

Good afternoon everyone!

We all hope you enjoyed the School Christmas Fayre last week! Thank you so much for attending and donating prizes to make it such a success. Sarah Brown has now got the large job of counting up the funds we have raised, then our reading team will have the major task of ordering a significant number of books to overhaul our reading resources here at school.

The reading team will look to improve what we use for our focused schemes AND what we use for home reading. As you may remember at the beginning of the year we informed you that developing and improving reading is very high on our list of school priorities this year. Obviously, improving our reading material and resources is a key part of this development. There are many other reading developments going on in school that you won't see from the outside (unless your children keenly tell you what's been happening!)

In a quick list, just some of our developments are: aiming for up to 5 reads per day, a change in the way we structure and hold focused guided reading sessions; to include immersion in a text and vocabulary development, meeting real authors, linking reading wherever possible with our topic themes, using online reading programmes, holding focused 'improving fluency' sessions, cross class reading to each other, encouraging every child to read their own written work out loud and with expression, teachers reading to the class and many, many more!

You can also see why we have reduced our homework to 3 key things each week. Spellings and patterns of spellings, some mental maths and reading every day. I hope you are finding it manageable. If we are going to make a difference then we must devote the time and energy to it.

Many of you were there on Friday night when we congratulated Sarah Brown on 13 years of leading our PTA (Friends of Robert Wilkinson) and organising the Christmas Fayre. She has done an amazing job! At this point I also want to thank her army of wonderful helpers who I know she would say she couldn't have done without. Sadly, she is relinquishing the role this year (a deserved rest) and so we need to look to the future. The group could work as a partnership or continue as it has been, with one leader and the support team working as they do currently, helping wherever possible.

Therefore, we want to hear from you if you are interested in helping to lead (individually or in partnership) or whether you wish to help (or continue to help). Our office team will be sending something out next week for you to express your thoughts. After that we will get together and plan a way forward.

Finally, I hope your children (and you if you are following on twitter [@robwilkprimary](https://twitter.com/robwilkprimary)) are enjoying our 'Alternative Advent' in which we think and hold a discussion about a different focus, a topical issue or a thought provoking question each day. This, up to Christmas, will allow each class to truly explore some very thought provoking concepts that are relevant to our community and the society in which we live.

I love today's task: promoting kindness. It will lend itself beautifully into discussions around the importance of kindness to the people we meet, the effect it has on ourselves and how it enhances our community. The work we are doing this December will continue throughout next year as we build up to the new expectations in the national curriculum around delivering sex and relationship education, more of which we look forward to sharing with you as we move forward to September 2020.



Have a great weekend everyone.

Chris Evans