

St. David's Holy Faith School Library



Quarterly Update

December 2023

Librarian: Mairéad Duggan

Cataloguing Status

Due to the fantastic work ethic of a small group of Transition Year Volunteers and a dedicated Library Council; all sections of the library have had barcodes and laminates added. Cataloguing is underway and all of the Junior Fiction, Recommended Reads and Picturebook sections have been catalogued to date.

Collection Development

A significant addition to the Politics Section arrived this term from O'Mahony's Library Suppliers in Limerick. (See Appendix B)

DLT Magazines are a UK based subscription company who source journals and magazines at a highly reduced rate when purchased on an annual subscription basis. We have received two boxes of subscriptions for November and December. (See Appendix B)

Thanks to the Science Department and in particular Carolyn Cavey, for her recommendations for Science Magazines. We have purchased a subscription to New Scientist (Digital, App and Hardcopy) for the school library and have several titles from DLT Magazines in the science area as well. (See Appendix B for details.)

Many new Irish books have been added to our collection. This includes a class set of picturebooks (for discussion and paired reading).

The Woodwork Department have contacted the library and they are also interested in building a collection for students on wood-turning. It is great to see so many departments interested in and involved in, collection building.

Library Timetable

The timetable is flexible and ever evolving. There are quite a few TY classes set in for weekly time slots for various activities.

TY students are also involved in creative arts programmes as well as reading for pleasure and literacy activities.

We have introduced a library programme for a group of 2nd Years in their 'Learning to Learn' classes with Mr. Doyle. This includes an introduction to the

school library and a tour of the various sections of the library. It also involves an introduction to their local library and the services they can expect to avail of there.

We will also look at learning styles with a quiz on the Chromebooks on and an introduction to the different learning styles. All classes finish with a 'self-directed learning' session where students use educational games to teach each other various skills. Language skills and visual literacy are also part of the programme.

In the new year, we plan to introduce a book review element and a creative writing and illustration element. This will illustrate to students the importance of imagination and creativity in their learning journey

Senior Home Economics Groups are coming in researching for their projects as are senior History Classes. Several titles have been borrowed from the Public Library System for these students.

Creative Arts Programme

Film Club is continuing to run after school on Wednesdays and Creative Writing club is running at lunchtimes on Friday. There is active engaged student interest in both.

In Film Club, the students have watched a number of short films for inspiration. They are now in the Pre-production phase and are working away on their scripts, shot lists and props lists in anticipation. An iPad and a compatible microphone have been ordered for Film-making through the IT Department. The large Interactive Screen has arrived so we will be able to screen more movies in Film Club.

In Creative Writing Club, the students are beginning to share their work and there are quite a few talented writers emerging. A couple of illustrators have joined our ranks also and are working on their visual literacy through the medium of illustrated storytelling.

TY students are working on their language picturebooks in French class and their projects are growing and expanding. The artwork is fantastic and looks like becoming a publishable project. (See Appendix A)

Library Council

Twelve extremely enthusiastic students volunteered for the library council this Term. Students from 2nd Year to 5th year were interested and we had a quick introductory meeting to discuss our plans for the year. We will meet in January to formalize plans but I would like to take them on a book buy to the various village bookshops so that they would have a say in collection development. I would like them to be involved in the primary school paired reading initiatives and to take them out to do paired reading with the local Montessori schools when we get these initiatives started.

They will also be instrumental in developing our school library policy. Vouchers will be bought for the library assistants for Christmas as a thank you gesture for volunteering in their own time.

Special Events this Term

1. *Physics Talk – Mr. Fox*
2. *Languages Quiz – Ms. Foynes*
3. *Christmas Songs Workshop – Mr. O’Dowd*
4. *Chess Competition with GCC – Mr. O’Donnchada*
5. *‘Think Languages’ Preparation Session– Ms. Foynes*

Exam Week

The library became an impromptu exam centre for some students with additional needs who needed a less-crowded space to complete their exams. They seemed much happier to complete exams in this environment.

Many students also used the facility to study between exam times and it became a hive of academic activity during exam week which was wonderful to see.

Staff Book Club

The staff book club was established this term with 19 members to date. The first title that we chose was 'Small Things Like These' by Claire Keegan. I ordered multiple copies of the book in the hope that we can share these copies with our feeder schools to establish their own book clubs and further enhance the links between our schools. The first set of copies were offered to Ms. Costello of St. Brigid's school for her staff book club and we can pass along the copies as soon as we choose our next title and the last one has been returned.

