

1st July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Transition Reading Book

As part of our school culture and literacy strategy, we aim to encourage reading for pleasure, not only to boost academic attainment but also to promote good mental health and empathy. We have a well-stocked library that all members of the school community can use, as well as organising events such as author visits, reading groups and book quizzes. To reinforce the message that reading is for everyone, our library includes many graphic novels and dyslexia-friendly accessible format books, including classic novels.

To welcome your child to our culture of reading, they were given a free book yesterday, "The Letter With The Golden Stamp" by Onjali Q Rauf (author of "The Boy At The Back Of The Class", a text many of them will have already read and enjoyed). The publishers describe the book as follows:

"Deep in the heart of Swansea, Wales, lives a small girl with some big secrets to keep. Secrets that make her one of the best actresses on the planet – because no-one would ever think that, away from school, Audrey is the sole carer for her increasingly sick mam and her two younger siblings ... or a seasoned thief.

With her worlds threatened by the arrival of a mysterious, invisible neighbour, behind whose closed curtains and shut front door may lie a spy, Audrey must take matters into her own hands to save her family.

Inspired by her beloved collection of stamps, her friendly neighbourhood postman (and fellow stamp collector), and her two best friends, off Audrey must go on an adventure that will lead her to places – and hearts – she never knew existed."

We will be discussing the book in September, mainly in our morning WALK literacy sessions. Your child will not be tested in any way on their knowledge of the book, but we hope that they enjoy reading it over the summer holidays, whether independently or with you. I certainly enjoyed reading it! Our intention is to create a reading "event" for the year group where the act of reading is a shared journey. If your child would find it useful, there is an audiobook version available from Audible and other platforms which they could listen to alongside reading the book.

This book has been very kindly provided by the Friends of St Aidan's (FOSA), a friendly committee of parents who meet about 4 or 5 times during the school year and organise fundraisers. In previous years, FOSA has helped raise funds for a new school bus; their funds are always spent very carefully and go towards benefitting as many students as possible. FOSA are always looking for new volunteers to help their fundraising efforts; if you would like to get involved, please contact marketing@staidans.co.uk

We hope that your child enjoys their book and the summer break. Please can your child bring their copy of the book and/or another reading book along with them on their first day of school in September.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs A Parris
Literacy Lead