



Introducing St. Peter's

Birthday Books



As a school, we believe in the power of reading and the impact that reading has on children's overall achievement.

As we come to the end of Storytelling Week, we are delighted to introduce our newest initiative 'Birthday Books'.

We want every child to identify with books that they have enjoyed and to have access to good, quality books.

With Birthday Books, on their birthday each year, every child will receive the gift of a quality picture or story book jointly funded by the school and the Friends of St Peter's to keep at home forever.

Our Birthday Books are well loved, classic titles chosen by our staff which we hope children will treasure for years to come.

In our first year, all children who have already celebrated a birthday this academic year will receive their Birthday Book at the end of Storytelling Week. From then onwards, children receive their book on (or on the nearest school day) their birthday. Children with birthdays during school holidays will receive their books before we break up.

Book ownership has been directly linked with improved mental health amongst children and a greater desire to read for pleasure.

As a school, we were surprised to find out that one in four disadvantaged children across the UK has fewer than ten books of their own at home*, and one in eight has none. When we looked into the research further, we also found that disadvantage is by no means the only reason for a lack of books in many homes. Lack of time, negative experiences as a child or lack of confidence about their own reading skills or book choices can all affect a family's inclination to own books.

Birthday Books will give children from all backgrounds a greater opportunity to enjoy owning and reading books at home.

(*Book ownership, literacy engagement and mental wellbeing © National Literacy Trust 2018)