



Clacton County High School Weekly News Special

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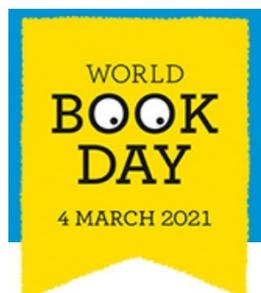
admin@cchs.school

parentnews@cchs.school

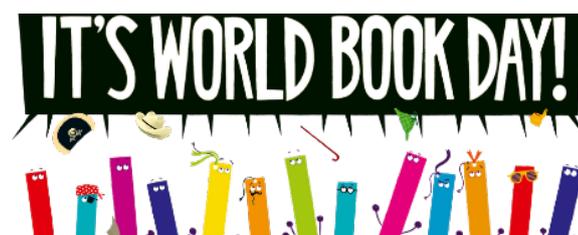
[The CCHS Blog](#)

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Weekly News – World Book Day Take Over!



Here at CCHS, World Book Day is always an exciting day of celebrating authors, books and the joy of reading. Whilst this year might be a little different, since we have been working remotely, there are still lots of fun ways to enjoy the annual celebration from home and promote the CCHS 'love of reading' culture. Reading for pleasure is at the heart of World Book Day. **Let's Get Reading - #getreading**



We know that reading is hugely beneficial for our students' academic achievements but we also recognise the positive impact of reading on our students' wellbeing. Three-in-five young people said, in the first lockdown, that reading made them feel better (National Literacy Trust), which shows just how important it is to encourage children to read for pleasure.

CCHS Virtual Library – 'Sora' our new Student Open Reading App

We are very excited to launch our new virtual CCHS library this week, in honour of World Book Day!

As a result of the pandemic, our school library was forced to close last year, but knowing how important it is for children to have access to free books, our students can now do so via the Sora library app.

Here, students can access a catalogue of over 2000 titles; they simply need to [open the app](#), select our school 'Clacton County High School' and log in using their usual school Google account credentials.



[Click here to learn how to access the Sora App](#)



Look out for the Quick Link Button for the Sora Reading App on the school website.

The catalogue includes audio books as well as eBooks, plus the option to select 'dyslexia font', as well as 'high contrast' formatting for students with a visual impairment.

Students can also explore recommended titles within the following categories:

- Books in Spanish – a great way to develop their confidence and fluency in Spanish!
- Titles exploring diversity
- Bibliotherapy (fiction and non-fiction that will help you cope with difficult situations, take care of yourself and develop empathy for the difficulties others face).
- GCSE English Literature exam texts

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World Book Day - £1 Books

[Students can access their digital World Book Day book voucher here](#)

You will need to download and print the voucher.

Vouchers are valid until the 28th March.

The £1 book token can be exchanged for one of the exclusive, new £1 books (see the full line-up at worldbookday.com/books/) OR for getting £1 off any book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more in participating bookshops and supermarkets.



CCHS Recommended Reads

Our 'Recommended Reads' literacy competition will continue until the end of the academic year. This week's winners and recipients of the £10 Amazon book vouchers are:

- **Tristan Coffey** (Year 9) for his extensive review of Michael Grant's 'Gone' series (available on Sora!)
- **Harley Farrin** (Year 8) for her review of Robin Stevens' 'Murder Most Unladylike'.
- **Jane Hammond** (Year 11) reviewing Bernard Cornwell's 'Sharpe's Trafalgar'.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their 'Recommended Reads'. Look out for our winners' reviews, along with all the other recommendations on the [CCHS Facebook page!](#)

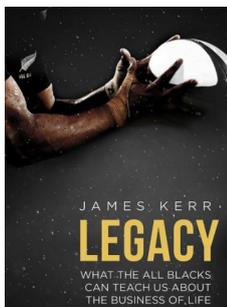


World Book Day - CCHS Staff Recommended Reads

To acknowledge World Book Day and our Recommended Reads competition we wanted to share what teachers having been reading during the remote learning period and some of their favourite books of all time – why not pick a title from their recommendations so that you can discuss the books with them? [You can find more Staff Recommended Reads here.](#)

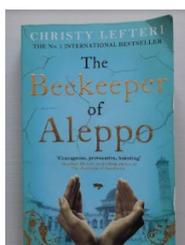
Mr Henderson

I can fully recommend this book - *Legacy*, by James Kerr. It's a great book on leadership in sport and how the All Blacks rugby team trains and prepares themselves and how to build real team spirit.



