

## 'You are a Reader': How schools are developing individual readers

In our 25th year we invited teachers to share how they develop their students as readers. We were blown away by the responses and hope that you will also be inspired by the below elements of practice that were shared by the schools that entered our You Are A Reader competition.

### Teachers that read and share their enthusiasm

- Assembly slots for teachers to recommend and read extracts from books
- Newsletter slots rotating round the staff across the year
- Book chat to begin each staff meeting
- Bookshelf of staff reads
- Staff participate in reading time
- Staff invite recommendations from students

### Carving out reading time in the school day

- Having a whole school reading slot
- Making reading time appealing to everyone by including a wide range of materials in the selection available to students – newspapers, magazines, audiobooks as well as more traditional printed materials.
- Using 'Drop Everything and Read'
- Reading aloud every day even in secondary

### Finding ways to have a broad and relevant book selection for the children

- Involving children in bookshop trips to ensure money is spent on books children will want to read
- Having a relationship with a bookshop who gets to know your children and can make recommendations of new and relevant reads
- Having a relationship with a library who gets to know your children and can make selections of new and relevant reads for them
- Hosting book fairs
- Having a wishlist with a bookseller for parents who want to contribute resources to the school
- Using local charity shops

### Moments and Spaces that celebrate reading

- World Book Day as a moment to celebrate year round activity
- Well cared for and inviting reading corners
- Doors dressed as books
- Clipframes on doors with teacher/class reads on
- Interactive book recommendation displays

### Repositioning reading as a leisure activity

- Book Clubs
- A reading offer at break and lunchtime
- Bedtime story suitcases for children to take home with books, hot chocolate and a teddy
- Bookflix displays in the library – sharing what's new and trending
- Battle of the books – a knockout tournament
- Wellbeing interventions – 'Shelf help' and Book Doctor



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

### Supporting parents

- Running workshops introducing new books to parents
- Having a booky newsletter once a term sharing top reads
- Governors recording bedtime stories
- Book breakfasts
- Brew, a book and biscuits

### Involving the children

- Annual reading surveys
- Reading ambassadors
- Librarians – creating displays and sorting out books
- Book doctors for their peers – good recommendations get a prize

### Finding ways to making reading records into recommendations

- Challenge stickers – If you enjoyed that try this..., Here's a wildcard...
- Book Prescriptions – recommend your last read to another child or teacher you think might need to read it
- Class reading journals
- Post it reviews on books

### Thank you and congratulations to our highly commended and winning schools:

Allanton Primary School  
Bardwell School  
Barrow CEVC Primary School  
Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy  
Cliffe Hill Community Primary School  
Eltham Hill School  
Forge Valley School  
Hoole St Michael Church of England Primary School  
King Charles C of E Primary School  
Kingussie High School  
Lyndhurst Primary School  
St Michael's Academy  
Trinity Academy Leeds  
West Park Academy  
Westwood Primary School  
Whittington Green School  
William Cobbett Primary School  
Woodside Lodge Outdoor Learning Centre