

NewSLinks

January 2012

Happy New Year

I'm sure you are all in those gyms before school every morning with New Year resolutions holding for at least another week! Alternatively you could read some good books and in SLS that's where we can help. (We certainly can't help with fitness regimes!)

Now is the time to start thinking about your service for next financial year.

Our service level agreement and charges have gone onto our website:

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/library-services/children-and-young-people/schools-library-service/service-level-agreement.aspx>

If what you need is not there, please pick up the phone and talk to us. We are very flexible with our services.

Now more than ever schools need a cost effective means to purchase stock and SLS can offer that. Books are still important to primary schools at least and even tech-savy teenagers have been seen curled up with books as well as their ipads.

Worcestershire Teen Book Award

The shortlist has been announced and voting set up on the website.

This year pupils are able to vote themselves rather than school librarians submitting votes, so please do encourage your pupils to read and vote.

More details here:

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/library-services/children-and-young-people/worcestershire-teen-book-award.aspx>



Young Poet Laureate Final

We hope to see some of our budding poets at Pershore's Number 8 Theatre on 27th January, 7.30 – 10.30. Last year's performances were stunning and we're expecting more of the same this year.





National Libraries Day, 4th February 2012

National Libraries Day is one day devoted to all libraries - public libraries, school and university libraries, prison, national, law, business and commercial.

<http://www.nationallibrariesday.org.uk/>



World Book Day, 1st March 2012

If you are looking for inspiration for activities for WBD, as well as the official WBD website <http://www.worldbookday.com/>, there are suggestions of family involvement at:

<http://lists.niace.org.uk/lz/lz.aspx?p1=05714001S636&CC=&w=3167&clD=0&cValue=1>

Please feel free to ask us for extra resources for your pupils, and if you can get children and families into your local public library that is an additional (cheap) activity for you, as well as a valuable literacy experience.

Kindle Creative Writing Competition

A creative writing project is scouting about for schools to take part in a project, which runs from March to June 2012. A digital twist on the old 'story relay' idea, with one class writing a chapter of a story and passing it on. However the twist is that the Kindle update feature allows later classes to go back and 'tweak' previous chapters, to develop the story and foreshadow later events - just like an author does when s/he drafts and redrafts a book.

Schools involved receive a Kindle for their school library (to keep) and printed copies of the finished book. The work will be published online and young people involved will be able to buy their own digital or printed copies. The author involved is Simon Cheshire

(<http://www.simoncheshire.co.uk/teachers-page.html>) who does excellent work with schools.

The commitment from schools would be to 2 sessions at school, 1 with a librarian, 1 with an author; commenting on a website during the 6 weeks of author visits to schools, and attending a celebration book launch event in the Library Theatre. The groups involved would be year 7 and could be whole classes or library groups that you have.

If you are interested in taking part please contact Jen Bakewell Jen.Bakewell@birmingham.gov.uk, although SLS would love to know if you manage to be one of the lucky 6 schools.

Stan Lee Excelsior Award

This is an exciting new book award for graphic novels and manga - where kids aged 11-16 choose the winner by rating each book as they read it. From a master who knows his stuff, and all books suitable for KS3 pupils

<http://www.excelsioraward.co.uk/>



School Librarian of the Year Award

Please consider nominating a librarian in a primary or secondary school who demonstrates outstanding professional qualities and deserves to be recognised for the work that they do. The Guidance Notes will help you prepare an effective nomination. The nomination process for the 2012 School Librarian of the Year will close on 13 January 2012.

On top of this, if you are registered for Raintree awards, they are offering 500 free points for every nomination.



This award will be made annually to the school library that shows innovation, creativity and resourcefulness in its library design. What matters is not how big the school library is, but what it has achieved with the available resources and the challenges it faces. The award is open to any school library whatever; there is no requirement to belong to the School Library Association or to have used DEMCO products. Libraries need to have been built or refurbished within the previous year.

More details of both awards can be found on the SLA website www.sla.org.uk

SLA course - Becoming an information skills champion – developing information literacy skills and using the primary school library

28th February 2012, Kidderminster Library

Ideas to promote independent thinking skills making full use of your school library

Discounts available. Booking below:

<http://www.sla.org.uk/course-bookings.php?mode=detail&i=218>



The Blue Peter Book Awards

Taking part in children's book awards has always proved popular at Woodfield Middle School in Redditch. They not only encourage young people to find pleasure in reading, giving them the confidence to make choices, but also play a vital role in engaging children of all abilities in books.

Although participation in some awards is well advertised, such as Carnegie and Red House, others have always seemed to be for the 'chosen few'. By making enquiries and applications through the Booktrust and National Literacy Trust websites however, we have been successful in taking part in the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, Children's Laureate events, Premier League Reading Stars and The Royal Society Science Book Awards.

I was delighted to hear that our school had been selected as one of only ten schools nationwide to help choose the winning book in the enormously popular and influential Blue Peter Book Award 2012. We have received twenty four copies of the shortlisted books (which are ours to keep) and throughout January, our pupils will be reading, discussing and answering the following questions about the two fiction and two non-fiction books.

1. When you first saw the books, which one did you most like the look of and want to read?
2. Which book did you want to keep coming back to?
3. Which book was the most surprising, and had things in it that you didn't expect?
4. Which book would you most want to talk to your friends about?

All the books are amazing and very different so we will have a tough job picking a winner. The Blue Peter team are also looking for interesting anecdotes and ideas from the children with a view to visiting some of the schools taking part!

The winner will be announced and awarded a Blue Peter trophy during a special edition of Blue Peter dedicated to children's books on Thursday 1 March 2012, to coincide with World Book Day.

For more information about the books and award, please visit

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

Thank you and good luck to *Mandy Curtis, School Librarian, Woodfield Middle School, Redditch* and all pupils at Woodfield Middle school

Reading Miles Global Challenge

The National Literacy Trust and [Oxford University Press](#) are kicking off 2012 by launching the **Reading Miles Global Challenge**, a new competition for all UK schools that will run from 9 January to 16 March 2012.

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools_network/competitions/reading_miles_global_challenge

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