

Reading for Pleasure Ideas Bank

Advertise a Book

Ask children to advertise their book around school each half term – hold a competition for the most persuasive advert!

Author Visits

Invite authors to visit whenever you can. Contact them via websites such as: <http://www.contactanauthor.co.uk/> or <http://www.booktrust.org.uk/programmes/arranging-an-author-visit/>

Bedtime Story

Invite staff, parents and children to read a bedtime story and post on your school website. Russel Scott Primary School does amazing bedtime stories at <http://reading.russellscottblogs.net/>

Big Book Brunch

Hold a book-themed brunch party where each dish is designed by the children to link to the book, e.g. Bruce Bogtrotter's chocolate cake from Matilda or even green eggs and ham.

Big Reading Project

Choose a text that all classes can read and base a fortnight of cross curricular work on. Hold a school sharing museum to showcase all of the wonderful work!

Book Club

Have a regular book club targeted at focus groups of children, e.g. Novels and Nails, Chatterbooks, Biscuits 'n' Books. You could have a monthly theme where children could attend dependent on their likes/dislikes.

Book Making

Give children the chance to create their own books.

<http://www.makingbooks.com/> has lots of instructions for creating different types of books.

Borrow a Book for a Friend

Challenge children to borrow a book that they think their friend would like. Can they use their knowledge of their friend's likes and dislikes to help them choose? Get their friend to review the book once they have read it. Did their friend make a good choice?

Café

Hold a regular Reading Café where parents and families can come into school for a drink and biscuit whilst they read with their child. Follow the reading session with a brief parents' workshop to help parents to support their child's reading at home.

Caught Reading!

Catch people Reading all around school and the local area (with their consent) – take a photo and create an interactive display to encourage children to 'Get Caught Reading'.

Comics, Magazines and Newspapers

Review your resources and see if there are any opportunities for adding subscriptions to weekly or monthly titles such as: First News (<http://www.firstnews.co.uk/>); The Phoenix (<https://www.thephoenixcomic.co.uk/>); Whizz Pop Bang (<https://www.whizzpopbang.com/>) and Storytime (<http://www.storytimemagazine.com/>).

Community Favourites

Interview local people about their favourite books, create a book survey or even challenge your local community to read certain books.

Dares

Create your own school Reading Dares for children to complete as a challenge. The Scottish Book Trust has lots of ideas:

http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/files/suggested_reading_dares.pdf

Door Jackets

Challenge each class to turn their classroom door into a jacket for their favourite or current read.

Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)

Hold regular DEAR sessions where everyone, including staff drops everything and reads.

Extreme Reading

Hold a competition to see who can be photographed reading in the most obscure or entertaining location!

Flash Read

Hold a flash mob reading event – take children to a community space, e.g. an art gallery and have them all start to read. You could even get the children to read aloud!

Go on a Book-Focused Trip

Try to include book links within school trips every year.

Hold Your Own Book Awards Bash

Hold a vote for the school's favourite texts. Contact the authors via social media and invite them to attend either in person, or via skype!

I am Reading...

Give every child an 'Ask me what I'm Reading...' badge to support children talking and sharing knowledge about books.

Illustrator Partnerships

Contact book illustrators to make partnerships – invite them into school to hold art workshops and send them examples of your pupils' illustrated work.

Join your Local Library

Enrol all your pupils at the local library – libraries are often happy to visit schools to work with parents to join the library. Make use of the library by giving classes the chance to visit at least once per year, just to enjoy the books!

Keep your Book Area Exciting

Make your classroom Reading area engaging by thinking about comfort, resources and prompts. Have children got a wide range of reading material? Are resources well-ordered and easy to find? Is it a space where you'd love to read?

Library

How accessible is your school library? Make sure it is open beyond the school day and that parents can access it with their children. You could even have an adults' selection for parents to borrow in a special area.

Local Bookshop

Make links with your local bookshop and arrange time for children to visit or your local bookseller to come to you.

Million Minute Challenge

Get classes competing against each other by totting up the minutes they spend Reading for Pleasure. Have half-termly counts and amazing prizes for the class who's first to reach a million minutes. By counting minutes rather than books, it keeps the competition fair between year groups.

