



# Building book buzz

## Quick tips to ignite the joy of reading

### Making recommendations

- **Bigging up your book** – a bit like show-and-tell! This is a lovely way for children to verbally recommend stories to their peers and share their enthusiasm.
- **Leave recommendation notes inside library books** – you may wish to fill out printed labels or write on post-it notes to share inside books for the next reader.
- **Peer recommendation shelf** – let your readers become book experts and take ownership of sharing the books they have enjoyed.
- **Write book recommendation postcards** – send these to children at another local school to begin building book bletcher in your community.



**Peer recommendation shelf**

Image courtesy of Jon Biddle from Moorland Primary Academy<sup>1</sup>

Keep up to date  
with children's  
literature – set your  
own reading goals!



A small choice  
regularly updated  
is better than lots  
of books with few  
changes.

Make sure there  
is a wide range of  
text types children  
can select from.



Broaden what  
counts as reading –  
instruction leaflets,  
road signs...



**Book tasting**

Images courtesy of Literacy with Miss P<sup>2</sup>



### Expanding taste

- **Book tasting** – have a selection of less familiar texts and host a 'tasting' session in which children can sample books they would not usually choose. You may wish to provide your pupils with a 'tasting card' to jot down the titles of the books they were interested in and would like to continue reading.
- **Create a 'Poetry Zone'** – introduce a 'Poem of the Day' to read aloud as a class. Can you think of actions to do for the repeated words? Perhaps choose your favourite from the week to perform in an assembly!

<sup>1</sup> <https://ourfp.org/eop/pupil-recommendations-shelf/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://literacywithmissp.com/2018/06/08/hosting-a-book-tasting/comment-page-1/>

## Celebrate reading

- **'Reading at Home' display** – encourage home/school reading by having the children take ownership of updating a 'Reading at Home' display. They could add pictures of them reading with people outside of school, recommendations and reviews they have written, artwork inspired by texts... let the readers celebrate!
- **Reading Rivers** – celebrate all the reading children do in a day, it's not just books!

Use your reading environment with purpose – avoid using it for storage or time-outs!

Model quiet reading.



## Giving choice

- **Reading cafés** – promote excitement and informality in reading by holding reading cafes! The readers can choose to sit individually or in groups, with the staff joining the tables. You may wish hold this during your KS1 free fruit time or a snack break.
  - **Book blankets** – invite the children to independently explore a spread of books placed all around an inviting reading space. You could do this across classroom tables, a carpet area or on blankets outside.
  - **Votes for daily class reads** – offer a choice of texts for the daily teacher read-aloud. Have the children vote with counters in pots, Lego towers or named clothes pegs for their choice. You may wish to model points to consider
- when making this choice. By revealing the voting options before break time, natural conversations can happen to spark interests in the books.
- **Give the children agency** – during reading times, allow them to choose where they sit, if they have discussions or are silent, if they engage in play, or if they read to others.
  - **Promote outdoor reading** – reading shouldn't just be done at desks, so provide the children with opportunities to read during breaktimes with outdoor reading boxes or reading sheds.



### Reading cafés

Image courtesy of X user Ceridwen Eccles @Teacherglitter<sup>4</sup>



### Book blankets

Image courtesy of South Wilford Endowed Primary School<sup>5</sup>



### Votes for daily class reads

Image courtesy of Tiverton Academy<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ourfp.org/eop/reading-rivers/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://twitter.com/Teacherglitter/status/1197619003134484489>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ourfp.org/eop/reading-rivers-2/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.tiverton.bham.sch.uk/voting-for-our-class-story-readingforpleasure/>



Bookmark

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Teachers read too!  
Can you guess who?



#### Favourite book displays

Image courtesy of X user @OutwoodBydales<sup>7</sup>

Encourage making  
connections,  
sharing views, and  
thinking aloud.

...

?

Encourage  
re-reading  
to develop  
confidence.

## Whole school engagement

- **Whole school reading challenge** – this could be based on genres or themes. Provide prizes for those who complete the challenge (you may wish to have rewards for different stages to make this manageable to encourage all readers).
- **Book postcards** – write on one side and share the cover art on the reverse. This could be drawn or made using IT. Post your postcard to a member of staff or another pupil in the school. These could be displayed in the library.
- **What are the staff reading?** Have a display showing the books that staff members are reading. Can the children guess who it belongs to? Share the answers in an assembly and have the staff members briefly talk about their book interests.
- **Favourite book displays** – share pictures of staff with their favourite book. This could be rotated to feature different year groups each half term.
- **Extreme reading** – hold a competition or set up a working wall to share photos of staff and pupils reading in unusual ways or places! You may wish to rotate the challenge around classes and let them know in advance when their turn is so they can start to think of creative ways to show unusual places they are reading.
- **Staff reading clubs** – arrange a staff reading group to share children's book recommendations around a shared theme or genre. Could you invite another local primary school to join?

## Reading in class

- **Be a reader!** Make sure staff are reading during any sessions.
- **Have regular DEAR sessions (drop everything and read)** – have the children pre-select books, ensure everyone joins in and schedule time for it. Mix up how it works e.g. read to the class, read in pairs, read independently, browsing book session, reviews, or recommendations sessions.
- **Create opportunities to be creative** – make and use 'story sacks' to support children's retelling of stories.

Build respect and  
acknowledge  
that there are no  
right or wrong  
answers.



#### Story sacks

Image courtesy of National Literacy Trust<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/OutwoodBydales/status/722847237198360578>

<sup>8</sup> <https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/how-make-and-use-story-sack/>



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