



Ready, Respectful, and Resilient.

Wednesday 24th March 2021

Reading at Lambley

Dear Parents/Carers,

The first time I met your children, I spoke passionately about the importance of reading and the value of enjoying a good book. I personally believe it is one of the most, if not the most, important skill we will teach them and develop during their time with us. Reading provides the gateway to all other learning.

Recent studies have also shown what an incredible impact early reading has on future learning and how the smallest of acts can really help. It was in the news last week, that we may DOUBLE the chances of children becoming good readers by simply putting the subtitles on our televisions when they watch their favourite programmes.

Furthermore, new research has indicated that a child who is read to every day (compared to a child who is never read to) will start in the Early Years having been exposed to 1.4 million more words and finally (and as important at this time) studies show that children who regularly use libraries not only enjoy reading more, not only show higher levels of attainment in reading and writing but also have a better mental wellbeing.

During this difficult time and lockdown, school have been working incredibly hard to educate those at home and in school and keep one another safe whilst also developing our reading-inspired curriculum for years to come. We have reworked our rolling programmes to ensure that our learning is underpinned by quality texts and have ensured there is time in our day for reading for pleasure.

Alongside all this, school also has a few new things to share with you.

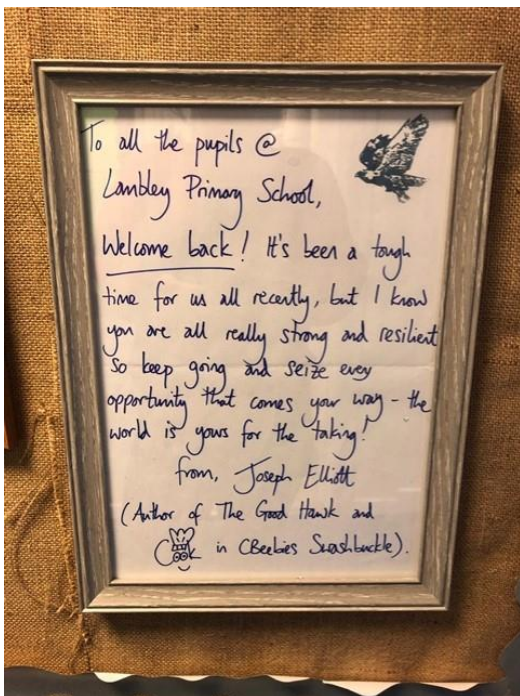
Author's Wall



During the two lockdowns we found ourselves in, I have spoken with a lot of authors and asked them to send messages to the children. Messages that welcomed them back, acknowledged the resilience they have shown during this time and encouraging them to enjoy a good book!

We have been inundated with responses from authors who are keen to share their admiration for the children's work this year whilst also sharing their passion and love of books.

We really hope that the children enjoy looking at the author wall, feel inspired by the messages and want to dive into a new book by an author that they, perhaps, had not previously heard of.



Lending Library & School Library Last year, we were very fortunate that the Friends of Lambley bought us 200 books so we could start our very own lending library.

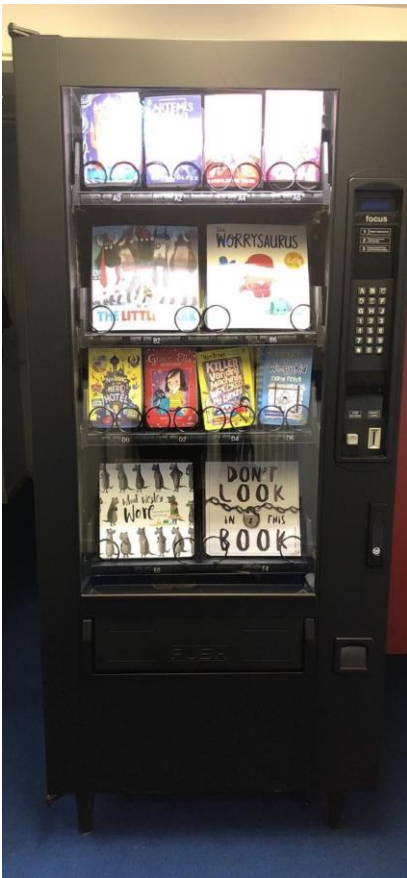
Alongside their generous donations, a number of bookshops have also provided free books this year for the Lending Library and I have personally begun to bring in my books that I have read so I can recommend them to the children.



It is so important that the children can see someone speaking so passionately about a story and recommending it to them; showing an interest in their interests. We will restart the Lending Library after Easter. As most of these books have been generously donated by the Friends or are my own personal collection, we ask that the children take extra care with these books if they sign them out to take home.

This year, the school and the Friends of Lambley have also significantly updated our school library so that we have up-to-date, quality non-fiction for every single topic taught in school. The staff are really excited to start using the texts with the children and we know the children will enjoy looking through such an incredible range of new and exciting texts.

Book Vending Machine



Finally, with the support of the Literacy Shed, the Friends of Lambley and a large number of independent bookshops, we have been able to buy and fill our very own BOOK VENDING MACHINE!

We are incredibly excited to announce this and cannot wait to start using it after Easter. Once we return for the summer term, the staff will, every month, choose their Reader of the Month who will be presented with a vending machine token and they will be able to choose a book to take home and keep. The vending machine and Reader of the Month replaces the previous reading challenge where children received certificates for 50, 100 or 150 reads. School will continue to use pupil planners and ask that you continue to log your child's reading in them to assist with the school-home dialogue.

Readers of the Month will be chosen for a range of reasons including: independent reading (at school or at home), working hard in Reading lessons, effort and achievements in phonics or choosing to read for pleasure during the week to name but a few reasons. I will also present vending machine tokens whilst visiting classes and witnessing a great attitude to reading. We will also run regular reading-based competitions for the children, again with the winners being given a token to choose a book.

The first competition can be found below...

Competition!!!

Our first competition is to NAME THE VENDING MACHINE!!

Over Easter, we would like the children to design a poster showing what they feel the vending machine should be called. We are ideally looking for an acronym as the name, something that stresses the importance of or love for a book.

For example, POB – Power of Books

or RAE – Read and Enjoy.

We ask that any child who wants to enter, designs a poster with their chosen name and brings it back to school by Monday 19th April.

We will then choose a winner, reveal the name of the Vending Machine and present our first vending machine token!

Good luck all!

Kind regards

Lee Christopher