

LIBRARY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Learning to bring out the best in everyone. 20th June 2024



**FRESSINGFIELD
COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL**



MEET THE LIBRARY TEAM

I hope you enjoy reading this letter written by our brilliant team of Librarians. Anna, Anna and Anita have been working alongside the Year 5 and Year 6 Librarians all year to help the children change their books, to read with them and to launch a total refurbishment of the school library, which we are calling (perhaps not very imaginatively): The Library Project! This newsletter explains what the project is all about, what their plans are and what has been achieved so far. If you would like to know more, or get involved yourself, please contact the school. Thank you.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

At the start of the year, we introduced a weekly library session so each class can come to the library to change their reading-for-fun book. Very quickly, it became clear that many of our books had seen better days (as had the furniture!) so we asked a professional librarian from the Suffolk Library Service to visit and work with us. Working with the Year 5 and Year 6 Librarians, she helped us audit and cull some of stock and gave us advice and contacts for further improvements. This was the starting point of our plan to completely overhaul and refurbish our library to make it—as our Librarians say—“an inspiring place” for reading.

A space for books

On World Book Day all the children were given the chance to share their ideas and tell us what they would like to see in completely refurbished library. It's fair to say, they were full of ideas! The most popular suggestion for a theme was space. The children also told us they would like reading nooks and cubby-holes and other comfortable places to relax and enjoy their book.

Once we have raised the funds we need, we will be working with professional library designers to deliver this vision for the children.



New reference books

Another aspect of the project is to improve our reference collection. Our current selection was bought when the school was built in 1991 and is, as you can imagine, a little tired. Rejuvenating this section will be the spearhead of our book re-stocking. We want to both improve the selection of books in school to support their learning in class and increase the availability of factual books which the children can read for pleasure. Books about animals, sports, history, and nature are always popular choices.

LIBRARY RAFFLE—WIN THE NORWICH FOOTBALL TEAM!

Every member of the Norwich Football Team has signed a special Norwich Pendant, which we are raffling to raise money for the Library Project. Tickets will be available in and after school over the following weeks (starting from next Friday) and the raffle will be drawn on the final Friday Sharing Worship on 12th July. There are two further prizes of book vouchers for local book shops. Tickets are £1 a strip. So, fans of football and reading, make sure you don't miss out!

A CALM AND QUIET SPACE

As part of the project, the books currently in the atrium will move back into the library itself. This means we can transform an area in the atrium into a much-needed Quiet Space. Some children find the hustle and bustle of the playground a little daunting and prefer to play with a smaller group inside. The Library Project will also create this 'chill-out' zone where children can have some time to play quietly with lego, sit and read or just take some time out. Responding to the children's plans, theme for this part of the project will be 'nature.'

This area will be the first stage of the library refurbishment project and we have approached local builders merchants for some support with materials. If you think you might be able to help, please let us know.

Digital lending

Currently we record all library loans manually, which means the children are limited to when their books can be returned or changed. We are hoping to soon introduce a digital system similar to those seen in local libraries. This will make it much easier to keep track of which books are popular so we can stock the shelves accordingly.

Classroom boxes

We have written to local businesses to sponsor a scheme which will provide fresh Topic boxes each term. These boxes are filled with books and artefacts tailored to each class' theme and are designed to inspire a deeper interest in their topics. The scheme also gives us access to a professional librarian to support the ongoing revision of our book stock. The scheme costs roughly £1000/year, and we are asking local businesses for their support. Businesses can get involved for as little as £100/year, so if you know a business that might like to be involved, please let us know! More information can be found at <https://junipereducation.org/ers>

The Harleston Ladies' Circle

We are delighted to be one of the recipients of monies raised by The Harleston Ladies Circle from their Spring Fest. They have kindly donated £350, which marks the first step in our fundraising journey. Thank you!



Fressingfield Primary School
School Lane
Fressingfield

Eye
Suffolk
IP2 885 2U
T: 01379 586393
Wednesday 12th June 2024

Dear L

I am writing to you try and persuade you to support our new library project. I am sure that you will agree with me that reading is really an essential part of learning: it helps with social and personal development; it increases their academic results; and it helps with improving concentration levels. We all passionately believe that libraries help the wellbeing of children because it helps them to learn how to know how people feel when times get tough.

We are all in complete agreement that reading encourages social and personal development because if you read a book and the character is finding it hard to deal with their problems, you start to develop a feeling of empathy, and that's why reading is so important. It lets you calm down when you are frustrated and it takes you away into a world where it is just you and the book.

Secondly, reading will help with the readers academic results because it improves their vocabulary so they can learn new words. Reading also helps with concentration because if you read a book and get lost in it that means that you are concentrating and so, in the class

you are able to focus frequently in lessons.

Finally, all right-thinking people would agree with me that libraries are always playing a critical part in learning. From what I have explained, I think it is clear that expanding our library is an important deed that needs to be done. This is because we will be having a nature theme in our atrium and a space theme inside our library. This will attract children of all ages to come and read more often, we will also try and make the area more comfortable so you do not need to find a good spot to sit in this will also help with concentration levels.

Having read my letter, I am convinced that you will support our school because reading is so important; it helps with social and personal development; it helps with academic results; and it helps the wellbeing of the children.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth
(age 10)

Volunteers

If you would like to be involved in this project in any form, or you have any questions or ideas which you would like to bring up, please contact one of us! We are also looking for a dry space to store a couple of boxes picture books to allow us to be able to rotate the books we have available for our younger readers so they can keep discovering new joys. If you think you can help please let us know.