



Hesketh-with-Beconsall All Saints Church of England Primary School

*'What you are is God's gift to you,  
what you become is your gift to God.'*

## School Improvement Newsletter - Issue 14

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you for the feedback regarding our last bulletin which focused on the work of FOS (Friends of School). Please continue to support the FOS events this term as we work in partnership to 'help our school grow'.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February** FOS 'Leap into Spring' School Disco

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** FOS Pre-loved Sale of Baby & Children's Items (more details to follow)

**Easter Holidays** FOS Easter Trail around the Local Area (more details to follow)

This issue we look at 'Pupil Voice' and what this means for our school, and we reveal our revised 'Reading Reward' scheme ahead of World Book Day 2024.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards,

*RSAinsworth*

Rachael Ainsworth  
Associate Headteacher

*'Isn't everything you have and everything you are sheer gifts from  
God? ...You already have all you need.'* 1 Corinthians 4:7-8

### Spotlight on Pupil Voice

As a Church School we passionately believe in the power of pupil voice to aid school improvement and we champion the right of our children to make a positive difference to their school and community. This is underpinned by our school motto: *'What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God.'*

We firmly believe in our behaviour policy rooted in the Gospel message of John 15:12 *'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.'* makes for a fairer world knowing that living out our faith enables all our children to know that they are truly kingdom builders: *'We are God's handiwork, created in Christ to do good works'* from Ephesians 2:10.

We know that listening to and working with our children ensures our school goes from strength to strength as well as enabling our children to help others for as it says in Matthew 25:40 *'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

We know that children and young people can offer unique perspectives on what it is like to be a pupil at our school; so involving them in decision-making can create meaningful change and better academic outcomes, as well as facilitating a sense of empowerment and inclusion.

### **What is Pupil Voice and why is it important?**

Pupil voice in schools means a whole-school commitment to listening to the views, wishes and experiences of all children and young people. It means placing value on what children and young people tell school staff about their experiences.

Children and young people need to be provided with meaningful opportunities to share their experiences, views and hopes about their school. Pupils need to know that it is safe and that it is important for them to express their views on what happens at school. They need to know that what they say is valued and will be listened to and considered.

This was a topic discussed before the half-term holiday when we took part in 'Children's Mental Health Week' which had the theme: Your Voice Matters.



We learned about the Convention on the Rights of the Child especially **Article 12: You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.** More importantly we learned that with rights come responsibilities, for example to be truthful and honest.

## What does Pupil Voice look like at Hesketh-with-Beaconsall All Saints?

You will remember from the weekly newsletters that back in November:



Our School Council Class Representatives were chosen by their peers by the elections held during Parliament Week.



# **School Council 2023 to 2024**



<b>Chair</b>	Yuliya Riley
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## **Class Representatives**

<b>Year 6</b>	Alicja Cieplinski & Isaac Pateman
<b>Year 5</b>	Neve Evans & Oscar Harrison
<b>Year 4</b>	George Briggs & Olivia Gannon
<b>Year 3</b>	William Latham & Abbie Tree
<b>Year 2</b>	Harrison Seed & Max Wright

Our School Council was commissioned during Celebration Worship on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November using this special prayer:

### **School Council Commissioning Prayer**

Thank you, God, for the children who will be representing their classes on the School Council and will discuss and decide on important matters that will affect us all.

We pray that during meetings all the members of the council will be heard,  
their suggestions valued,

and the decisions they make will be based on the core values of our school.

Give our School Council courage when choices are difficult,  
and wisdom to know what is right.

Amen

## What does School Council do?

School Council is our 'Pupil Voice' vehicle, and the representatives meet with Mr Wright and the School Council Chair, Yuliya, regularly to listen to 'pupil voice' and plan activities to help improve our school for everybody.

Initially they looked at the structure of a school council meeting so that the children had a clear understanding of the task they had as well as specific roles and responsibilities.

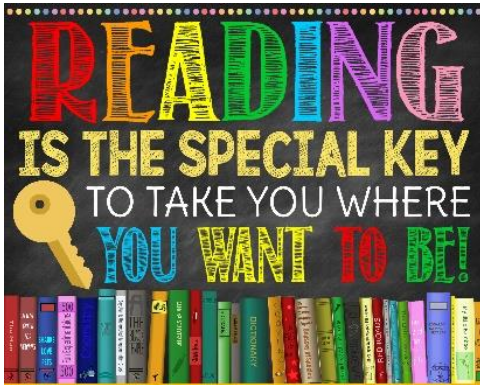
Then have since had meetings to discuss the changes they would like to see at school and how children can make these happen.