Ms Hope

The Beekeeper of Aleppo - by Christy Lefteri. A heart-warming, moving and very poignant story of the journey of a Syrian refugee and beekeeper, Nuri, and his wife Afra. It follows their life in Syria before and during the war, their dangerous and tragic journey to the UK as well as their hope for a new start. It is a humbling story of human strength, endurance and survival partly based on a true story, (there really is a beekeeper from Syria who runs a bee conservation and teaching project in Yorkshire called The Buzz Project!)



Mr Blanes

I love reading and endeavour to read a book per week. Mostly on audible now as I listen whilst I am on my bike. My genre is fantasy and sci-fi although I throw the odd thriller in sometimes and during the lockdowns, I have been listening to some of Mr Duffy's recommended reads. Some I loved and some I didn't enjoy so much, but always loved the discussions we had afterwards!



Ms Pickard

I would highly recommend that everyone read 'His Dark Materials'. This series of books offers escapism into a world of fantasy and adventure where the reader meets a whole host of interesting, horrifying and spell-binding characters. It's a series of books I hoped would never end. In fact, writing this has made me want to re-read them!

Miss Melrose

'Welcome to Nowhere' - Elizabeth Laird (recommended for KS3)
It is a beautiful story set in a heart breaking context yet it demonstrates the strength, humour and entrepreneurial skills of humans even in the most adverse of situations. Enjoy Omar's story!

'The Witches Don't burn in this one' – Amanda Lovelace (recommended for KS4)
Fabulous, fierce feminist poetry. With links to the history of women and witchcraft, the poetry is humorous and powerful. A great way to get into poetry.

Mr Holding

I love science fiction and fantasy books, some of my favourites include:

- Dune - Frank Herbert
- Dracula - Bram Stoker
- Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - Douglas Adams (this should be on the GCSE curriculum, as it's my favourite book ever, I think I've read it over 15 times!)
- Horus Rising - Dan Abnett
- The Hobbit - J R R Tolkien
- Jurassic Park - Michael Crichton



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Raising Reading Standards

At CCHS we are committed to raising the standards of literacy for all of our students and have been focused on improving confidence and ability in reading across the curriculum. We recognise how important reading is in relation to the progress and future successes of our students both in and out of the school setting.

Did You Know?

- 1 in 7 (14.9% / 5.1 million) adults in England struggle to read
- 10 to 16 year-olds who read for pleasure, do better at school
- Reading books is the only out-of-school activity for 16-year-olds demonstrably linked to securing managerial or professional jobs



Children listen on a higher level than their reading level. It is not until they are about 14 years old that their reading level catches up with their listening level.

Children are never too old to enjoy a story being read to them! In fact, they love it! It is an excellent way to enable children to hear stories that are too difficult for them to read easily but that they can understand.

Parents and the home environment are essential to the teaching of reading and fostering a love of reading; children are more likely to read well and continue to be readers in homes where books and reading are valued.

You make such a difference. Let your children see you read. Set aside time to share books together. It is just as valuable for you to read to your child as it is for them to read to you. If your child is tired, do not force them to read. If your child is reading, support them in removing distractions such as mobile phones and televisions so they can fully immerse themselves in what they are reading.

How can you support your child?

Improving their Confidence & Ability in Reading

- Encourage your child to **read for pleasure** – good readers, read a lot - reading for 20 minutes each day would really benefit your child.
- Build your child's confidence with reading by **making sure that they are reading a reading-age-appropriate text**; you can check this by asking them to spread their hand flat across two pages and see if they can read 3 of the words that their fingers are pointing towards. If they struggle to read these words, the text is too difficult for them.
- If your child struggles with reading, encourage them to **listen to an audio book alongside tracking the text** so they can hear how to say tricky words and adapt their expression.
- Question your child about what they are reading to check their understanding.
- If your child is reading aloud to you, it may help to **track the words above the line with your finger**, making sure to move your finger in one continual motion above the words rather than pointing to each word separately. This helps the eyes to track correctly and can improve reading speed as you are not blocking the following lines with your hand.
- If your child is a reluctant reader, **agree on a set time for reading** and use a timer so they do not view reading as a never-ending task.

Children who read for pleasure are 5 times more likely to read above their expected age.

Make sure your child is reading something they enjoy. If they are not enjoying the book or text they are reading, then let them change it. Take time to help them choose the right text for them. This could be, for example: a magazine, comic book, graphic novel, football programme, newspaper, fiction or non-fiction book.

90% of difficulties of understanding what has been read are due to a lack of fluency when reading.

To help children read fluently be prepared to ask them to reread a page or sentence again if it is not read smoothly and at an appropriate speed. You may need to read it for your child so they can hear how it should sound when read fluently and with expression. You could then read it together maybe a couple of times, if need be, before your child reads it on their own.