Next Time I'm Reading...

As adults, we're always planning what we're going to read next. Children need to practise this skill – you could have an interactive display in your Reading area or include a section in children's Reading journals where they can list books they want to read.

Online

Children spend so much time online on various devices, so it makes sense to 'tap' into this with giving them chances to read online. Use e-readers, e-books etc. whenever you can. Your local library may also have e-book access online – make sure to check it out!

Outdoors

Create an engaging Reading area outdoors in the playground. You could even paint your own book bench or create a Reading trail.

Pupil Voice

Hold regular pupil voice to gain insight into children's attitudes to Reading. Make sure to collate the results and put actions in place.

Quiz

Have competitive quizzes each half term about class texts. Pit classes against each other to win Reading medals or even a trophy.

Reading Ambassadors

Have a school Reading council of ambassadors who are involved in decisions about policies, resources and events.

Reading Champions

Use class champions to promote Reading within their class, monitor the reading area and choose focus texts.

Reading Mentors

Run a peer Reading system with targeted children (e.g. Year 5 children with Year 3 children). By giving children a specific Reading mentor and providing the mentor with training and question prompts, children can access further Reading in a fun and expected way. The One Education Reading Award has lots of resources to help you to set a system up and running.

Reading Review Magazine

Why not run a termly child-led Reading Review magazine where children can write about their favourite books, their memorable reading experiences etc? Print one for every child to take home.

Reading Role Models

Turn everyone at school into a Reading Role Model. Take photos of all staff, children, governors and parents reading their favourite book and ask them why they recommend it. Display these in the communal environment.

Recommended Reads for Each Year Group

Make sure to have a bank of recommended reads for each year group. One Education's recommended book lists are available on the One Education Reading Award website.

Relax and Read

Hold a weekly 'Relax and Read' for parents and children in EYFS. Parents and carers can come into the classroom and share books with their children.

Request Boxes

Have request boxes dotted around school for children to place text requests. Reading Leaders could gather the suggestions each month and have a small budget to replenish the school library using children's requests. You could also have a staff version!

Reward Readers in the Starbooks Café

Reward children's good reading habits with Golden Tickets that the children can spend in the Starbooks Café for a treat.

Story-time Sessions

Hold a weekly story-time session at lunchtime, where children can choose to spend 15 minutes inside listening to a book being read aloud.

Swap

Have a book swap box or event where children, staff and parents can bring a book and swap it for free.

Switch Off and Read (SOAR)

Hold a SOAR month where everyone is encouraged to switch off devices and read instead. You could even get the local community involved.

Text-based Curriculum

Immersing children in texts is key to creating lifelong Readers. Why not consider moving to a text-based approach for all English lessons, where all learning and outcomes come from a central text or group of texts. One teaching sequence is One Education's 'P.I.C.C. a Text' approach. Find out more here:

<https://www.oneeducation.co.uk/news-blog/making-writing-powerful-writing-with-purpose>

Theme Days

Using your class text as a stimulus, have a book themed day each half term, e.g. if you're reading *How to Train Your Dragon*, have a day of Viking-themed learning activities.

Un-book Group

Gather a group together to share texts other than books, e.g. newspapers, magazines, blogs. You could bring along a text you disagree with to debate about or even have a different theme each time, e.g. superheroes. Children can pick and choose which dates they attend according to their preferences.

Vote for Class Text

Try to give pupils the chance to choose your class text where possible (both for use in English lessons and as class stories). Give children two or three choices and let them vote for their favourite.

Whole-school Recommendation System

Set up a peer-to-peer recommendation system across school. This could be in the form of bookmarks that children insert into school library books, bookplates or even using blogs online. Reading recommendations from their peers is a fantastic way to engage children in Reading.

You Need to Read Too

Your pupils must see you read too. If they have DEAR or SOAR time, so must you! Allow children to ask you questions about what you're reading, what you're going to read next and why.

X-Ray

Don't forget that Reading is the most cross-curricular subject possible! Look for additional opportunities for Reading in Science and other subjects. Can children infer from an x-ray? How about retrieving information from a map?

Zoo

For EYFS/KS1 children, find out their favourite animals and create a book zoo, with each area of books themed around a particular animal.