

Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh
C of E Primary School**



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News from your Headteacher

We enjoyed celebrating **World Book Day** yesterday. We especially loved seeing so many staff and children dressed up as characters from books. It was a lovely day spent enjoying and sharing reading and book-themed activities. We all met as a school in the afternoon; this was definitely a very surreal experience with a Mad Hatter talking to 620 very excited book characters, including several Where's Wallys and Harry Potters!

Some of our staff shared their favourite books with the children and we hope that this may have inspired some of the children to read one of these. Reading is a key focus for us at Withycombe and we are ambitious in our aim to ensure all children leave our school as confident and fluent readers with a love of books and a desire to share stories. We have dedicated a lot of time this year to developing our reading processes. This has included the embedding of **Little Wandle Phonics and Early Reading**. We are delighted with the progress our younger children are making with their phonics, and encourage parents of the children using Little Wandle to allow their children to share their allocated **ebook** at home. The ebooks are sent home in order that children can 'show off' their reading while at home and so that their progress can be celebrated. If you are struggling to access ebooks at home, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Even if your child is a confident and fluent reader, we would encourage parents to take an interest in what your child is reading, perhaps by reading a book together or maybe supporting your child's choice of books by visiting the library or a book shop. If you have any queries about supporting your child with reading, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Tips on supporting reading at home:

Keep your Child Engaged

Ask questions along the way to help promote speech development and comprehension. Point out words that might be new to their vocabulary and talk about how the words are used and what they mean. Ask questions that evoke emotion and reflective inquiry, such as, "What would you do in this situation? Why do you think the character behaved in that way? Have you ever encountered a similar situation? Who does the character remind you of? How does the character feel?"

Read Aloud Together

Take turns reading sentences, paragraphs or pages aloud (and with expression) with a child who has learned to read, to help build confidence and spark conversation.

Be Creative

Use your personality to bring children's books to life. Using different voices for each character or acting out parts of the story can make story-time even more memorable and enjoyable for you and your child.

Find Different Places to Read

Under the trees in the evening with a blanket and flashlight; in the garden on a rug, at the breakfast table; sitting on the sofa with a snuggle-rug...a place to read can be just as unique as the stories themselves.



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



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Continue Engaging with Books after the Last Page

Look for creative ways to extend the learning of the book. Are there far-off lands that are featured in the book? Find them on a map together. Craft something based on the illustrations or theme in the story; listen to music that is in some way related to the story; research recipes from where the story is located and cook them together; act out the story with your child; or write a sequel together.

Keep a Story Review Book/ Diary

Note the book or story shared, the date, the reactions of other family members. Younger children may like to draw a picture representing the book. For older children who like to write, they could review each book - which is great for wider analytical thinking.

Take Pictures of Family Reading

There are few things sweeter than pictures of family members curled up reading stories together. You can use these pictures to mark the passage of time as family members grow, how tastes in books evolve, or how the books become longer as the children grow older.



Congratulations!

to Miss Neesam and her family on the birth of baby Tallulah who arrived on 15th February. We can't wait to meet her!

*Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs. E Jones*

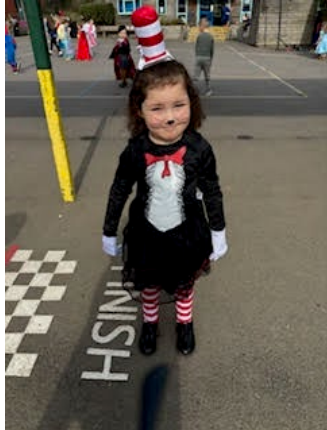
Enjoy our World Book Day Gallery!



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Wellbeing

Do you wonder why your child won't listen to you or be reasoned with when they are showing big emotions, like anger?

When we feel very strong emotions we become emotionally flooded. Being flooded with emotion means our brains do not have space to use rationale thinking; our feelings are too strong.

If our children are flooded with angry feelings, we need to help them let the emotional floodgates down before they have capacity to listen and think. We need to help them safely express and manage their feelings first, before we can enter into any discussion.



It is important for us to check our own feelings first – are we calm ourselves? Do we need to take a breath before we talk to our children? If we are calm, we can then help our children by...

