

ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

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Ladbroke JMI school

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Moving Forward and closing gaps

Review of the year

What a great feeling to have completed a full year of school after the lockdowns that interrupted the two previous years!

We are delighted that our children have achieved so well in all their English assessments. But staff and children alike are always looking to achieve more, so we have brought in some new ideas to enhance the things that we already do well.

New home reading books in Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

We have been using RWI successfully to teach reading for many years at Ladbroke school. This is a DFE accredited phonics scheme. This year, with the kind support of FOLS, we have purchased some wonderful

new RWI home reading books which match closely to the phonics that the children have been learning at school. Many of the Foundation and Key Stage 1 children have started to bring them home to practice their reading. Here are some of their comments:

“I read my book at bedtime or just before bedtime and I get better and better and better at reading the difficult words.” F2

“I look forward to reading the books I take home because I like reading. It’s good for you to learn new words and I like all of them.” Y1

“The books are easy to read because the words are big. They are funny and I like to read them to my friend because I feel a bit sorry for him if he has forgotten to bring his book to read.” Y2

We also have some new home

reading books in Key Stage 2. These extend the range of our books to include some more children’s classic titles as well as books by some

The Write Stuff

During lockdown many of the teachers and children began to use some writing techniques developed by a well-known and highly regarded Education Consultant, Jane Considine. Year 3 have used her method of ‘sentence-stacking’ throughout the year and Year 2 and Year 5 were so impressed with the writing that they have now tried it too.

Some of these quotes from the children will give you a taste of what this sentence stacking approach is about.



“We have a double page spread. One page is for planning and the other is for our sentence writing. The planning gives us lots of options to change our sentences and make them better. We can always see what we’ve planned when we write our sentences.” Y5

“It’s made me learn new words that I have never heard before and it’s easier to do things in stages.” Y5

“On the thinking page you put a picture that tells you if you are going to work on things like alliteration, onomatopoeia, senses or actions. Mr. Ward gives us three words to start us off and then we think of lots more.” Y3

“Mr. Ward shows us some model sentences. We have to change some of the words using our planning. We can change the whole sentence if we want, but we must make sure that it makes sense.” Y3

“The planning page really helps me to make my writing better because I use better

words like ‘glimpsed’ now.” Y2

“I loved doing this writing because I wrote a lot more and I really liked hearing my lovely story when I read it out loud to the class.” Y2.

Now take a look at some short excerpts which give an idea of the quality of the finished independent writing that the children then produced.

“The trees were a tangled web of spaghetti slithering through the breeze. Racing, rattling, clattering. The jewel embossed stagecoach drew closer. The sky was ebony and foreboding, yet the fluorescent, marbled moon lit the way...”(Y5)

“Henry felt new. Henry felt happy. He was overjoyed. His heart was rose and raspberry. To Henry the sky was happy, it was gold and butter and filled with sunshine...” (Y3)

“One hot day in the outback, I was just having a nice nap and suddenly a wombat wafted a fluffy tail in my face. I woke up. I wasn’t happy...”(Y2)

Our plans for next year...

Next year promises to be another exciting year as children move up into their new classes and we are joined by the new children in the Foundation Stage. We have plans to train new staff and update existing staff in teaching phonics through RWI. Every class from Year 1 onwards will do at least one English unit using Write Stuff materials and techniques during the year.

We hope to reintroduce our annual Scholastic book fair and we will of course be celebrating World Book Day with a range of book related activities.

What can you do to support your child’s development in English?

Keep encouraging them to read...why not use this summer’s library challenge? It’s free and easy to access at Potters Bar library. Perhaps they could keep a holiday diary and bring it in to share with their new teacher.