

Wroughton Community Library Parish Report February 2026

Cub scouts visit on 3rd Feb

Thirty three **Wroughton cub scouts** and eight scout leaders came to the library on the 3rd of February as part of their book badge challenge. The cubs showed amazing levels of energy and enthusiasm; they shelved books, hunted down dewey decimal classifications, built lego models, made book marks, drank squash, and learned about the benefits of supporting their local library. Their Akela, Sarah Clarke was very pleased with how it went and has distributed all the information leaflets explaining what the library has to offer, so I'm hopeful that this nudges parents to bring their children along to see the space (one did the following day, which was great)

Half Term Plans are in place to provide activities on the Creation Station all through the week, including paper helicopters, marble runs and transport related puzzle sheets. I have made sure there is an attractive range of children's books on display at all times, and have moved the adult's non-fiction section around so that there is space to display ten books face on; we call it "sweets on the counter" which is a great way of extending our offering until we have more new books.

New Books Kelly from Central Library is our book buyer and has ordered us the sorts of books our customers asked for and recommended, however they may take a while to arrive, hence the need to shed more light on hitherto less noticed books.

Explore Learning used the Alex Room on the 18th which was a well-attended session as two child minders signed up with four children each. **Steve Antony** will be here on the 19th to make flying cars based on Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Hopefully these events will be well attended thanks to Zoe's great "What's On In February" leaflets which have been sent to all three key stage 1 and 2 schools in our parish.

Easter Holiday Plans are in hand. We have ordered two boxes of items relating to the Railways from STEAM's education department (thanks to Catherine Kemble for nudging me about this) One box is of items that need to be kept in the cabinet, and the other contains items such as coal and Victorian hats, which can be handled under supervision. There should be lots of opportunities for photographs, and I think the children will love this. The total cost for both boxes for a two week hire is £70.

In the meantime, two local gents; Norman Withington and Ken Habgood have brought photos of themselves and colleagues working inside the Works before it closed. I am delighted as this will really bring the display to life and create something fascinating and meaningful.

Raffle boxes As last year, I would like to run a raffle to better understand the numbers and demography of our visiting families. There are four boxes; one each for the junior school, Wroughton infant school, Kingfisher school and a fourth for "any other school". A child does not have to borrow a book or be a member, but earns a raffle ticket every time they visit the library over the holiday period. Last year's results were really interesting; we had

more boys than girls from Wroughton Junior School, and children from as far as Reading (appropriately!) came to use the library space. Last year only one child came from Kingfisher school, so I will make them more of a focus.

World Book Day is on March 5th, and although Paula and I scratched our heads trying to think of something new and unmissable, we needn't have worried as we have been donated nine, yes nine story sacks by a local lady, Lisa Macdonald, which are full of glove puppets, puzzle sheets, and props for popular children's stories, some of which we have in stock. Once we have planned the activities, we will take photos and thank her on face book.

New Rug I am on the lookout for a new rug for the children's area which we can also use for Tick Tock when they visit for story time. We would like something colourful which doesn't lift easily, at least 120 by 170cm.

Infant School visits Laura Drewett, Deputy Head of Wroughton Infant school has requested weekly sessions starting on the 23rd February for classes of Reception and Year One children to use the library (up to thirty children at a time). We have agreed to this as we are more than happy to get children and parents used to coming in until it becomes a habit, however I did have some qualms about the numbers. It sounds as if teaching staff will be responsible for the running of the session however, so we will still be able to man the desks. I'll let you know how it goes next month!