

AJS children are real book worms and that's official!!

National Children's Book Week took place last week with children across the country celebrating reading, children's books, children's authors and illustrators. Alderman Jacobs School decided to make it an extra special celebration of children's reading by also holding the official opening ceremony of their wonderful, brand new library of which they are very proud.

Children at AJS were able to share books each day with mums, dads, brothers, sisters and grandparents who were all invited into school to read with their children. It was wonderful to see so many adults engaged with their child and several others in an exciting rendition of some wonderful stories!

This was especially good to see in light of a recent report "Books Beyond Bedtime" by Oxford University Press, which uses research from the National Literacy Trust showing that of 1000 parents with children aged 6-11, almost half (44%) are never read to at home, but that children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age. It claims what teachers already know, that as little as ten minutes a day can make a significant difference.

The children also spent a fun time reading with their "Buddies". Reading Buddies is where older children spend time sharing books with younger children. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and it will be continuing on a regular basis.

There were also assemblies about books and lots of favourite stories being shared. There was a "Read-A-Thon" which lasted for the full week with everyone in school joining in. Each class also took turns to visit the new library and find out how to use it.

Finally, on Friday, there was the official opening of the library by Whittlesey Mayor, Mr David Mason, who cut the ribbon whilst children braved the wind and the rain to cheer. It was a lovely sight to see as the children and staff were all dressed for the day as their favourite story characters - Mrs Corley (Head Teacher) accompanied the mayor as "Cruella De Ville", there was a Gingerbread Man who survived the day without being eaten, a Naughty Amelia Jane (who we are assured was most definitely not naughty at all!), Dorothy put in an appearance and so did Tigger, Harry Potter, Albus Dumbledore and so many more.

A final assembly on Friday afternoon let the children share with each other what they had been doing all week. What a celebration - it was evident that AJS children have definitely caught the reading bug!