



Classroom Reading Areas



Classroom libraries have a positive impact on reading behaviour. They help promote literacy and increase independent reading. Here are some tips on how to create a welcoming classroom reading corner that your children will enthusiastically use.



Weed!

Remove really tatty, yellowed, uninviting, dated and damaged books from your shelves. These can be recycled in the school's recycling. No one wants to read horribly shabby books!



Range

Have a wide range of good quality fiction, non-fiction, picture books, comics and children's newspapers and children's newspapers. And graphic novels if you can get your hands on them! Ask Mrs Parr if you need any comics or newspapers. Most books should be appropriate for your year group reading ability but try to include some of lower/higher level complexity as well.



Borrowing?

School books will be catalogued on the library system so we know where they are at any given point. The children can borrow one of the school books to take home but they must scan it on the library system **and** scan it back when finished **and** put it back on your classroom shelves (**not** on the library trolley!). It's up to you how you want to lend your own copies - often just a notebook or file for it to be recorded in is enough. The monitors (see below) could keep an eye on this.



Book supply

Our librarian will provide good quality resources for your classroom reading for pleasure area. However, please feel free to bring in your own and add to the collection if you like. Great places to get cheap, good condition books are the New Hope Trust shop on Queens Road in Watford and Peace Hospice shop on Bushey Mill Lane, where you'll get them for around 30p each.



Book labelling

School books are colour labelled with Y#A or Y#B (Y3A, Y3B, depending on year group). For your own books, it's probably wise to label these or put a bookplate inside the book so the children know they belong to you - Mrs Parr can provide you with these if you ask.



Rotation

School books are rotated every February half term. The class that had Y#A will get Y#B and the class that had Y#B will get Y#A. This offers the children a new variety of books half way through the year.



Space

This is at a premium in most classrooms but try to create a welcoming, enticing area that your children will want to use. If you can get hold of a few bright cushions and anything else to spruce it up, that will make a great difference.



Reading promotion

Mrs Parr can provide you with posters, labels and other items to promote reading for pleasure, just ask. Think of ways you can get the children talking about books:

- have a space on your 'library' wall where children can leave a few words and give stars on a sticky note about what they've just read or their recommended read



- get the children to create reading posters
- have a mini display and change it regularly to keep their interest (different authors, illustrators, themes, topics, poetry, etc)
- talk about the books in your collection. When a new one is added, talk about it in class - and watch it fly off the shelves afterwards!
- Ask for volunteers to talk about books they're reading or have finished
- you (or your monitors) could organise the books in labelled baskets if you have space (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, picture books, by topic)

- add your '**What I'm Reading**' poster to the area and change it every time you finish a book. An excellent tool to create reading posters fast. This should create a real book buzz.

<http://whatimreading.org/>



Face out

Have a selection of your books facing out so the covers can be seen and change them regularly. Children tend to notice the face out ones before the other shelved ones.



Monitors

Appoint a few children to be monitors to look after the classroom reading area. They can tidy it, pick out badly tatty/damaged to show to you or Mrs Parr, make posters and other items to promote reading, be the catalyst for book talk with other children (and staff), look after /create displays and more.

This will give them responsibility and other skills in carrying out their job and will mean one less job for you! Monitors can initially be shown what to do and can ask Mrs Parr anytime if they need help or advice.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Mrs Parr or email library@parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk

