

St Laurence's Literacy Celebration Calendar

Year 2024 - 25

Rationale

Reading for pleasure is a vital part of every child's educational entitlement. Developing a love of reading has huge benefits for children, contributing to pupils' educational achievement across the curriculum in addition to providing a lifetime of enjoyment. At St Laurence's Catholic Primary school, we believe in both the importance of developing children's discrete word-reading skills and comprehension, as well as the need to foster a love of books and reading. 'Reading widely and often increases pupils' **vocabulary** because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Reading also feeds pupils' imagination and opens up a treasure house of wonder and joy for curious young minds,' (National Curriculum). We recognise that these two elements are intertwined: each relies on the other if children are to become **life-long readers**. With so much competition for children's time and attention it is vital that we embed a culture of reading into the core of what we do as a school, helping every child to become a lifelong reader. At St Laurence's Catholic School we ensure reading is a **top priority** within all areas of the curriculum. We ensure **purposeful books and vocabulary focuses** are at the heart of everything we teach to ensure extensive reading and exposure to a wide range of texts make a vital contribution to every child's educational achievement, regardless of their personal background.

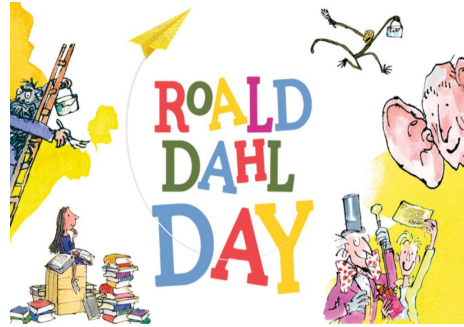
September

Reading Value



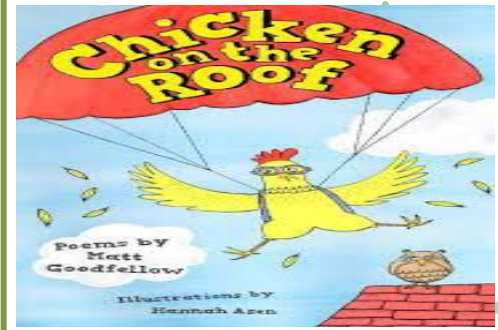
I can respond to an illustration
- For our first month in the new school year I would like you to look at stories through images. Do you have a favourite picture book? Your teacher is going to share some illustrations with you so you can respond to them.

Whole School Focus



To commemorate him and his achievements, Roald Dahl Day happens every year on his birthday - **September 13th** - celebrating the magic that he brought and continues to bring to children everywhere

Poem / Book Of the Month



A new poet some classes might be learning about is Matt Goodfellow. One of his poems is called 'Library Poem' from a collection called 'Chicken on the roof'. It is all about fostering a love of reading and the importance of celebrating local community libraries.

This is something we feel really passionate about at our school and it sets the tone for our whole year. We hope the children enjoy it too.

October

Reading Value



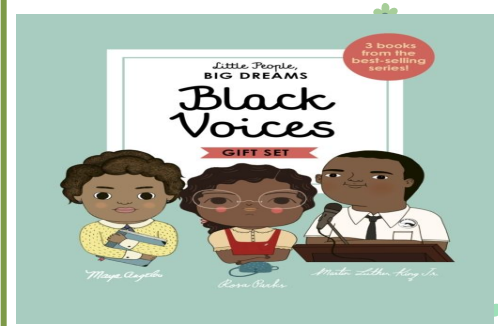
I can **make predictions** - This month your challenge is to make predictions. When you are reading sometimes you can use your deduction skills to think about what will happen next.
✿ Make sure you make some predictions with your teacher during your guided read sessions.

Whole School Focus



At St Laurence's we love celebrating all genres of the written word. We love celebrating halloween by reading poems and spooky stories all related to this famous holiday! The children really enjoy taking part and getting dressed up

Poem / Book Of the Month



At St Laurence's we want to promote understanding of Black History Month. We will be teaching children about important figure from history through story and discussion.



November

Reading Value



I can retrieve and record information - When you are reading how are your retrieval skills? can you remember what you have read? This month you will be working on retrieval skills. During your guided read sessions you will need to work on finding information in the text.

Whole School Focus



Linked to our poem of the month pupils of all ages will be apart of our whole school remembrance. This might be through: art work, poetry, individual lessons or even whole class discussion.

Poem / Book of the Month

In Flanders Fields

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt down, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high;
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



December

Reading Value



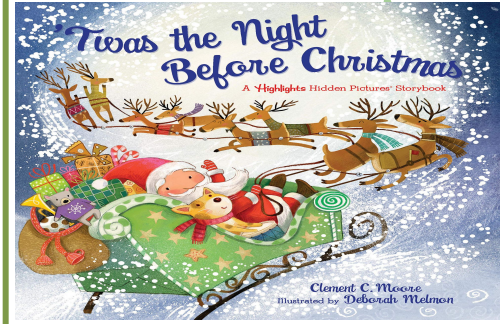
I can explain a characters feelings - Before we finish for christmas you will be working on characters and emotions. When we read stories our characters can feel all sorts of things. Next time your reading can you tell your teacher how you think the character is feeling?

Whole School Focus



As a Catholic school we feel that the most important story to share with our children is the Nativity. We will be learning about this special time within our 'Come and See' lessons.



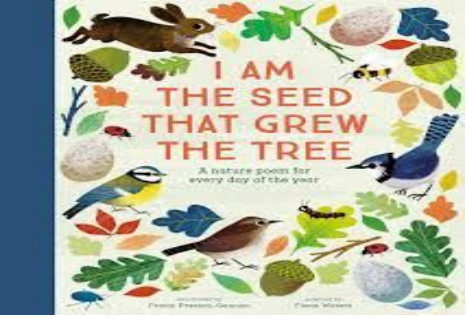
Poem / Book of the Month



A childhood classic - Twas the night before Christmas - Clement C Moore, is a beautifully written poem that we hope to share with all pupils before they finish for Christmas break.




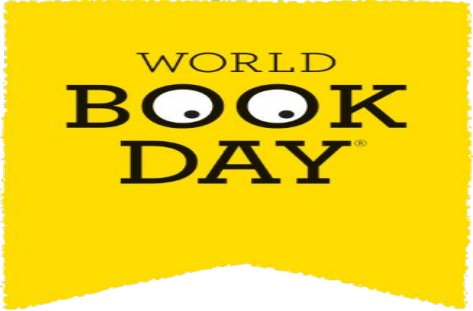
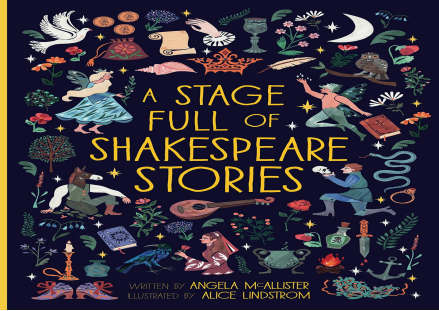
January

Reading Value	Whole School Focus	Poem / Book of the Month
	 <p>NATIONAL Storytelling Week</p>	 <p>I AM THE SEED THAT GREW THE TREE</p> <p>A nature poem for every day of the year</p>
<p>I can describe a character - This month during your guided reading you are going to focus on describing a character from a book you are reading. It might be from a story at home, something you are doing in and English lesson or just your favourite book!</p>	<p>To celebrate 'National Storytelling Week' We want to hear from you ! We would like families to vote on their favourite stories of all time to create a top ten list for our school. Please see your class teacher for more details!</p>	<p>Welcoming us back to school our children will be read 'The Garden Year' by Sara Coleridge. This poem talks about every month of the year and something special it can bring. It comes from a beautiful poetry book 'I am the seed that grew' which has a different poem for every day of the year!</p>

February

Reading Value	Whole School Focus	Poem / Book of the Month
		
<p>I can recommend a story - Its february , by now you might have read a new story you got over christmas. Or even be starting a new book in your english lessons.</p> <p>This month you are going to be recommending a story to someone else in the school. We cant wait to hear your choices.</p>	<p>Within literacy it is just as important to work on our speaking and listening skills. To work in conjunction with 'Children's Mental Health Week' pupils in our school will be completing lots of wellbeing activities. However something we want to ensure is that pupils feel they can express themselves freely and listen to others within our school.</p>	<p>To work alongside of our whole school focus of 'Children's Mental Health Week' our book of the month is 'Ruby's Worry'. We believe our pupils should be champions of their own wellbeing and believe reading stories which deal with the tools to support this make them resilient and able to vocalise their opinions and thoughts.</p>

