

# Thorpe Life

#WeAREreading

Excellence for all  
Issue 22 - 2 March 2023



The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go.  
- Dr. Seuss



As the great Dr Seuss said **"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go."** –Dr. Seuss



Reading is such an important part of life, without the ability to read we cannot access the basic information and support that we need to live fulfilling adult lives. If we can read and we enjoy reading it can provide a place of escape, of fun, of memories, of calm and a retreat from the rest of the world. As we celebrate World book Day and the recent visit to our school from the author Bali Rae, we want to celebrate reading and our approach here at TSAS, because **#weAREreaders**.



## What reading do we do?

**Form time reading programme:** Twice a week, all Year 7 to 9 students take part in a Guided Reading programme. They will be reading a range of challenging, broad and diverse texts that help them to understand the world around them and develop the key reading skills of: **expression and volume; phrasing; smoothness and pace.**

### Some of the books that your child might read:

- Noah Can't Even, Simon James Green
- The War of the Worlds, H G Wells
- The Colour of the Sun, David Almond
- The Lord of the Flies, William Golding
- Salt To The Sea, Ruta Sepetys
- The Clockwork Crow, Catherine Fisher
- I Am David, Anne Holm
- You Are A Champion, Marcus Rashford
- Paddy Clarke Ha ha ha, Roddy Doyle
- The Goldfish Boy, Lisa Thompson
- I am Malala, Malala Yousafzai

**Why Read?** Various studies have been carried out that show that reading can have many benefits for young people. At school we often talk about the brain being like any other muscles in the body that needs to be trained and given regular exercise! With the increasing presence of short form entertainment like YouTube and TikTok, it is more important than ever that we encourage young people to read as much as possible.

The benefits of reading:

- **having a stronger sense of belonging to society and being more likely to trust others.**
- **enhances empathy, understanding of the self, and the ability to understand one's own and others' identities.**
- **fewer feelings of stress and depression than non-readers and stronger feelings of relaxation from reading than from watching television or engaging with technology intensive activities.**
- **improving vocabulary to help in every subject.**
- **escapism from the everyday and diving into a different world is a huge benefit of reading for pleasure.**
- **understanding examination questions improves written responses.**

**Reading in English:** All Year 7 to 9 students will read once a week with their English teacher. The novels we choose will enrich their learning and complement the work they are doing in their Core English lessons. The books they might read are: **Private Peaceful, War Horse, Coraline, Alice in Wonderland, Black Beauty, Skellig, Artemis Fowl, High Rise Mystery, Sherlock Holmes short stories, The Hunger Games, Blood Brothers.** Please ask your child about the books they have read.

**Supporting reading at home:** All students have access to our Learning Resource Centre, run by our Librarian Mrs Hamilton where they can take out up to 4 books at any one time. Books can be reserved by students using the *Oliver Tile* on RUnify. Please continue to encourage your children to read at home, as much as possible. A few things you could do to support this are:

1. **Speaking about reading - Asking your child what they are reading in school - can they tell you anything about the characters, the plot, the themes?**
2. **Reading aloud together - Though many of our students are fluent readers it is still beneficial for them to practise reading aloud, working on the skills of fluency as set out by Tim Rasinski.**

### Tim Rasinski's Reading Fluency Skills:

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Skill</b>                 | What does <i>excellent</i> sound like?   |
| <b>Volume and expression</b> | Reads with varied volume and expression. The reader sounds like they are talking to a friend with their voice matching the interpretation of the passage.  |
| <b>Phrasing</b>              | Reads with good phrasing; adhering to punctuation, stress and intonation.  |
| <b>Smoothness</b>            | Reads smoothly with some breaks, but self corrects with difficult words and/or sentence structures.  |
| <b>Pace</b>                  | Reads at a conversational pace throughout the reading.   |
| <b>In summary:</b>           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read to punctuate . , ? !</li> <li>2. Read with expression and volume</li> <li>3. Read at a conversational pace</li> <li>4. Read accurately, correcting mistakes.</li> </ol> |



We are trialling a Word Of The Week through Thorpe Life. The words will be selected from 500 academic words researched for their high frequency.

During each week, as and when it occurs, we will be rewarding students for correct spoken use of the word in context and/or spelling of the word.

WOTW is the verb **DEDUCE**

The following articles are on our website.  
To read these in full, please visit our [website](#) or  
click on the links below.



Year 7 forms are writing book reviews to post on Twitter, authors and publishers are tagged and we see which form gets the most responses, a few of the lovely comments so far:

**CRESSIDA COWELL** (Author of *How to Train Your Dragon*) - *'Hey there, thank you for your review of How to Train Your Dragon and I'm really glad you enjoyed it! Love to Year 7 from me x'*

**JEFF KINNEY** (Author of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*) - *'Wow, these reviews are all so cool! I feel so honoured that the students reviewed my books!'*

**SOPHIE ANDERSON** (Author of *The House with Chicken Legs*) - *'Absolutely wonderful! Such thoughtful readers.'*

We were very excited to have the excellent author Bali Rai in school on Thursday 23 February 2023. He presented talks to large groups of Key Stage 3 students and delivered a Creative Writing Workshop in the Library. Students were inspired to purchase and borrow his books, a fantastic day!



We are encouraging our students to "read for well-being". It is World Book Day on Thursday 2 March 2023, so what better time to remind our students of the positive impact of reading on our Mental Health and Well-being. As part of their Monday Assembly, the students saw a video which highlighted the benefits of reading, whatever the genre or format. Greater focus and concentration, better productivity, more relaxed and less stressed, livelier and more active minds - reading is an activity which has a huge impact on our well-being. The school places significant emphasis on reading, with Forms in Years 7 to 9 reading together twice per week in Form Time. We maintain a large, well stocked and comprehensive library, and Mrs Hamilton is always ready to make recommendations. We think there is a book for everyone, even for those students who do not like reading!

**FRANK COTTRELL-BOYCE** (Author of *Cosmic* and many others) - *'Critical insights from Thorpe St Andrew here!'*



In the Learning Resource Centre, we have a new 'Cosy Corner' where students can wrap up in a fleece blanket to read in comfort on a bean bag or chair at lunchtime. We are very grateful to FOTSAS for the funding.

### Thorpe Music Showcase 2023



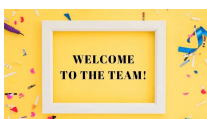
Monday 13 March: Norwich Arts Centre - 40+ music students (and some staff) are taking over the Arts Centre to showcase what they have been working on since September. Going out on a Monday night is a bit of an indulgence but to share in the endeavours of some really talented students is a great excuse for it. Tickets are available from [Thorpe Music Showcase 2023 - Norwich Arts Centre](#).



Meet on Wednesdays for Year 7 and Fridays for all other years.



### Staff Changes



We welcome Mrs Harris to BEST. She will be working as BEST Lead in the Year 7 School.

Ms Bond will be moving to the Year 10 school.

Mrs Thetford is moving temporarily to a BEST Co-ordinator role and will continue working with Year 10 students.

- Wednesday 8 March 2023 - Year 8 Working Together Evening
- Year 12 Norfolk Skills and Careers Festival
- Thursday 9 March 2023 - Year 10 Maths Feast Competition
- Monday 13 March 2023 - [Thorpe Music Showcase 2023](#)
- Tuesday 14 March 2023 - Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening
- Friday 17 March 2023 - Team 6 Quiz 'n' Chips
- Wednesday 22 March 2023 - Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening
- Year 9 Netball Evening at Open Academy
- National Reading Champions Quiz, Regional Heat at Dereham Northgate School
- Check out our [website](#) for future dates.