Their next step to put some proposals to Mrs Ainsworth as Associate Headteacher to see how they can make a difference – I look forward to seeing what they have in mind!

Further research and information can be found in this blog on the benefits of Pupil Voice:

<https://teaching.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/05/inspiring-and-enabling-pupil-and-learner-voice/>

## Revised Reading Reward Scheme



We really appreciate your involvement in your child's learning journey by listening to them read regularly and recording this in their reading records. The ability to read can never be underestimated and we love rewarding children in Celebration Worship for their efforts!

We have reviewed the way we record children's reading as a whole school staff and we took the opportunity to revise the Reward Scheme at the same time. We will still be rewarding children by the '100 Club' idea however the certificates will reflect a graduated response.

We will also be encouraging children with an incentive to join the 100, 200 & 300 Club.

Children attaining 400 & 500 will just receive a certificate as by now excellent reading habits will be intrinsically instilled and reading for pleasure will bring its own reward.

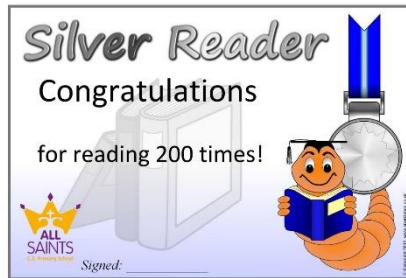


# Revised Reading Rewards



## 100 Club

Certificate with the additional incentive of a pencil



## 200 Club

Certificate with the additional incentive of a bookmark



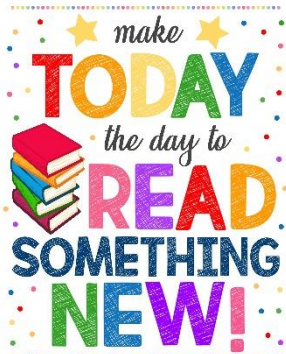
## 300 Club

Certificate with the additional incentive of a book

## 400 Club Certificate



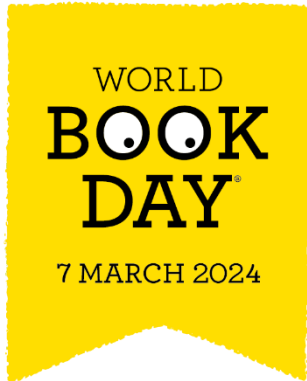
## 500 Club Certificate



Children who have already received their Reading Reward Certificates so far this year will be given the new associated prizes next week.

We hope the children are enthused to get going with the 100 Club if they haven't already and keep going if they have started the 200 or 300 Club journey. Thank you for your continued support!

# World Book Day 2024

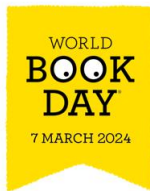


We **will** be taking part in this year's World Book Day.

On the day we are encouraging children (and staff too!) to dress up as their favourite book character and bring along the book that inspired them to share at school.

## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

This year we will be encouraging everyone to:



### Find your reading SUPERPOWER this World Book Day!

CHOOSE THE BOOKS YOU WANT TO READ



LISTEN TO BOOKS BEING READ ALOUD (OR LISTEN TO AUDIOBOOKS)



MAKE TIME TO READ



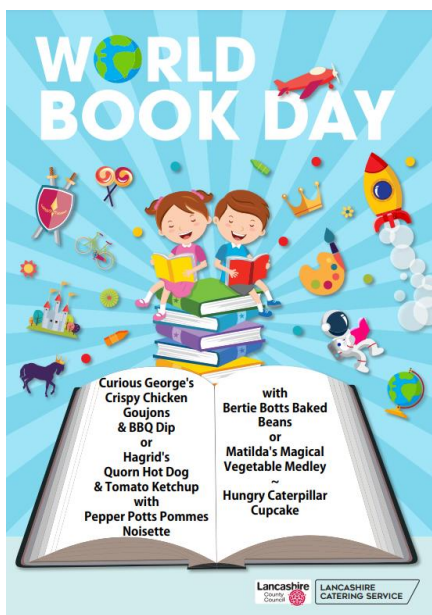
TAKE BOOKS HOME TO READ



ASK FOR IDEAS ON WHAT TO READ NEXT



## READ YOUR WAY



The Kitchen are also getting involved by making a special

## World Book Day

menu, so don't forget to book your child's lunch on parent pay!

Coming in Issue 15... Academy Update