

The Library Project, "Book by Book, building our library together"

On Wednesday 21st March we held a parents' event to hear more about guided reading and to present at the launch of our library fundraising project. The slides from the guided reading presentation are already on our website and here is what was presented about the "Book by Book building our library together" fundraising initiative.

Our vision and rationale for the library fundraising project, from Headteacher Frances Davis...

"When I walk into a library I am struck by all the books I could read. I love to read to get away from it all...special me time. I know that my son, Thomas, also loves visiting the library in Redhill and in his school. He gets excited by seeing all the books and takes his time to choose the books he'll take out.

We know from research that reading is good for children. Ten Benefits of Reading:

1. Children who read often and widely get better at it.

After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.

2. Reading exercises our brain.

Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching TV, for example. Reading strengthens brains connections and builds NEW connections.

3. Reading improves concentration.

Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.

4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.

Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience.

5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.

Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.

6. Reading develops a child's imagination.

As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.

7. Reading helps children to develop empathy.

As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.

8. Reading is a fun.

A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you take it anywhere so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag.

9. Reading is a great way to spend time together.

Reading together on the sofa, bedtime stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.

10. Children how read achieve better in school.

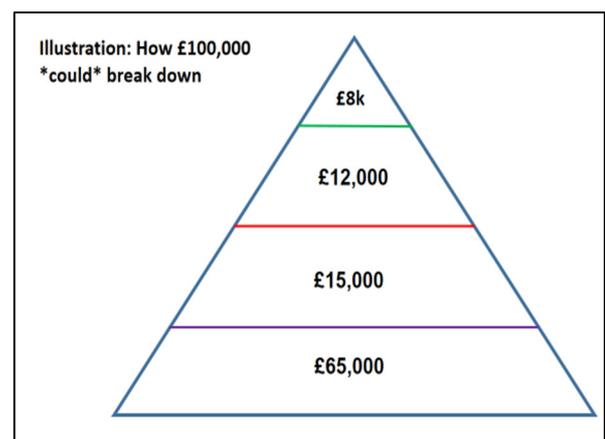
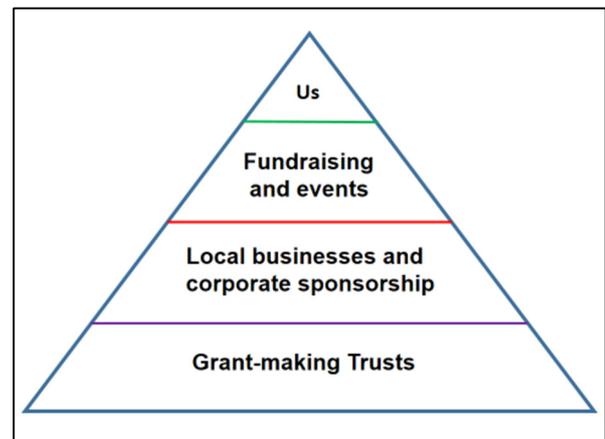
Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

Our vision for our KS2 library is to instil a passion for reading in all our children. For them to find the books they love to read, for them to explore books that they thought they might not love and then find they absolutely adore them. We want to make it easy to take books out, to write a review (online if they want), to have electronic books (you can borrow the ipad or kindle for the weekend), books for every personality and learning style of child. We want the library environment to spark and fuel the desire to read a bit more. We want there to be so many high quality books that could one child whilst in KS2 read all the books?

We have aimed high for the money we want to raise because we want only the best for children who attend Parish. The best range of books now and continual investment, the best library management system to support logging books in and out, the best IT devices to support reading and the best environment which invites everyone in. We only get one chance in this one year to raise the money. That is why we are looking to raise £100,000, over the course of 12 months, to create the best library for our children."

From Martin Saunders, a parent and husband to Mrs Saunders who teaches in year 3, said this:

- "£100,000 is obviously a huge and scary amount of money. However in fundraising terms, it's not an unusual sum to try to raise.
- I work for "Youthscape", a charity based in Luton which raised £3 million over two years to buy and redevelop a huge building as its HQ. The charity's CEO Chris Curtis (my boss and close friend) is the current Institute of Fundraising, Fundraiser of the Year, thanks to his role in the project (he led on raising £3 million over two years). He has offered to act as an informal consultant on the Book by Book project.
- We are going to use Chris' 'fundraising pyramid' approach (see diagrams) to raising our £100,000. This splits down in our case into four groups, with the top three all building on the base of trust funding. Our four sections are: a) Grant-making trusts, b) Local businesses / corporate sponsorship, c) Events and fundraising and d) donations from us - the families of the school.
- We don't exactly know how this will split, but it could potentially look a little like this:
 - Us: £8k
 - Fundraising and events: £12k



- Business and corporate: £15k
- Trust funding: £65k
- There are sub-teams working on each of these actions. Martin with support from Mrs Davis and Mrs Bowen will be undertaking the job of the trust applications.
- The 'us' section will mainly be funded through the filling of the specially produced Book by Book money boxes, which have now been distributed to the children."

From Mike Shaw, a governor, he said:

- "The importance of funding our Junior Library was underscored by 2016 research from the National Literacy Trust in the UK showing that regular library usage is highest among the KS2 group we are looking to serve, 8-11 year olds, with 73% visiting the library at least once per week versus 11-14 year olds (63%) and 14-16 year olds (45%).
- There is a myriad of practical ways people can get involved in helping achieve the Library Project's goals:
 - Help the children fill their pop-up money boxes that came home from school last week
 - Think about neighbours and relatives that might also be able to contribute to give a money box to as well
 - Submit ideas for events or other fundraisers, maybe that you have seen work well elsewhere
 - Join a team to help organise an event or two during the project; as we will be finished by next March, this is not a long-term commitment and the more hands the better
 - Support the events and really get behind the project when talking to others; the momentum that can be generated by word of mouth, and the odd WhatsApp contribution, can really go a long way
 - Think about whether there is a hair-brained challenge you've ever wanted to complete; could now be the time to tick it off your bucket list and raise some sponsorship money for the project?
 - Ask whether your employer have charitable matching schemes, or corporate giving funds, that the project could tap into
 - Work out whether you or any of your network could be contributors towards the Library's requirements; do you maybe work for a publisher or know where we could source some of the desired Library stock efficiently?"

From Anna Randall, a governor:

"This is a short term project and that with support from parents we feel confident we will achieve our aim of a fantastic library for our KS2 children; parents have been so supportive of the expansion and we are asking them to get behind us once again to drive this initiative forwards and create a beautiful, state of the art library."