



Congratulations to our newly elected House Captains and Vice-Captains following our recent hustings and elections. The Mayor of Lancaster & Morecambe presented the children with their badges.

**Red: Jasmine (HC) & Charlotte (VC)**

**Blue: Sienna (HC) & Brooke (VC)**

**Purple: Kai (HC) & Chloe (VC)**

**Green: Mia (HC) & Eve (VC)**

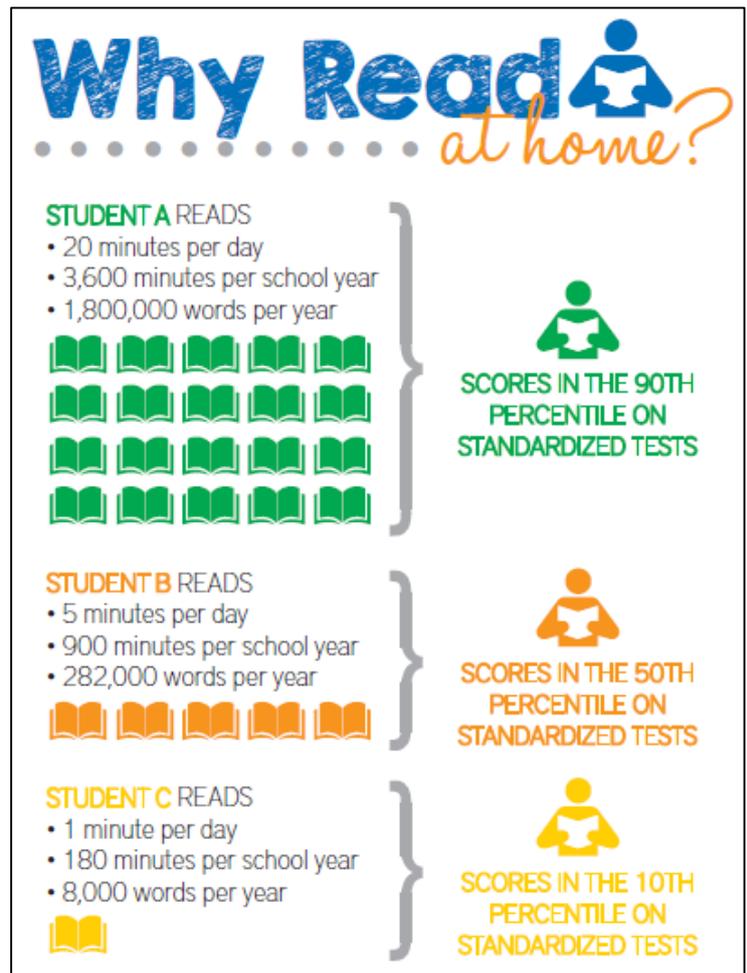
Once again, all of the children did a fantastic job during the hustings. Well done to all.

## Home Reading Reminders

The vast majority of our families are incredibly supportive and read daily with their children. We ask that you record the pages which have been read with the date and signature in your child's reading record. Unfortunately, I have been writing to a small number of parents highlighting concerns with home reading. Ofsted gave Mossgate the target of improving home reading which is why we continue to prioritise this and contact parents in different ways when home reading targets have not been met.

Children, regardless of their age, need to read daily to not only improve their fluency, but also their vocabulary and general knowledge. Lots of recent studies have shown the correlation between regular reading and academic success.

In **Reception and KS1**, children bring home three books each week linked to the sounds they are learning in their phonics group. We ask that parents sign reading records at least four times each week. Over the next few weeks, children in Reception will begin bringing home books with words when they are ready to do so. Books without words are really important as they help to develop story telling skills, developing language and vocabulary.



In **KS2**, children can change their reading book as soon as they have completed their online Accelerated Reading (AR) quiz. Some books take longer than others to read depending on its size and complexity. As a general rule, we expect children to complete at least one online AR quiz each week with a score above 80% to show they have read and understood the book.

Staff in your child's class monitor home reading every Thursday by either reviewing signatures in home reading records (Reception and KS1) or analysing online quiz scores (KS2). They then update the classroom doors showing which children have met or exceeded their reading target and also take a class photo which we share on Facebook. Families who forget to send in book bags cannot be checked so therefore will not be included. Staff then pass on the names of children who have not met their reading targets to the office and myself so texts or letters can be sent. Some parents are not happy about this system but we are prioritising home reading and will continue to contact parents as we need to work together to support your child's reading.

As a parent with two school aged children, I appreciate the demands on your time after school and the difficulties you may have listening to your child read. Please support the school by setting aside just 10 minutes each day and record signatures honestly. We have some children becoming upset because parents have added signatures to reading records when their child hasn't read.

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## Parents' Evening

Thank you to all the parents who attended parents' evening on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Unfortunately, some parents have been unable to attend for various reasons, therefore I have asked the office to contact those concerned after the break to make an alternative appointment.

During the parents' evening, parents had the opportunity to complete a home reading questionnaire. If you haven't yet returned these, please hand in at the office. Additional copies are available from the office also.

