

7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to share some exciting news regarding World Book Day, which this year will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

At Kings Lander Primary Academy we strive to instil a love of reading within children as we wholeheartedly believe that it is a vital part of a child's education and personal development. As a result of this, we have always highly valued and celebrated World Book Day as an important event in our school calendar. All staff members take great pride in ensuring that the day is meaningful, inclusive, and engaging for all children.

This year, after careful consideration and thoughtful discussions, we have decided to introduce an **optional** costume element to our World Book Day celebrations. While we are aware of the potential cost implications for families, we believe that by providing ample notice and encouraging creative, low-cost, or homemade costume ideas, we can ensure that all children can take part in a way that suits their individual circumstances. To further support this, I am hoping to arrange a 'borrow bank' of costumes so that parents can loan a costume from us for the day at no cost. In order to arrange this, we are calling on parents, carers and friends of Kings Lander Primary School to have a clear out of any costumes they may have that are no longer being used. If you can support this in any way, please send costumes to school as soon as you can so that they can be sorted into age groups ready to be loaned out. We will be particularly grateful of costumes in larger sizes that may be suitable for our junior children.

If your child is not able to dress up that day, our core focus will remain on books and fostering a love of reading. We want to ensure that every child feels included in the celebrations. To keep books at the heart of the event, we will continue to include the following activities during the day, as we have done in previous years:

- **Bring Your Favourite Book to School** - All children and staff are encouraged to bring in their favourite book to share
- **Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Sessions** – Twice during the day, a bell will ring to signal for everyone to pause and enjoy reading, creating a shared school-wide moment of literary engagement
- **Book Swap Baskets** – We are reinstating book swap baskets in classrooms and around the school, giving children the opportunity to exchange books and explore new stories
- **Reading Displays** – Staff will be updating their classroom doors with the book they are currently reading
- **Teacher Class Swaps** – Teachers will swap classes during the day to read to another group, allowing children to experience a different storyteller
- **Older Children Reading to Younger Children** – We will be arranging for older pupils to read to, and with, younger students, encouraging shared enjoyment of books across year groups

- **Capturing the Day** – Staff will take photographs of the celebrations, which will be shared on the school website and Twitter
- **World Book Day Themed Lunch** – including Astro Chimp Space Station Burgers and Paddington Bear sandwiches!

While the addition of costumes is an exciting new element, we want to reiterate that participation will be entirely optional, and we will continue to encourage children to focus on their love of reading above all else. Our aim is to make the day inclusive, engaging, and accessible for all while maintaining the high standards of learning and behaviour that we expect.

Once again, we truly appreciate your input and your commitment to making reading exciting for our children. I will be back in touch to notify you of dates and times for our costume 'borrow bank' nearer to World Book Day. If you have any questions, please feel free to see me after school on the infant playground or for a more formal meeting during my drop in session on Mondays after school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Murray  
English Lead  
Kings Lander Primary School