



February 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

This half term, we are supporting World Book Day's [Share A Million Stories](#) campaign, championing the importance of sharing stories and for the chance to **win £1,000 of books for our school**.

Why Share a Story?

Sharing a story for just 10 minutes a day can have a lasting impact on a child's future, and can help to create readers for life.

How can you take part?

Today, your child will receive their [Share A Million Stories Reading Record](#), for children to tick-off/colour how many stories they're sharing at home and at school (including their curriculum books, audiobooks, magazines, comics or graphic novels), which we can then add to our school total, which feeds into the live national total. Please start this week as Week 1 and send the record into school each Monday so that we can collate the number of reads. We will keep you updated with our school total.

Why is this campaign so vital?

- **Sadly, reading for pleasure is in decline:** only 29% of 0-13s read for pleasure daily (down from 30% in 2017). *Children's Reading for Pleasure: Trends and Challenges, Egmont, 2019*
- **The number of parents sharing stories** with their children is also in steep decline: **only 56% of 3-4-year-olds are read to daily** or nearly every day (v. 69% in 2013).
- **Fewer than 19% of 8-10-year-olds are read to daily** or nearly every day (down from 25%). *Understanding the Children's Book Consumer Nielsen, 2018*

So, let's boost reading for pleasure back up! There are so many benefits to sharing stories together:

- It boosts creativity and imagination
- It's a calming, bonding experience that improves well-being
- It builds empathy and closeness
- It's great fun for everyone involved!

World Book Day needs ALL of our support and we look forward to helping them reach their goal of one million stories shared nationwide – and the opportunity to win an amazing new supply of books for our school worth £1,000! Find out more at worldbookday.com/share-a-million-stories.

You will also find a **Share a Story Reading Star sheet** attached – please encourage your child to complete as many of these activities as possible. You can also play this game online and download a certificate for your child. It would be lovely to see some pictures of children who attempt some of these reading activities – please email them to the school office and we can share them in assembly and on display.

We are looking forward to seeing all the children in their costumes on Thursday 5th March for World Book Day. Don't forget the World Book Day Costume Sale is after school **this Wednesday**.

Thanks for all your support.

Kind Regards

Mrs Jemma Wale
English Co-ordinator