

Reading Enrichment Week 28th Feb – 4th March 2022

What a wonderful day we had on Wednesday when we celebrated World Book Day! The children looked amazing in their costumes. It was great to hear why they had chosen their characters and many children said they were inspired to try new books after seeing their friends' costumes. We were really impressed with the children's creative wooden spoon book characters! Thank you for all your help and support with these and with the costumes. The children have been given book vouchers which they can exchange for a special book in any bookshop or can put towards buying a book of their choice.

After spending a little time in their classes, the children then moved into their house teams. Thank you to the House Captains who helped to collect the younger children and take them to the right teachers. Each member of staff had planned an exciting activity for the children based around a book of their choice. You can read about each activity below. The children really enjoyed working in their house teams and much learning took place, not just about the books, but also about co-operation and encouraging others.

Mrs Harriman: We used 'The Day the Crayons Quit', by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers, as our starting point. The children enjoyed listening to this amusing tale, told through a series of letters to Duncan written by each crayon. Some crayons are happy with their lot, but most were complaining about being under or over used! Inspired by the text, the children worked in mixed pairs or groups. They then had to work together to write their own letter from the point of view of a crayon. I was amazed at how the letters maintained each crayon's voice all the way through and how creative and amusing they were. We shared the children's letters at the end of each session, and I have made them into a book.

Mrs Hall and Mrs Olsen: In our session we read "Matisse's magical trail" by Tim Hopgood and Sam Boughton. Matisse is a young snail who loves to create beautiful drawings with his trail. The trouble is most of the time people are far too busy to even notice them. It's only when a child notices Matisse's beautiful trails that his art is finally celebrated - and they inspire a whole class of children to get creative too! We decided to get creative by painting a trail of beautiful pebbles. We designed several ideas first and then used acrylics to paint our final designs onto the stones. Look out for these amazing creations around our school!

Mrs McCleary: We read 'The Dot' by Peter Reynolds. Vashti thinks she can't draw. But her teacher is sure that she can: 'Just make a mark and see where it takes you'. She knows that there's creative spirit in everyone, and encourages Vashti to sign the angry dot she makes in frustration on a piece of paper... This act makes Vashti look at herself a little differently and helps her discover that where there's a dot there's a way... Inspired by the message in the story, the children created their own dots by experimenting with a variety of media. It was delightful to hear the children really take the message of the story to heart and freely explore, saying things like 'I just went with it'.

Mr Manning: We read the wonderful 'Beegu', by Alexis Deacon. Beegu is not supposed to be on Earth. She is lost. She is a friendly little creature, but the Earth people don't seem very welcoming at all. However, so far, she has only met the BIG ones. The little ones are a different matter... After reading this story, the children played word-sorting games and found out that even if there are more sad words, the happier words are more powerful. Then they got creative and told what happened next in a micro comic book format. It was an absolute joy to spend my first World Book Day with the children at Aston Rowant!

At the end of the day, the children told us how much they had enjoyed and what they had learned:

Chloe: I liked working with my sister to write the letter.

Lily: I liked creating my own letter with my sister.

Rose: My favourite session was with Mr Manning because we wrote the next book.

Max: I liked working with the younger children.

Alex: I liked working with Edmund and Ezra.

Millie: I liked painting the stones with Mrs Hall.

Flynn: I liked describing my own comic book.

Rory: I liked the watercolour painting.

Thank you to everyone in our school family who helped to make this one of the most memorable days of the year so far.

World Book Day



GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY