



Mr A Ramanandi
Head Teacher

5th February 2019

Dear Parents & Carers

World Book Day - Change of Date

Apologies for any inconvenience regarding World Book Day. As some children are out of school on Friday 1st March, we will now have our World Book Day on **Friday 8th March**.

Throughout this academic year all classes except Year 6 have been studying a specific author. To celebrate World Book Day, instead of making it a one day celebration, the children will spend the whole week studying their class author in greater depth which is a requirement of the National Curriculum. On the final day, Friday 8th March, we invite all children to come to school dressed as a character from the range of books they have been studying. In order to help out with costumes, one of the activities that the children will complete in school will be to make a mask or accessory as part of their costume.

Year group authors:

Reception Class - Julia Donaldson

Year 1 - Allan Ahlberg

Year 2 - Roald Dahl

Year 3 - Dick King Smith

Year 4 - C S Lewis

Year 5 - Michael Morpurgo

As Year 6 have studied many authors throughout their time at St Joseph's, they will have the opportunity to celebrate World Book Day dressed as a character from any of the above authors.

Your child will also be given a £1 book token which can be swapped for a £1 World Book Day book or used to redeem £1 off any full priced book of your choice, at any local book store.

We hope that by extending the work that the children do, they will have more opportunities to develop their love for reading and writing.

Please see overleaf about an exciting competition, the children can enter.

Kind regards

Miss L Shepherdson
English Co-ordinator



To launch World Book Day, the children will have the opportunity to become authors. After February half term all children will explore story writing through their English lessons and have the opportunity to pen a story for the BBC's 500 Words competition. Children's stories will be sent home on Friday 1st March and if they wish, they can enter their story on-line by following the instructions below. This is a fantastic opportunity for all children and it would be lovely to have a St. Joseph's winner! World Book Day will be celebrated in school on the following Friday which is also the final date for competition entries.

About 500 Words

'500 Words' is the UK's most successful short story-writing competition for children between the ages of 5 and 13. It was launched back in 2011, after Chris Evans had a dream. He dreamt of getting children excited about reading and writing. All children: no matter what their ability, experience, or background.

In 2018 134,790 children entered the competition, and since it launched, the competition has received over 800,000 short stories.

It's super simple. All entrants must pen an original story, no more than 500 words in length, and submit it online. It can be about ANYTHING you want - space-ships, grannies, insects, microwaves. The list is endless!

Stories are judged anonymously, without regard to grammar, punctuation or spelling. The competition culminates in a broadcast extravaganza of live music and sensational story-telling every summer, at a special venue. Past venues have included The Globe and The Tower of London. 2018 saw a magnificent extravaganza come live from Hampton Court Palace. From the 134,790 entries - that's 67.5 million words, the 6 winning wordsmiths were announced on-air by celebrity narrators including [Jason Isaacs](#), [Jim Broadbent](#), [Amanda Abbington](#) and [Shobna Gulati](#). Also, there were enchanting performances from sensational superstar John Newman, X-Factor alumni Alexandra Burke, and the amazing Bastille.

500 Words were also delighted to welcome back real-life royalty to the competition: [Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall](#), who returned as our Honorary Judge, where she read and debated the top 50 stories of the competition with our [amazing author panel](#): Malorie Blackman, Charlie Higson, Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Francesca Simon.

In the words of the HRH Duchess of Cornwall "Keep saying a big fat YES to adventure".

THE 500 WORDS COMPETITION IS OPEN - MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR ENTRIES IN BY 7PM on FRIDAY 8TH MARCH.

