

Wroughton Community Library Parish Report May 2025

Easter Holidays - Competition results and winners of the T-shirts!

Over the Easter Holidays we ran a raffle to encourage children to visit the library, gather some informal visitor data and (hopefully) encourage more children and their families to join the library.

The 3 local schools (Kingfisher Academy, Wroughton Infants and Wroughton Juniors) all had their own box for collecting the raffle tickets, and then there was a 4th box for any children who weren't at those schools, so everyone was able to take part no matter which school they attended, whether they were home-schooled, staying with grandparents etc. Children visiting the library put their own name on their raffle ticket, as well as the name of their school, and they then put it in the corresponding box with their school's name. The raffle yielded some very interesting results:

- Out of 157 entries, half were from boys, which is great news.
- Children from 16 different schools took part, only 8 of these schools were within the Borough.
- There were 46 entries from Wroughton Junior pupils (which equates to 46 visits) and shows that the engagement with Wroughton Juniors is starting to have really positive results – great news!
- There were 28 entries from Wroughton Infant school – we are getting better engagement with them and hope to start having regular visits from them again soon.
- But there was only 1 entry from Kingfisher Academy.

I have made good contact with Kingfisher staff including the Head teacher, but it appears the comms about the raffle had not been shared by the school. It just shows, there is no substitute for a face to face conversation. I will be visiting Kingfisher School on the 2nd July, and will make sure I also speak to the admin staff who may be better placed to share our comms.

In the meantime I have let teaching staff at each school know that they have a winner in their class. I'm in the process of putting through a purchase order to be signed for the T- shirts, and we will then put out some comms and hopefully encourage more people to use the library.

Storage Space and Keys

We have had some small but notable incidents of late with groups using the Ellendune Community Centre having the means to access the library after closing hours, when they've not booked it. When the library has not been booked, we regularly leave items set up ready for the following day. Unfortunately we've got in to work to find notices taken down, objects moved, used, or sometimes broken - even though the library was not booked. This is frustrating and could potentially be dangerous if children have access to the library facilities without proper adult supervision. We have found scripts and clothing labels behind the staff desk area, which is where we keep sensitive information. We frequently find empty drinks cans and bottles, or cups of squash left on the bookshelves. Last week we realised that the lego which has to be stored outside the library (there's no storage available inside the library) had been opened, played with and mixed up with the toddler duplo. On closer inspection we found wooden food skewers with food remains in both boxes, and a deflated balloon inside the toddler duplo. These are H&S hazards and a choking hazard.

Currently Mustard Seed Church use the large storage cupboard outside the library, but are not charged for this use. Emma has recently met with Suresh, Mel and a representative from Mustard Seed church, who have kindly agreed to use an alternative storage space. Paula and I would like to thank Emma, Mel and Suresh for arranging and attending that meeting. This will make a world of difference to our safe storage capacity, ability to organise our resources, and will also help make the library look more professional.

In addition, the absence of clutter can be regarded as a *reasonable adjustment* to help make the library a more welcoming, easier to access space for neuro diverse adults and children.

Bubble machine

We have purchased a bubble machine to provide visual and aural calm to the children's area of the library. It needs to be filled with distilled water and attached to the wall, and we hope to get this in place within the next couple of weeks.

Role Play

I have introduced some role play items for young children; a tea set, some plastic play food and simple cookery items plus three plastic vehicles. We have observed that children really enjoy playing with these things and families tend to stay longer as a result. It can also provide the parents/ carers the opportunity to choose a book for themselves!

Typewriters

We have put out the typewriters that were donated before Christmas, as we have moved the creation station (thank you Greg!) in front of a radiator, so there is room for older children to sit and type. They have proved to be very popular.

Library computer and citrix

We have two new laptops – thank you. Paula's failed during a busy Wednesday morning, so we are very glad to have two new and reliable ones to work with using Citrix.

BT Digital Switch Over

We have arranged for a BT expert to come into the library on May 23rd from 9-11am to explain what this means to the public. We have been given posters with the timings but not much more information. *We are now on Instagram as well as Facebook so please follow us and share the relevant posts about this event – thank you.*

Citizen's Advice

CA have successfully bid for enough funding to continue their financial advice outreach sessions! They'll restart their monthly sessions here on the 3rd Friday of every month, starting Friday 27th June. This is great news and we look forward to welcoming them back. Please encourage residents to come with their questions.

Half term - Explore Learning

Explore Learning will return offering free learning sessions for children during the May school holiday. Previously these have been undersubscribed. They're free and can provide valuable support, so please share the library posts when you see them. In the meantime I'll share the comms with our 3 local schools.

Steve Antony

Steve will be returning to our library on the 5th June to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Ian Fleming's Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Steve has illustrated an anniversary edition. This is a major coup for Wroughton Library (and Wroughton Parish Council) as Steve is super busy, so I will be making the most of his talents – look out for low flying cars!!

Instagram

Wroughton Library is finally on Instagram! Hurray!! This should help us communicate more effectively with our younger demographic who don't use Facebook.

Please follow us on Wroughton library (NOT Wroughton_library, big difference!) Thankyou.

Hannah Dosanjh
Wroughton library Supervisor