March

Reading Value	Whole School Focus	Poem / Book of the Month
		
<p>I can read aloud - During March we would like to see some confident reading. Your task this month is to practise reading out loud. You might do this at home when you read with you families, or to your teacher during guided read.</p>	<p>One of our favourite whole school events is world book day! Pupils will have a chance to celebrate on this special days all things to do with reading; enjoy lots of competitions; read out loud and be read to and get dressed up as their favourite characters!</p>	<p>As a school we have celebrated Shakespeare week for the past few years. Pupils love learning about different plays , sonnets and characters. As always every year group will be allocated a play to learn about. We hope the children are as excited as we are.</p>

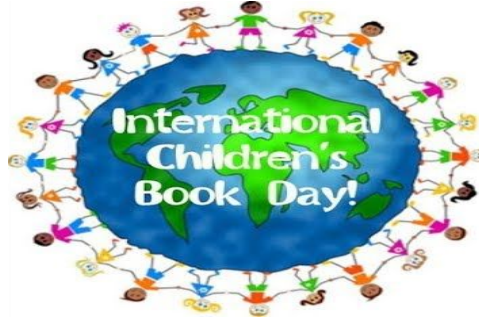
April

Reading Value



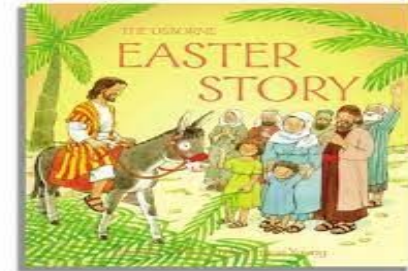
I can compare stories that I have read or heard - In April we want you to think about all the stories you know. Can you think of your favourites? Does it remind you of anything else you have read or heard in the past? Can you tell your teacher any comparisons when you do guided reading?

Whole School Focus



We are so lucky to have so much access to the written word. Our pupils have class libraries, links with the Knowsley library and a range of books at home. To celebrate 'International Children's Book Day' we want to promote a love of reading by hosting stop, drop and read sessions over the whole month of April to encourage more reading across our school! We hope to see you there.

Poem / Book of the Month



As part of our catholic curriculum we will be celebrating Easter within our school. This is why we felt the best story to focus on this month is the Easter story. Pupils will focus on this within 'Come and See' sessions and focus on different elements of the story. They will be completing different tasks to do with this.

May

Reading Value	Whole School Focus	Poem / Book of the Month
		
<p>I can read a poem - We read lots of stories in school. But have you got a favourite poem? It is so important that we read lots of different books and texts so this month your task is to read a poem and discuss it with your class.</p>	<p>Did you know May is 'National share a story month'? This year we would like to share stories with an animal theme! We love hearing all about your favourite animals, through fictional tales, non fiction fact books or even poems. What is your favourite story involving an animal?</p>	<p>Our teachers will be bringing to life their favourite animal stories. One that everyone can agree on is Giraffes can't dance! This amazing story follows poor Gerald as he learns to celebrate what makes him special in the magical jungle.</p>

June

Reading Value	Whole School Focus	Poem / Book of the Month
		
<p>I can discuss a book/text to a group - Earlier in the year we practised reading out loud. This month we want you to not just read, but tell us about what your reading. What do you like about the book? Who is your favourite character? What do you think will happen next?</p>	<p>In June we celebrate 'National Writing Day'. At St Laurence's we write all sorts of things: stories, newspapers, poems, comic books, recipes, prayers and many more! To celebrate this day each class will be given a theme to create a creative class poem by the end of the day. These will be shared and published online!</p>	<p>To celebrate 'World Environment Day' each class will be given a poem linked to our world. This will be a beautiful way to celebrate and reflect on the work we did in the first term. We will be able to see how much our understanding has grown as well as produce work of our own on this special day!</p>

July

Reading Value	Whole School Focus	Poem / Book of the Month
		
<p>I can read a nonfiction book - Already we have read some stories & some poetry. This month we want to read non fiction books. Non fiction might be linked to your science or topic theme. But it might just be something you are really interested in.</p> 	<p>As we say goodbye for another year we don't want our pupils to stop reading! Make sure you check out the local libraries over the holidays; find a new reading spot; learn about a new author or just share a story with a family member. We want to hear all about your summer reading in September !</p>	<p>Dr Seuss said it best ' You have brains in your head and feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose'. A perfect way to remind our children that we want them to always be the best they can be and hope they have spent this year becoming confident readers to open many doors for them in the future.</p> 