- **Attuning**
This tells a child you notice them and what they are feeling.
You may say... 'I can see you are feeling angry... that must have been very upsetting for you'
- **Validating**
This tells a child that their feelings are valid. This is not about condoning behaviour; it is about telling them you get what they are feeling.
You may say... 'If that happened to me, I might feel like that'
- **Containing**
This is about checking your child feels safe with their anger. Having strong feelings can feel very scary so letting a child know that you will stay with them will help them feel safe.
You may say... 'I'm here for you/ I will stay here with you/I want to help you feel safe'
- **Calming**
Being able to calm is not something we are born knowing how to do, we have to learn how to do it. We can teach our children ways to do this.
You may say... 'When I feel like that, I squeeze a cushion/take some deep breaths/go for a walk around the garden'
- **Patience**
Being able to feel calm can take time and, even after the angry outburst, your child may still be feeling agitated inside. Be patient with talking about it - don't put too many expectations on your child too soon.
You may say... 'I am here for you when you feel able to talk'.

DO talk about the anger and, if appropriate, their behaviour, but ONLY when they are fully calm. It is also helpful to remind them, when they are calm, of safe ways to express angry feelings and to practice them together.

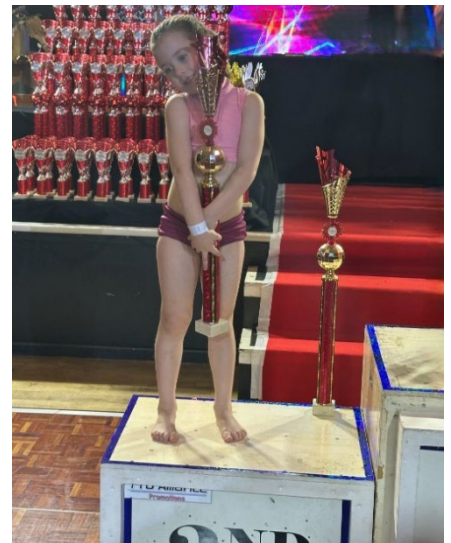
Mrs L Jones, Wellbeing TA

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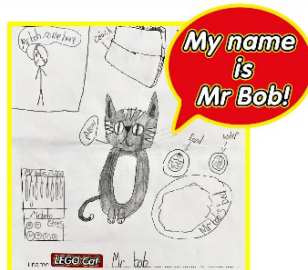


Y6 WW2 Day activities included pancakes cooked over a campfire and a talk from Becks Pearson who is a Land Army Expert. The children enjoyed creating their own art piece inspired by Henry Moore, whilst also enjoying the challenge of creating a Mole, which provided a crucial point of embarkation for troops and was used to ferry soldiers from the beaches onto waiting vessels.

Sports & Achievements



Estee in Barn Owl Class went to a weekend dance competition and came home with 2nd place trophies, and medals - 1st for 'Pairs' and 6th in 'Street'. She was so happy, and she was incredible!



LEGO Cat Competition

The winning name **Mr Bob** was submitted jointly by **Lexi and Evie-Jade** from Kestrel Class, who also drew this fabulous picture of Mr Bob at home

Thank you very much to everyone who took part. We really loved seeing the drawings and reading all the fabulous name suggestions! All of the entries are on the display boards in the Red Room so we can keep enjoying them. Everyone who took part will receive a little treat to say thank you for making us smile.

Miss Smart doubled up the main prize so Lexi and Evie-Jade could have a small Lego set each, an art set to share as they worked together, and some Candy Kitten sweets each! They'll be handed out on Monday.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the little 'just for fun' competition to name Lego Cat!

Everyone who took part got a small treat to take home, and Lexi and Evie Jade won a mini Lego set each, some Candy Kittens and an Art Case each.

Thank you, from Miss Smart and Mr Bob!

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Our Blue Planet

Campaign to Protect our Water Sources;

KS2 Poster Design Competition

- You're invited to design a campaign poster that promotes ways to protect **valuable water sources**, near to school or country-wide.
- Posters can be created by an individual, a pair, or a small group.
- Withycombe Raleigh Primary School will submit the **two best** entries from our students into the UK-wide competition.
- The winner in the UK KS2 category will receive a box of books for the school.
- We'll also be offering two vouchers for all-the-

Sideshore Community have offered two vouchers for all-the-works, **deluxe hot chocolates** from **Hangtime Café** for the two best posters from Withycombe! WOW!

STEM KS2 challenge
(aged 7 and upwards)

Please hand your entry to Maple Class for attention of Mrs Guest by Friday 21st March 2025.