

Tadpole Farm Book Festival: A community who read together

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For consideration in the Egmont RfP Awards: School Reading Champion



Context

Tadpole Farm CE Primary Academy - Tadpole Garden Village, Swindon.

We are a newly built school (opened September 2014) in a new development in Swindon. We are continuing to grow, with classes from nursery to Year 6; our final class will open next year bringing our school to its full capacity.



Our school development plan has a focus on reading: "Further develop reading culture by:

- 1) Regularly updated high quality reading texts.
- 2) Regular recommendation lists for children and parents.
- 3) Children and parents engage with high quality reading events led by the school.

OU Research inspiration and rationale

Being a new and ever-growing school, we want to embed a love of reading for pleasure within our pupils, staff and the wider community. In order to do this, we wanted to focus on these aspects of the *Teachers as Readers* research findings:

- Creating a reading for pleasure atmosphere which focuses on pedagogy (3)
- Modelling reading for pleasure through being Reading Teachers who recommend books, actively read for pleasure and encourage book talk in school (4)
- Have an interactive reading community which allow children to share a love of reading with others (5) (Cremin et al., 2014)

However, our main strand focus was for readers within our school to be influenced by evidence of **the 'Reader Teacher'** within the school. This would allow children to see recommendations, modelled reading for pleasure, hear book talk and also have a **range of adults** that they can interact with during their reading for pleasure experience. If children are not modelled reading for pleasure, particularly in a world where they are surrounded by technology, they may not be aware of its purpose beyond being told they *have* to read in school.

We used the OU RfP research and the following documents in order to inform our work:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/284286/reading_for_pleasure.pdf

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/research/reading-for-pleasure-in-secondary-schools-literature-review.pdf>

As well as recommended book lists from:

Simon Smith: @smithsmm

Scott Evans: @MrETeacher . As well as having children involved in the planning and organisation of any events and reading aims in school with our Library Monitors.

Aims

Overall, we wanted to build a community where *all* children are able to access books, read and enjoy the texts, and build a love of literacy through having modelled discussion and skills from teachers. We wanted to:

- Build strongly reciprocal and interactive reading communities.

In order to do this we had aims to:

- Enable a wide range of children to access a range of texts.
- Recommend reads to children and parents which give them the opportunity to discover new genres, books and stories to love.
- Children and parents engage with high quality reading events at the school.

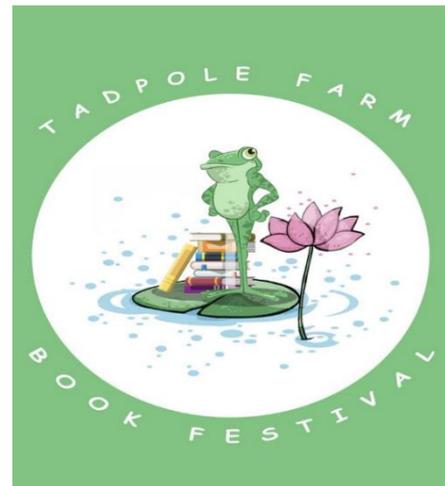
Outline

In order to achieve this, I implemented a range of ways children can interact with reading through a love of reading for pleasure. We now use:

- Comfy reading
- Whole Class Reading across the school.



Y6 are doing some 'comfy reading' this morning with our Whole Class book: *The Nowhere Emporium!*



Tadpole Farm CEPA @TadpoleFarmCEPA · 20 Nov 2019

What a fabulous selection @bookwagonuk have brought with them today!

They will be here after school (in the small hall) for you to buy some books. They have read all the books they sell so can give you fantastic recommendations! 📖📚

- Bookwagon visiting the school to engage children and parents with reading.
- Tadpole Farm Book Festival (<http://www.tadpolefarmcepa.co.uk/tadpole-reading/>)



- Organising a Reading Coffee Morning
- Monthly Reading Newsletter
- 20 Books in 2020 across the school
- Encouraging children to write to authors

Tadpole Farm Reading Newsletter



January 2020

Author Spotlight: Jenny McLachlan	Local Library opening hours
 <p>Jenny McLachlan started writing her novels aimed at teenagers (so you might go on to read these when you're older!). Recently, however, she has written her AMAZING middle grade book: Land of Roar! This has a sequel coming in June (Return to Roar) which we are very excited about in school!</p> <p>We can also EXCLUSIVELY reveal that Jenny is the second author confirmed for the Tadpole Farm Book Festival in June! Her stories are full of imagination and adventure; we can't wait for her to visit us.</p> <p>☑️ When Arthur and Rose were little, they often visited the Land of Roar. Roar is full of magic wizards, mermaid witches and also contains all the things that scared them, including a very creepy scarecrow! But as they get older, Roar is forgotten until Arthur sees a familiar shape in the attic. But Roar isn't really real... is it?</p>	<p>North Swindon Monday: 2pm - 6pm Wednesday: 10am - 2pm Friday: 12pm - 4pm Saturday: 1pm - 4pm</p> <p>West Swindon Monday: 1pm - 5pm Tuesday: 10am - 6pm Wednesday: 1pm - 5pm Thursday: 1pm - 5pm Friday: 10am - 6pm Saturday: 10am - 1pm</p> <p style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; text-align: center;">Book shops in Swindon</p> <p>Waterstones The Brunel Centre, 25/26 Farnley St, Swindon 01793 436465</p> <p>WH Smith 10/12 Regent Street, Swindon 01793 531342</p> <p>Independent: Bassett Books 34 High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett 01793 855166</p>
Have you been to...?	
<p>Bassett Books</p> <p>01793 855166- 34 High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4</p> <p><small>Located on the High Street, this shop is really part of the community in Royal Wootton Bassett. With a wide range of books and genres available - including lots of fabulous children's books - you will find everything you're looking for. If you don't? Then you can use their ordering service! Whichever book you need, they will find it for you and usually get it in stock within a couple of days. On top of this, there are friendly, knowledgeable staff to help you while you browse.</small></p>	

