

# Will a refreshed whole school approach to library time improve motivation for reading?

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## What did you plan to do and why?

### The Plan

- Gather pupil voice about the current library space and time spent there
- Using ideas from pupils and professional reading, revamp the library environment
- Unveil the library to all pupils, staff and families
- Re-establish expectations and routines for using the library with all classes

### Why?

- Informal observations of children using the library showed lack of engagement and enjoyment
- Books arranged based on Accelerated Reader ZPD was no longer relevant to the school context
- Many pupils struggled with book selection
- No access to a community library for our pupils and families

## What has happened in your enquiry?

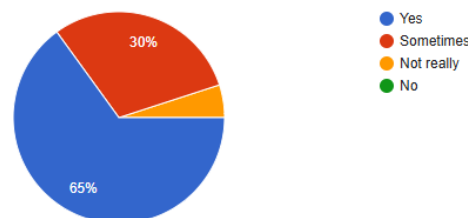
- Pupil Vice-Captains and Captains were asked for their opinions on the library and what they would change or add.
- The library space has been revamped entirely with new furniture, new displays, new books and a new system for organisation, based on genre. Books are all displayed neatly, with many front facing titles.
- There is now a recommendations chalk board which children are invited to write on, promoting informal book chat and recommendations across year groups.
- The role of Pupil Librarian was advertised for pupils from P4-6. 13 out of 38 applied.
- Classes are now visiting the library and using the time to browse, discuss books, read independently/with a friend and for whole class shared reading.
- A sample of pupils from each class was surveyed before any changes to library were made and again afterwards to gather feedback.

## What impact has this enquiry had?

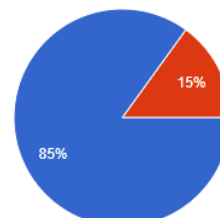
Anonymous pupil surveys were conducted with 20 out of 87 pupils. 4 pupils from each of our 5 class took part.

### Do you like coming to the library?

#### Pre

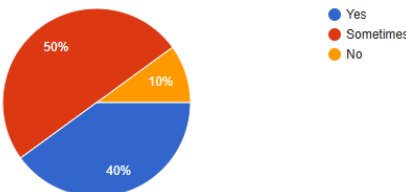


#### Post

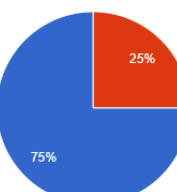


### In the school library is it easy to find books you like?

#### Pre



#### Post



### Pupil Feedback

#### What do you think about the new school library?

"Absolutely amazing – the upgraded library is AWESOME!"  
"It's great! I really love it and I can find the books I want easily."

"I really like it because it's organised and peaceful."

"It's so cosy and you can really sit down and read some books."

"I'm going to really like coming to the library now!"

"Other kids can't believe it was our ideas," – Vice- Captain

### Parent Feedback

"My child loves visiting the new library with her class to choose new books. She was also very keen to apply for the pupil librarian job."

### Teacher Feedback

"Since the library has been updated, I have found that my P3 class has been much more engaged in reading a wider range of books. They are displayed in a manner that is accessible to children with clear labels. This has helped the children know where to source their books of interest. The comfortable seating areas are very inviting and help the children relax into their books."

## What are the implications and next steps?

- Would lunchtime book clubs or after school sessions open to families have an impact on reading for pleasure and reading attainment within the school?
- Are there more opportunities for pupil led involvement with the library? Could pupils be responsible for selecting books to display? Pupils in P4-6 were offered the chance to be a Pupil Librarian so that they can take a leading role.
- Ideas to enhance the library environment further – a suggestions box where pupils can share their ideas or request new book titles.
- Would reading challenges have an impact?

## References

- Scottish Book Trust (2022) Life Changing Libraries. Available at: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/about-us/our-organisation/our-strategy/life-changing-libraries/>
- Robertson, Karen (2019). Let's Love the Library. Available at: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/mod/resource/view.php?id=116247>

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