Our first meeting will be the second week in January and hopefully we can organize a trip to the cinema when the movie of this book comes out in January. Some options for our next title were posted on the staff Google Classroom. 'The Bee Sting' by Paul Murray is our next choice as Ireland's Book of the Year 2023.

Transition Year Paired Reading with St. Brigid's

The TY students will host paired reading sessions with St. Brigid's in the new year. We will have folders, two copies of each book and some book review forms and colouring pencils for the students. The 6th Class groups will come up on Monday afternoons and read with the TY students.

Along with working on their literacy skills, this initiative will help with their transition to 2nd Level, allowing them to become familiar with the school and its surroundings. Approximately 50% or more of the students will come to St. David's, so it is an important initiative for allowing a seamless transition to secondary school for some students.

Transition Year Book Fair

The Transition Years would like to sell some of the old books in the library in order to raise money for charity. We have lots of older editions of books and need to weed out some of the older copies of books. These books are still in good condition so it would be a bonus if we were to sell off some of these copies and raise money for a good cause.

Mindfulness Programmes

Some of the teachers have begun to bring groups in to practice mindfulness as a way for students to destress and relax. We have had mindful colouring programmes, along with meditations and music playing in the background.

We are currently working on a 'mindful' display of this work for the library noticeboard.

Library Developments

Thanks to Mr. Carey and Mr. O'Dowd, a new colour printer and a new Interactive Screen have been added to the library resources. Both of which have been enthusiastically received by teachers and students.

Professional Development

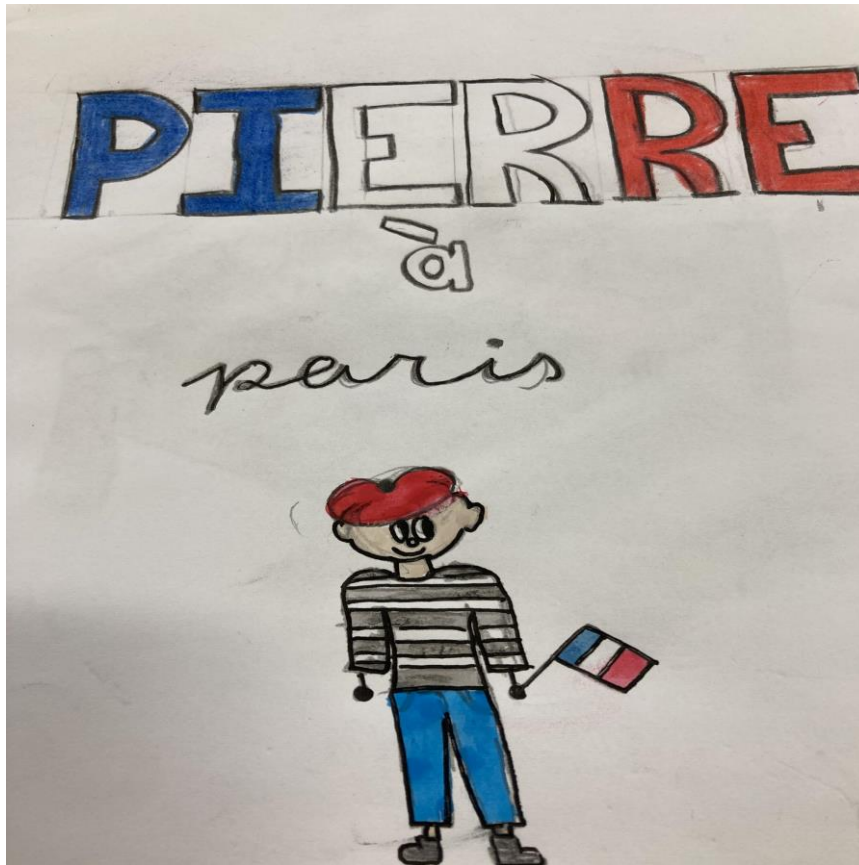
The librarian attended a *Felting Workshop* and a *Wreath Making Workshop* in order to research potential craft classes which could take place in the library in the future.

Professional Observations – Sanctuary Space

It is becoming more and more apparent that the most pressing need for students is a quiet space for them to seek sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of school life, particularly at lunchtime and breaktime. This is particularly true of students with *Special Educational Needs and/or Additional Needs*. It is the perfect space for these students to de-compress and seek sanctuary. The Librarian is working in tandem with the Guidance Department to provide this service as much as possible for students who need this space.

Appendix A – Student Work – (French Children’s Books)





Appendix B- Collection Development – (small sample)



