

4th February 2021

Launch of the OLSB Virtual Library and why is reading so important?

Why is reading so important? (see www.literacytrust.org.uk)

- Children born into communities with the most serious literacy challenges have some of the lowest life expectancies
- Children who enjoy reading and writing are happier with their lives and are more likely to have good mental wellbeing.
- Children with reading difficulties are at greater risk of developing mental health problems later in life, including depression, anxiety, behavioural problems, anger and aggression.
- 16-year-olds who choose to read books for pleasure outside of school are more likely to secure managerial or professional jobs later in life.
- Typical vocabulary of a successful pupil is 50,000 words by the time they leave secondary school.

Virtual Library

We are excited to announce the launch of our own virtual school library. Not only can pupils now access free books through Oak National Academy, they can also access books selected, and sometimes read, by their own teachers. Pupils will be able to follow the words on the page and listen to the book read aloud. As we understand the importance of literacy and the impact it will have on their futures, teachers from all of your child's subjects may set full or partial reading lessons either using the selected fiction book or a text which is subject specific. Please encourage your child to read at home or visit the new virtual library.

To access the selected fiction book, pupils simply need to log onto Teams and go to their year group Team. Click on Files and they will see a folder called 'VIRTUAL LIBRARY'. The books will be put in this folder by chapters. We hope your child enjoys reading along with us!

Does your son/daughter need help deciding on books? Need to know how to support your son/daughter with reading?

Our Lady & St Bede have created a regular reading newsletter called Reading Matters. It will give you lots of facts about reading, recommend books and also give advice about how to encourage and support your child to read. Look on our school website!



Oak National Academy Virtual Library

A Virtual School Library, brought you by Oak National Academy in partnership with the [National Literacy Trust](#), is also available for pupils to use.

Every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads.

Having access to a school library is really important for children. School libraries nurture a love of reading that can enrich children's literacy skills, academic achievements and mental wellbeing. Oak National Academy Virtual School Library will complement existing school libraries and will ensure that children have access to the magical world of stories all year round, whether they are learning at school or at home.

Oak National Academy has worked with brilliant publishers and inspiring authors and illustrators to ensure that the books and activities in our Virtual School Library will support children's wellbeing through reading.

Follow the link below to get started:

https://library.thenational.academy/?fbclid=IwAR02waNzsRVBEctWJt6UlqJwocbknPujYRaSmZfMZ-SKw_k6klahDI5yjsk