



Dear Parents & Carers,

This week has been another busy one at Broad Oak. Yesterday we celebrated World Book Day, coming to school in pyjamas and bringing a book to share. Each class paired up with another class in school to undertake book related activities and the day culminated with our World Book Day assembly.

All pupils who entered our Reading challenge were entered into a prize draw to win a scooter – Congratulations to our winner, George in Ash class, and thank you to everyone who took part.

This week Beech class presented their Class Assembly to members of Pankhurst house and their family members. It was lovely to find out about all of their learning so far this term – well done to everyone involved!

Last week we marked the return to school after half term with our Kindness Disco. Thank you to everyone that was able to support the event. Everyone had a great time and raised almost £600! In the coming weeks we have a number of other events coming up including:

Friday 21st March - Red Nose Day - wear something red to school

Saturday 22nd March 9am -12pm - School Work Day - Join staff and volunteers from Didsbury Community Church to undertake activities to improve our school environment.

Our school will be entering the Local Primary Schools' Open Art Exhibition taking place at the Didsbury Parsonage from 30th March to 21st April. Alongside other local schools, we will be displaying mixed media work produced by pupils from Reception to Y6. We hope that you and your children will be able to support the event.

Finally, we have been informed of the theme for the Didsbury Festival Parade this year. The parade will take place on the morning of Saturday 7th June – please save the date! The theme this year is Space – Planetary Parade. We would love as many members of our school community to parade on the day. In the coming weeks we will provide more information of how you can get involved and dates of workshops to help to create our school entry.

Best Wishes

Kevin Corteen.
Headteacher

Star of the Week:

Well done to the following pupils who received star of the week this week:

Elm - Anaya & Leylah, **Pine** - Aria-Rose & Musa,
Ash - Elliot & Aneesha.

Beech - Serene & Alissa, **Hazel** - Gabriella & Nico,
Larch - Amber & Muhammed.

Aspen - Yasmin & Zuhra, **Rowan** - Younis & Sultan,
Spruce - Laith & Abdelmajed.

Well done to the following pupils who received star of the week last week:

Elm - Noah S & Abigail, **Pine** - Georgie & Alice,
Ash - George & Aisha.

Beech - Fathima & Zidane, **Hazel** - Sama & Ioan,
Larch - Emmeline & Hendrick.

Aspen - James & Aiyla, **Rowan** - Marley & Eva,
Spruce - Oscar & Zara.

Attendance:

Our attendance target for this academic year is 97%.

Our whole school attendance figure up to the week ending 07.03.25 was 94.5%

The following classes had attendance above our school target W/E 07.03.25:

Oak - 98%, Elm - 98%, Ash - 97%, Beech - 99%, Hazel - 99%,
Larch - 97%, Spruce - 99%.

The following classes had attendance above our school target W/E 28.02.25:

Elm - 97%, Pine - 98%, Ash - 97%, Beech - 97%, Hazel - 97%,
Larch - 98%, Spruce - 99%.

Nursery Places:

We have vacancies in the School Nursery from September 2025.

Please contact the school office email -
admin@broadoak.manchester.sch.uk
for further information.

Saplings made pancakes this week to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. The children loved flipping the pancakes and loved eating them even more.



