

Dear Parents,

This year we aim to show our pupils the value we give reading. We aim to spark a love of literature, that will in turn improve reading AND writing standards at our school and to cultivate a 'reading for pleasure' culture for our school. We have made an extensive plan of in-school activities and reading events to help us to do this. As the year progresses, with your help, our dream is for every child to love reading, to read for pleasure and ultimately improve their reading ability. These are some of the activities and events that will be occurring across the year.

Reading around the world

Running alongside 'star reader', the reading around the world scheme will encourage children to read frequently at home and in school. Each year group has selected six countries and children will aim to make their way around those countries. Every time a children has read 15 times they move to a new country. Once they have made their way around the world once, they receive a certificate in assembly. If they make their way around the world twice, they get a prize and for the third time round they win a book with a special message from Mrs. Howe. We have already seen a fantastic rise in reads at home, and hopefully this scheme will help that to continue, if not improve.

Read to the Principal (and Dennis)

Every week, each year group will select a 'reader of the week'. That child will have the opportunity to go to see Mrs. Howe and read to her and Dennis. Hopefully every child will have an opportunity to go and read to Mrs. Howe. Their pictures will be put up on Mrs. Howe's reading Hall of Fame as well!

Mystery Reader

Each half term, the children will be meeting a 'mystery reader'. Somebody from either inside or outside of the school community will be coming in to read their favourite book to the children as well as talking about reading and answering questions about themselves. If you know of anybody who you feel would be an excellent mystery reader, please let your teacher know.

Author of the Half Term

During our celebration of reading, we will be focussing on one specific author for each half term. For the first term in autumn we have focussed on Roald Dahl, celebrating Roald Dahl and having a Roald Dahl shared reading session. He will also be a theme for our special reading competition.

contact-vale@thesharedlearningtrust.org.uk
www.thesharedlearningtrust.org.uk

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Reading Bingo

Each year group has been given a reading bingo chart, designed to encourage children to read a variety of texts. The children have the whole of the term to complete their bingo sheet in exchange for a prize. If you have yet to receive one, please ask your class teacher to get you one.

Competitions and Social Media

We intend to use social media to promote reading, including using the **#valeyearofreading** on our twitter @TSLTValeAcademy, and our Facebook site. Please try to visit these sites to keep up to date with our reading year. We will also be holding many reading-based competitions, beginning with a Roald Dahl model making competition with the prize of a free family ticket to the Roald Dahl museum! We can't wait to see many of you getting involved on social media as well as trying to win the competitions.

Reading Events

We want to give parents and children the opportunity to come into school and read together in our reading events. Our events will be themed, normally based on the author of the half term. Our Dahlicious celebration of reading event is our first. There will be a sleepover at Hogwarts event, where we plan to turn the hall into the Dormitories at Hogwarts, a David Walliams tea party and a Gruffalo BBQ, as well as many other events across the year! We're hoping you can join us!

Thank you for supporting our #valeyearofreading, we're really excited about creating enthusiasm for reading. If you feel like you can help us in any way, please get in contact. Be in providing prizes for competitions, ideas for mystery readers, or furniture/cushions for reading areas, we appreciate any help.

Thank you

Mr. Barker
Head of English