

Literacy News



November 2009



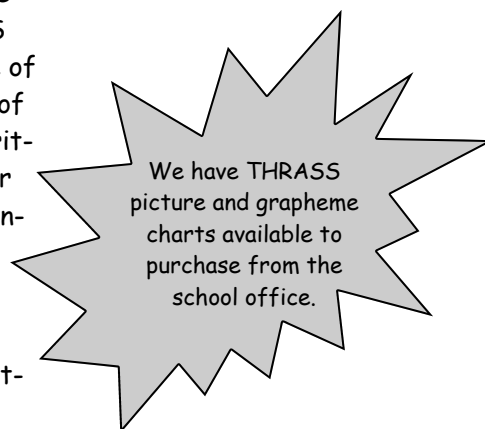
THRASS

Parents Certificate



We would like to thank all the parents and family members who gave up their valuable evenings earlier this term to take part in THRASS training. Again we received many positive comments about the value of the training. As a school we feel it is important that you are aware of the methods being used in school to develop your child's reading, writing and spelling skills. Since we started using THRASS in September 2007 we have trained over 100 parents and we are committed to continuing to train parents over the coming years. So, if you missed the training this year keep an eye out for details about training next Autumn.

We were very pleased with the improvement in standards in our writing across school, this was reflected in our SATs results this year. We believe that the use of THRASS has contributed to this.



Book Crossing

We have finally found a new home for our Book Crossing Point. Since the redevelopment of the office and main reception we have been trying to find a new location for the book crossing point and we have finally found one! The books are now in Area 2, just inside the door from main reception. We realise that the location may cause some congestion first thing in the morning and would appreciate it if you could be mindful of this when browsing through the books.



For those of you who are new to the concept of book crossing here is a short explanation. Book crossing is the practice of leaving a book in a public place to be picked up and read by others, they then do likewise. To use the Book Crossing Point in school where you can bring in a book you have read and take another one. Alternatively you can leave your book in another public place for someone to find.

The website www.bookcrossing.com gives more information and enables you to register books you might wish to cross. Registering books is not compulsory but it is quite interesting to track where your book might end up.

Local Events

Children in Year 2 are enjoying reading the stories of Beatrix Potter at the moment. On Saturday 28th November a professional storyteller is visiting Waterstone's in Midsummer Place twice, at 11am and 2pm to bring to life Peter Rabbit's "A Winter's Tale". The storytelling session will be followed by activity fun.

Borders continue their story times each Saturday at 2pm. Poppy Love weekend is on Saturday 21st November. Then it's Ben 10 Weekend on Saturday 28th. On 5th December there is an Elmer story time. On 12th December it's Peppa Pig.

Language of the Month

At the beginning of this month we started the Language of the Month project. This project was started by a primary school in London to encourage the children in their school to take an interest in one another's languages.

Last year the scheme was piloted in some schools in Milton Keynes and it is now being rolled out to more schools.

Children at Kents Hill speak over 20 languages other than English and we want to demonstrate the value that each of these languages has by teaching all of the children in school some key words and phrases in languages spoken by some of the children in school.

We have put together a two year plan, where we will access a different language every half term. We be only be learning simple phrases, greetings and colours which we will endeavour to use incidentally throughout the school day.

We will of course be encouraging the children to assist us when we are learning their language.

We have started the initiative by learning British Sign Language. Although we don't have any children in school who use sign language we thought it would be a stimulating place to start, and the children are certainly enjoying learning it. We have a member of staff in school who can use sign language as well as at least one parent. Why not ask your child to show you some of the words and phrases they have learnt. There are a number of websites available with demonstrations of sign language—try searching online.

During the Spring Term we will be learning Mandarin and Polish and in the Summer Term we will be learning Somali and French.

If you speak one of the languages we are planning to study and would like to help us in school when we are learning it please speak to a member of staff.

Languages we plan to study next year are Spanish, Arabic, Cantonese, Urdu, Swahili and Japanese.

We will continually review the languages we are planning to study as our school population is changing all of the time.

Usborne Books

Thank you to all of you who made purchases at the recent Usborne Book Fair held during the recent Parent Consultations. School earned £30 in commission from the fair and have chosen some guided reading books.

Scholastic Book Clubs

Last week we sent out the latest Scholastic Book Club leaflet. This is a bumper Christmas issue with a range of books for all ages, including a few for adults. Remember school earns 20p in commission from every £1 you spend. We generally earn about £40 in commission from each leaflet we send. We use this commission to buy books for the library as well as to add to the books the children can take home.

We are going to be sending a book club leaflet home every half term this year so look out for them coming in your child's book bag.

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