Attitude

Behaviour

Courage

Determination

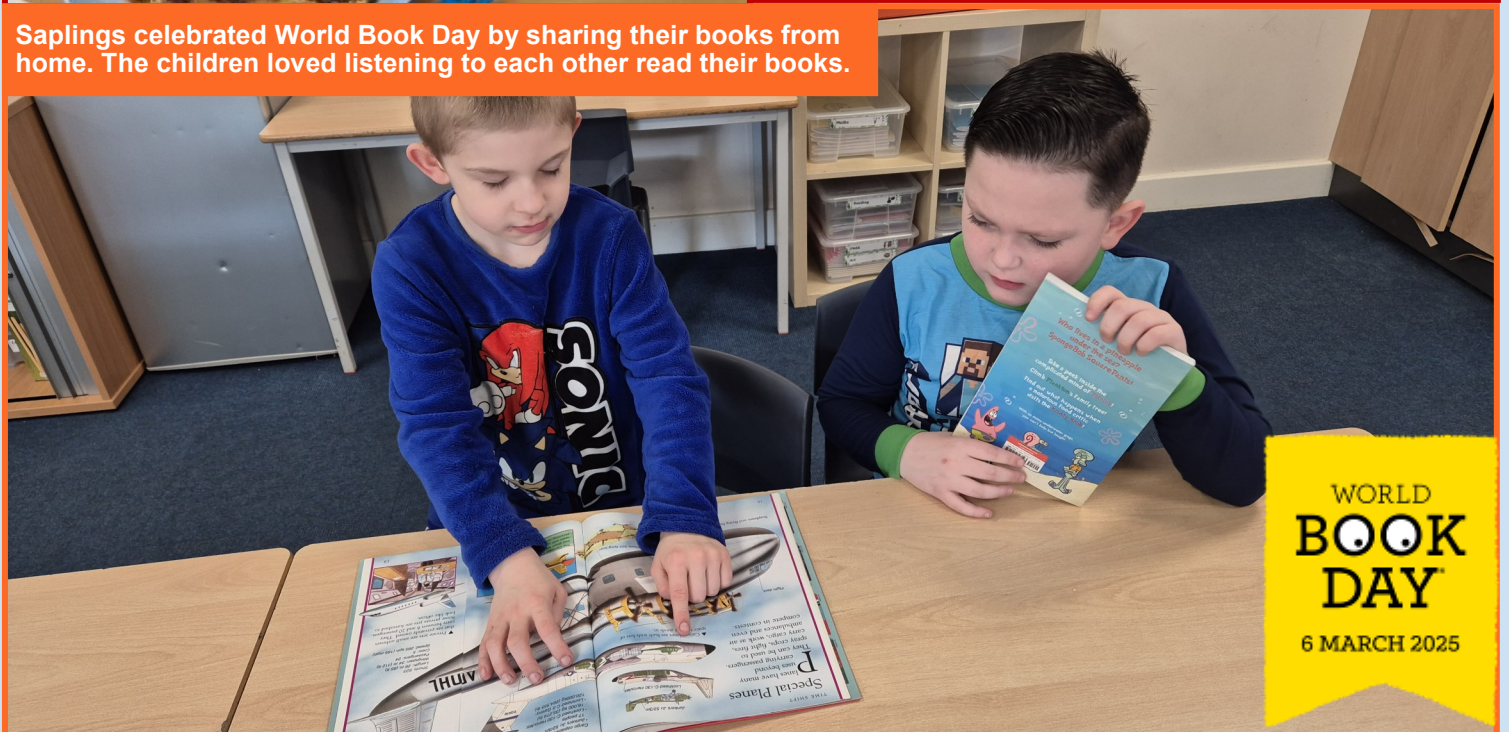
Enthusiasm

Friendship

Resilience



Saplings celebrated World Book Day by sharing their books from home. The children loved listening to each other read their books.



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UKS2 pupils partnered with a different class for a joint book reading session.