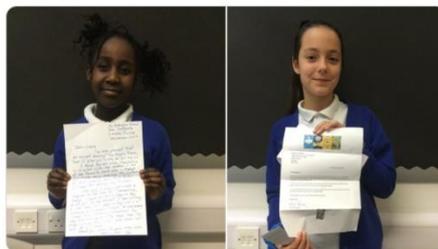
20 books to read in 2020!

Can you read one of each type of book this year? In the box, write the title of the book you read!

A book with magic.	A book which has been made into a film!
A book written by a BAME author.	A funny book.
A graphic novel.	A character uses a school value.
A historical fiction.	A non-fiction book.
A spooky book.	A book which makes you think.
A book written before you were born!	A picture book.
A poetry book.	A book AND its sequel.
A book written before you were born!	A book with an animal character.
A book with an evil character.	A book from another country.
A book written before you were born!	A fantasy book.
A book with an animal character.	A book you would recommend to your teacher.



Claire and Rhiannon were thrilled with their letters from authors today! Thank you @lthompsonwrites & Chris Wormell (@DFB_storyhouse) 🌟🌟



Deborah (Y6) was thrilled with her letter from @damarisyoung this week - accompanied with bookmarks & a wooden goat! Thank you for taking the time to write Damaris! 🌟🌟



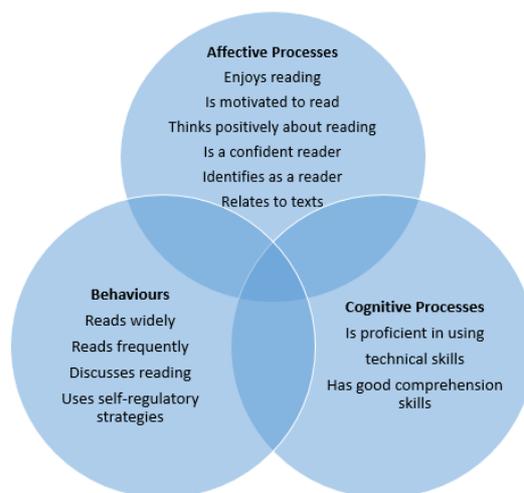
This is alongside our regular event of World Book Day, storytime in class, sponsored reads, book tokens used as rewards in school and teachers who constantly encourage book talk.

Impact

Because of this work, we noticed that:

- Parents were contacting teachers to tell them that children were coming home excited to read, discuss books and were using school recommendations to guide what they request to read.
- Children were using libraries to follow new authors they had discovered and get the chance to read other books they had read.
- Library monitors were enthusiastic about their role and this guided discussion about books with other children in school.
- Our books in school have grown through sponsored reads, donations from families and through purchasing new high-quality texts.
- We have been able to arrange a range of events in school which are interacted with well, allowing us to arrange Tadpole Farm's first book festival in June this year, which a range of authors will attend.

Reading...



ROGO model evidence base National Literacy Trust 2017, page 2

- 20 books in 2020 has provided children with a fantastic opportunity to not only extend their range of books being read, but also to discuss books with other children and discover the social aspect of reading.
- Teachers have recommended reads in each class which they discuss with children. Children have also begun asking teachers for a personal recommendation or to borrow a book.
- Writing to authors has helped to embed a love of reading - when they receive a reply it develops their excitement further.

Reflections on impact the TaRs research had on practice

The research by the UKLA (2018) and the EEF (2018) has helped to reinforce the importance having **Teachers as Readers** and how we can influence Reading for Pleasure through our own practice.

The more children see teachers read, recommend and be involved with reading, the more likely they are to discover reading for pleasure themselves and choose to do it beyond the academic reasons school provide. It has enabled children to access a wider genre of books and become excited about the discussion they can take part in. As the excitement of children's reading has developed, it has opened a wider gateway to creating events and opportunities for parents to become involved in school events.

The opportunity to create Tadpole Farm Book Festival has been developed through this excitement of reading and enjoyment of books from the school community. Our next step, through this event, is to move our love of reading for pleasure into the community beyond.