

Wroughton Community Library

Report for Full Council meeting: April 2025 - Easter Holidays

Forging links with local schools!

We have been in communication with Wroughton Juniors, Infants and Kingfisher Primary School to try and forge closer links – what we want is for children to get into the habit of coming here and choosing books to read for pleasure before the dreaded GCSEs put them off for life. To this end we are promoting a raffle ticket prize draw with the prize of a T shirt for the winners from each school. Every time a child comes to the library they get a raffle ticket to add to the box with their school's name on (the boxes are highly decorated works of art!) which I'm hoping will lead to increased footfall, new users, and more attention paid to our Facebook comms. It will also be interesting to compare the numbers of tickets from each school; the results will guide our efforts to recruit borrowers from those catchment areas.

This June I have been invited to visit Kingfisher Primary in West Wicheltowe to invite and encourage the children to use our library, which I am hoping will encourage our more northerly precept payers to use the facilities to which they contribute.

We also continue to run a weekly rhyme time session (including singing) for TickTock Pre-school. The earlier we can encourage children to enjoy stories, rhymes, poetry and singing, the better. It also helps them prepare to go to school, encourages them to join in, to listen etc. This is all part of helping children to improve their literacy, and their life outcomes.

Storage

We are still struggling for storage space, although we're hoping this will be resolved in the next couple of months. We would like to make the library less cluttered in light of an email we received from a parent whose son had just been diagnosed with autism, an email which arrived at the start of International Autism Awareness month. I have spoken to some helpful experts who suggested softening surfaces and giving the children's area a feeling of being "underwater", possibly purchasing a bubble machine or lava lamp. I'll let you know more when I have done more exact research.

Greg's Creation Station

One of our most versatile additions to the library (thankyou Greg) this has been put to yet another use as our Easter Holiday craft 'buffet' table, providing free craft activities for children over the two weeks of holiday.

Tech Friends Café

We're very lucky as the Tech Friends run a monthly 'café' (session) in our library on the third Wednesday of every month from 2-4pm. Please head hunt anyone you think is struggling with their tech to come along with their ipad, mobile phone or whatever tech they need help with. It's been really popular so far and those who've used it have found it really helpful.

Citizens Advice Financial First Aiders

Unfortunately Citizens Advice are no longer funded to provide the monthly outreach sessions in our Library. We will miss them, but residents are still able to obtain advice and support by contacting Citizens Advice direct or attending their Town Centre drop-in sessions.

Swindon Borough Council Housing Officers

An officer continues to come into the library on the first Friday of every month to provide advice and answer any queries, which meant the office staff were able to signpost 2 residents last month.

Hannah Dosanjh, Wroughton library Supervisor