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

6 MARCH 2025



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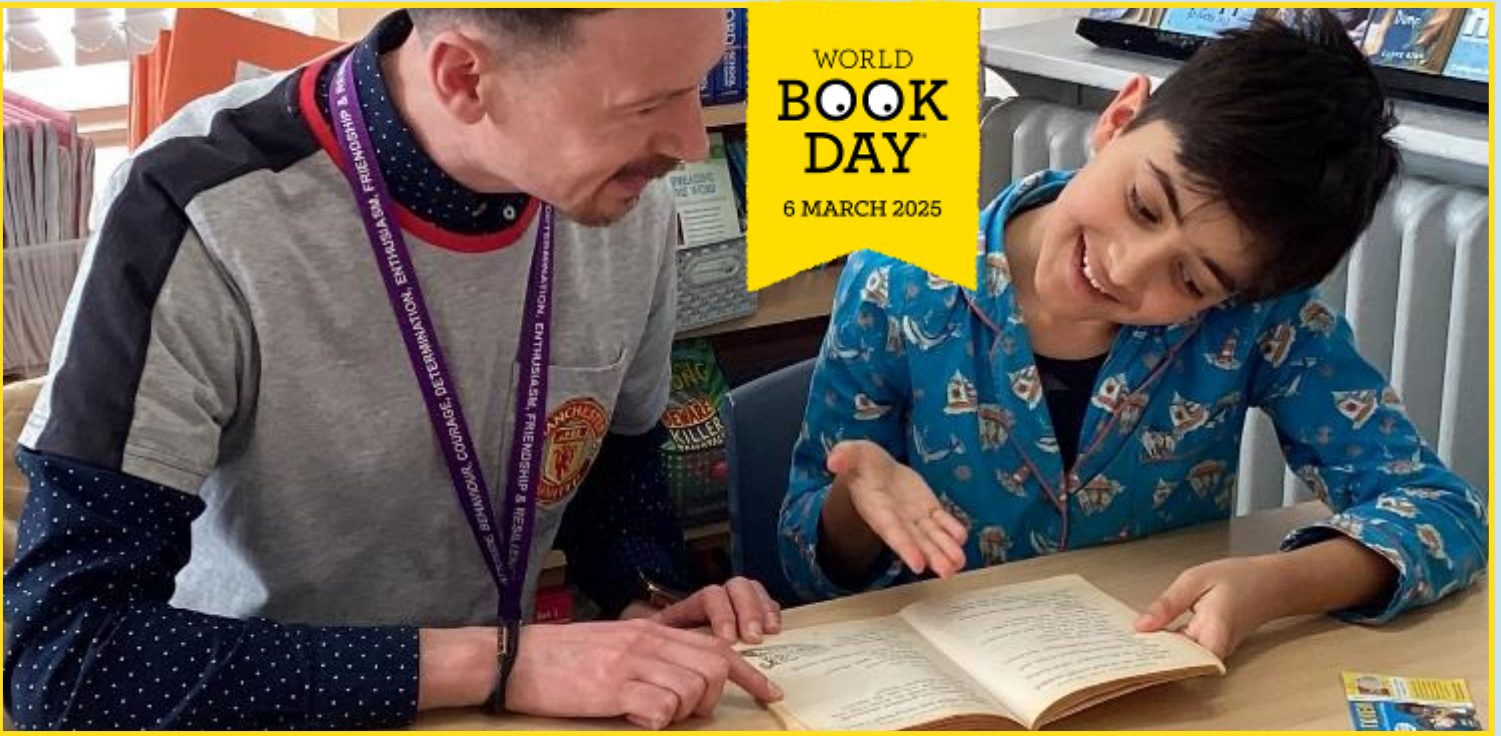
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WORLD BOOK DAY

6 MARCH 2025



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This term so far has been very busy!



Ash class have been attending weekly tennis lessons at Didsbury Tennis Club on Parris Wood Road this term. We have also been making our own measuring tapes in maths, growing cress in science, learning about the monarchy in history and much more!



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We have also had World Book Day this week and dressed in our pyjamas!

WORLD
BOOK DAY
6 MARCH 2025



LIKE.
SHARE.
COMMENT.



FOLLOW.
LIKE.
RETWEET.



GET THE
WHOLE
PICTURE.



Keep up with news and events at Broad Oak Primary School by following us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/BroadOakPS](https://www.facebook.com/BroadOakPS)), Twitter ([@BroadOakPS](https://twitter.com/BroadOakPS)) and Instagram ([@broadoakps](https://www.instagram.com/broadoakps)).