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## 'Scary' Story Day – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October

To promote our reading focus as a school, we will be holding a 'Scary' Story Day on the first Thursday back after half term – the day after the Halloween Disco. The idea is that children (and staff!) will come to school dressed up and the day will be based around scary / spooky / mysterious / monster themed etc stories. All stories will be age appropriate so will vary from The Gruffalo and Funnybones to Harry Potter.

Parents are invited to share a story with their child in either the hall or library for the first half hour of the day. You can either bring in a favourite book to share or use one of the stories we provide. Children who do not have someone coming in will listen to a story in class.

In the afternoon, we will also be setting up the bouncy castle, balance bikes and adventure playground for children who have achieved their reading target every week this half term.



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**PSA Halloween Disco** Wed 30th Oct **Pay on the door – no tickets**  
Rec & KS1 5 → 5:45pm KS2 6 → 7pm **Hotdogs, drinks and cakes on sale**  
**Sign up on ParentPay for face painting and tattoos**

## Eden Project

Eden Project North would love to hear your thoughts and concerns which is why they are organising a number of events to give you the chance to meet the team, share your views and comment on their plans (with kids' activities, cuppas and cake).



Drop in at the following times:

- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> between 12–7pm and Saturday 19 October between 12–8pm at Winter Gardens
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October between 12–8pm at Stanley's Community Centre
- Tuesday 22 October between 12–8pm at Bare Village Club, 20 Bare Lane

## Shoe Box Appeal

Eileen, from Boxes of Hope Cumbria, came into our whole school assembly on Tuesday to explain to the children how they can help. Children in Reception will be organising shoe boxes to send to children in Romania. They urgently need donations of:



- Empty shoe boxes with lids – ideally wrapped in Christmas paper so the children can just add the items to send.
- A selection of toys and games such as a ball, car, doll, skipping rope, yo-yo, dominoes (sturdy toys please as these children are not used to toys and have little manual dexterity).
- Sweets (use by date at least March 2020).
- Notebook, colouring book, pen, crayons, pencils, rubber, ruler, pencil sharpener.
- Hats, scarfs, mittens or gloves and pairs of socks.
- Soaps and facecloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair brushes / combs and hair accessories.

## Foodbank Collection

Y2 have been learning about the Christian Creation Story and the Harvest Festival in RE. We have looked at how we can help others and decided we would organise a Foodbank collection in school. Some of the children created posters to advertise this to our families.



Please donate the following items by leaving in the box in the school entrance.

The Foodbank urgently need: Fruit juice / Long life milk / Baby milk / Sugar / Instant mash potato / Sponge puddings / Biscuits / Coffee / Pasta sauce / Soap and shower gel / Toilet roll / Toothbrushes / Toothpaste

They have lots of beans and pasta so please do not donate these items.

## Meet the Governor – Christine Wright

### How did you become involved with Mossgate?

I have two children. One has just left to go to high school and one in year 2. Since having both children in the school, I was able to get involved with the PSA. This has given me a chance to work with other parents, and the school, with fundraising ideas and events. I was able to become Vice-Chair of the PSA last year which was fantastic. I also volunteer once a week to help out in the school classes. I have helped in Y6 with readers and now in Reception which I love.



### How long have you been a governor for?

I became a governor in June 2019, so I am very new to it, but I am really looking forward to getting to know the pupils and working alongside Mr Smith and the other governors.

### What do you enjoy the most?

I love being a part of a school that has amazing values. The children here are able to thrive in confident and amazing surroundings. I am looking forward to being a part of this amazing team that are dedicated to creating an even stronger environment in which our children can thrive.

I am excited to be a part of a committee that works alongside the head and staff to help with decisions in improving the school's already amazing achievements.

### What are you looking forward to?

I am looking forward to seeing the children benefit from the school's superb education and seeing first-hand what the children get up to and how relaxed and ready they are to learn.

My daughter had the most amazing time at Mossgate. She has been given the confidence to pursue her next adventure with strength, determination and courage. All of which is now being passed onto my son who is in year 2. I want all children to be able to walk away with these amazing qualities. This is why I am looking forward to my role as a governor at Mossgate Primary School.

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## Diary Dates

<b>Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	School closes for the October half term
<b>Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	School closed for pupils – INSET Day for staff
<b>Tues 29<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	School opens for pupils
<b>Tues 29<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Y5&6 Tag Rugby sessions start in PE with Mr Fletcher
<b>Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	PSA Halloween Disco: Rec & KS1 5pm → 5:45pm / KS2 6pm → 7pm
<b>Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	'Scary' Story Day: children dress up and parents invited in to share stories in the hall or library between 8:30am and 9am (after we have registered the children)
<b>Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	Halloween themed school dinner
<b>Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	Y2 Fire Safety Talk with the Fire Service
<b>Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Archery club begins 7:30 – 8:15am in the school hall
<b>Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Academy Photography in school for sibling and individual photos
<b>Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Y3&4 Archery lessons begin
<b>Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Say NO to Bullying Week in School
<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Anti-Bullying Workshops for Y1, 2, 3 & 4 with One Day Creative
<b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Anti-Bullying Workshops for Y5 & 6 with One Day Creative
<b>Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	PSA Non-Uniform – bring in chocolate donations please
<b>Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Children in Need Day

Wishing all of our families a happy and safe October break. Please remember that school will be closed on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October for staff training and will reopen on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> for children.

Mr Smith