



At Wensum Junior we are celebrating World Book Day with a week of reading for pleasure activities, culminating in a dress-up day on **Friday 4th March**.

Children (and staff!) are invited to come to school dressed as a book character, or book-related theme. Outfits can be as simple or elaborate as children would like, there is no expectation for families to purchase costumes.

Reading Reminder

Please support your child in bringing their Reading Record and reading book into school each day.

All children are encouraged to read out loud with an adult regularly, at school and at home. As teachers, we see the positive impact this makes. Children who are heard read often, make the most progress.

Listening to your child read at home is one of the most effective ways you can support their learning, both in terms of building their reading competence but also in developing their vocabulary and their comprehension skills. Being a skilled reader is the first step to being an effective writer too.

Teachers will be happy to discuss your child's reading progress during Parent Teacher meetings next week.

Spelling Reminder

Children across Wensum Junior are given weekly spelling words to practise. These are set on Spelling Shed, an online platform. Children can log on at school and at home to work on their spelling skills.

<https://play.edshed.com/en-gb/>



Kids who Read, Succeed!

Research has shown that reading for pleasure can make a huge difference to children - not only academically (even in subjects like maths) but also socially and emotionally.

But what if your child or student doesn't enjoy reading? Whether they find it difficult or think it's boring, it's not always something young people are keen to do. But here are some things that could help...



Talk about books. Talking to children about books and stories can help them to realise how exciting they are. Show an interest in what they've read, ask questions about it, and swap opinions.

Make it fun! There are so many fun things you can do with books beyond reading them. Maybe you could ask your children to draw their favourite character or act out what they've read for you. Or perhaps you could try recreating some classic book covers and taking photos!

... and try funny books. Everyone likes a good giggle! (If your child is brave, scary stories or gory horror might be worth a go too.)

Don't worry about what your children are reading. Whether it's a short story, poetry, a graphic novel, non-fiction, joke books, a comic or even the back of a cereal packet, it doesn't matter what your child is reading - as long as they're enjoying it! Anything could kickstart a love of books. (And don't panic if they read the same book over and over again, either.)

Give them the chance to choose. It's a great idea to give children the chance to choose what they read. Maybe you could take them to a bookshop and let them pick out something as a treat, or make regular library visits to help them figure out what they enjoy.

Enjoy books out loud! Why not read part of a book to your child, then leave it with them to explore further on their own? Children might enjoy listening to audiobooks, too – the combination of hearing the story out loud and holding the physical book could be a big help. Why not try listening to a story the next time you're in the car together?

Find books related to their interests. If your child is a gamer, why not try choose-your-own-adventure books, Minecraft guides or stories about virtual reality? If they like sport, you could try one of Kwame Alexander's verse novels or a biography of their favourite football player. If a book is about something they already love, it could be a brilliant way to get them hooked. Or perhaps their favourite film is based on a book - you could enjoy the story together and talk about how the movie and the original story are different.

Try series fiction. If your child loves the first *Harry Potter* book, there are six more stories for them to dive into! There are some wonderful series out there that have converted reluctant readers into bookworms - you could try the *Tom Gates* books by Liz Pichon or the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series.