

These notes are designed to be used alongside the Primary PowerPoint for parents.

## Preparation:

- Invite parents to come along to a whole-school assembly, encourage them to bring along one of their favourite books
- Ask selected members of the school community: the headteacher, a governor, one of the office staff, a member from the catering staff, etc. to join the assembly and bring one of their favourite books
- Bring along a camera to take photos
- Make a display at the front of assembly of some classic and popular books (*Treasure Island*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Hobbit*, the *Harry Potter* series, etc.)
- Clear an area for display in the hall
- Put 'luggage tags' or similar on every seat for parents

## Slides 2 & 3

### *Welcome and introduction*

Welcome parents and pupils and introduce the theme of the assembly – the joy and power of owning books.

Set the scene by playing a short book trailer such as this one for [A Child of Books](#) by Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston, which talks about books as lifelong treasures that open the imagination. Use slide 3 to encourage a short discussion amongst pupils and between parents about what reading means to them and whether they can remember the first time they were given a book.

Gather feedback.

## Slide 4

Ask some of the school community you have invited to share the book they have brought with them, why it is important to them and if they can remember how they found out about the book – perhaps it was a present or a recommendation or even a 'hand me down' from a brother or sister?

Now ask parents and pupils to turn to their neighbours and share their own favourite books.

Take photos of staff, parents and pupils reading their favourite book and tweet them to us @Literacy\_Trust using #mytreasuredbook and we'll retweet our favourites!

## Slide 5

Share with parents and pupils the first research slide, which talks about the huge importance having books at home has on a child's education. Ask pupils to think about why that might be and feedback.

A discussion by Michael Rosen about the importance of this research is summarised [here](#) for further information.

## Slide 6

Further research findings about book ownership can be shared. Ask the audience: Did they know? Does this surprise them? What should we do about this as a school community?

## Slide 7

Encourage discussion about books at home and consider what other types of reading materials are also found in their homes (such as eBooks, magazines, comics, newspapers, online, etc.)

## Slide 8 & 9

Now, as a school community, encourage discussion and ideas from parents and pupils about what the school might do as a community of learners to celebrate books and encourage book ownership.

Slide 9 has several ideas to get you started – these may, of course, be edited with your own ideas. From after school workshops or making short book trailers, to parent book groups. See the resource *creative ideas for engaging parents through books* for further inspiration.

## Slide 10

Choose one idea to get things started. You could use the idea outlined on this slide (The Gift of Reading) or choose one of your own to insert.

### The Gift of Reading

Encourage parents and pupils to donate one book to your Christmas or Summer Fayre. Ask parents to wrap the book in brown paper and attached a special label. As a family they need to think about how to describe the book in a short advert to entice a new owner to pick it up and take it home. The advert is written onto the label to display on a special stall at the fayre. The 'new' books can be then sold for a small donation and new owners have the joy and surprise of choosing and then guessing what their new book might be.

Cheap brown paper rolls can be purchased from the post office and each child might be encouraged to take a small roll home and a label to complete in order to encourage participation.

## Slide 11

And finally...

As pupils are leaving assembly, remind parents that they may be sitting on a luggage label. Ask them to write on their label the name of their favourite book, their own name and a sentence why they think someone else should read it. Use the tags to collect and pin onto the pre-prepared display area in the hall as parents are leaving.

If parents do this themselves, even more discussion and sharing of books will take place especially if tea and coffee is also available! Encourage staff and other stakeholders to add to the display.

## INSERT Slides

If you have planned any other activities around books and reading to run this term or next, it may be a great idea to add additional slides informing parents and encouraging volunteers as part of this assembly.