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BROAD OAK WORK DAY



Join us for a Spring work day as we work together to support our school and keep it looking great! Drop in any time or stay for the whole morning.



SAT 22ND MARCH 9AM-12PM



In partnership with Grove Church



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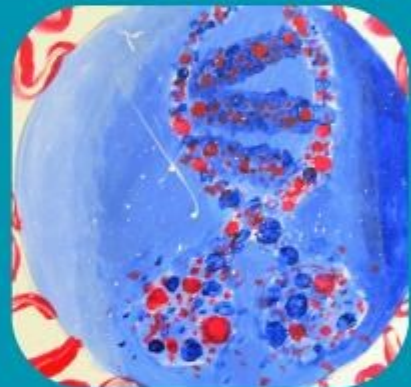
Resilience



LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS' OPEN ART EXHIBITION

Spring 2025

Sunday 30th March to Monday 21st April 2025



0161 445 7661



www.didsburyparsonagetrust.org.uk

Didsbury Parsonage Trust, Stenner Lane, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2RQ

Open viewing every Sunday from 9.30am to 5pm.
For access at other times please phone for details.



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowrie is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College

X @wake_up_weds

f /wuw.thenationalcollege

ig @wake.up.wednesday

tw @wake.up.weds

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Join our Saturday Music Club at Band on the Wall!

BAND_{ON THE}**WALL**

Saturdays during term times are dedicated to our Music Club, where young people aged 8-18 take over our learning spaces to play, learn, and discover music.

We're open to all ages and abilities, and you don't need to read music to join in.



Discovery Club is our younger group for **ages 8-12**, where you will play percussion, try your hand at fiddle, tin whistle or guitar, and learn to play in small groups as well as together.

Develop your skills, your rhythm and have fun! If you play an instrument already, bring it along! We also provide a free pizza lunch at the end of the session.

We also get to perform in the main venue at the end of our summer and winter terms to celebrate with friends and family.

Sessions run from **10:15-12:00** and cost **£4**, and we also run a beginners guitar lesson beforehand from 09:45-10:45 for an additional £4. Full bursaries are available.

Please note that spaces are limited for both of these, and we offer spaces on a first come, first served basis. If you'd like to sign up, email learning@bandonthewall.org to find out more!

**We are currently on our half term break,
and will be resuming sessions again on Saturday 1st March**

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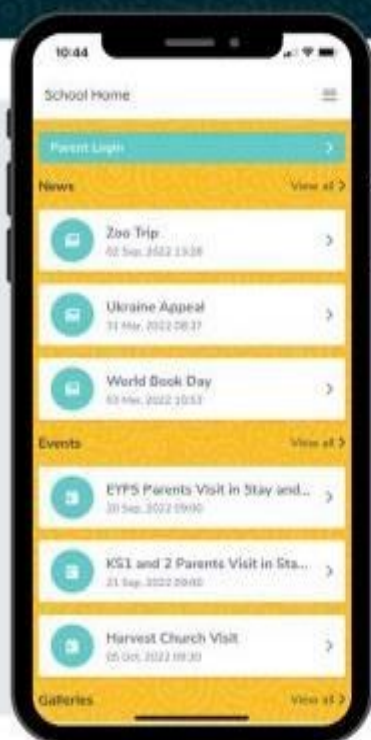
Resilience

Guide to our app for parents & carers



School Spider allows you to receive and return information directly to and from the school. Receive instant messages, complete surveys, book your parents' evenings and report absences.

Select your school to get started!



How to get started

Once you have selected the school, you will see posts from the school website. Click parent dashboard to login or create an account. Create an account by pressing "create account" and enter your email address.

You must have your email linked with the school!

Take a look around...

See all action items on your dashboard

Click to respond or book for each child



Click the envelope to see your recent messages

Click these 3 lines to:

- Switch between areas
- Edit your profile
- Logout

DOWNLOAD NOW



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