

31 January 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians

This week is '**National Storytelling Week**'

National Storytelling Week happens every year in January. National Storytelling Week is a week for celebrating storytelling and encouraging people to tell their own stories.

Sharing stories is so important. Stories teach us about the world; they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy; they help us to relax and escape; they can support children and young people's wellbeing and they undoubtedly help develop essential literacy skills. Additionally, research suggests that children who enjoy reading are three times more likely to read above the level expected for their age as those who don't enjoy reading. With all that said, it's never been a more important time to celebrate the magic of stories and encourage children to read for fun.

Throughout the week, the children will take part in a range of fun reading activities.

We encourage the children to bring in their favourite books from home to read in class and share with their teacher and friends.

We will also be launching 'Brooke's Best Storyteller' competition. We would like the children to video themselves sharing their own made up stories. All entries should be sent to the school admin team - br-admin@vennacademy.org All entries must be sent in by **Friday 4th February**. The winning storyteller will then have their story shared in assembly the following week.

Also this week, Miss Hennigan will be launching our 'Secret Readers' whereby a Secret Reader will visit a Reception or KS1 class and will read a story at the end of the day. This will happen each week on a Friday at 3:00. We would love for all our parents and carers to get involved in this. Please discretely speak to your child's class teacher if you wish to take part.

We ask parents to get involved this week by sharing their favourite childhood stories with their children at home.

Thanks for all your continued support.

Regards

Mr Farrand and Miss Hennigan
(Deputy Headteacher) (English Lead)