

SARRATT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Laying the foundations for our children to be confident, respectful
and to achieve their full potential.*

Sarratt Church of England School | The Green, Sarratt WD3 6AS | 01923 262003

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have exciting news about the next stage in our school improvement journey. Here at Sarratt School, we have always believed in delivering a rich and creative curriculum – from our theme based learning approach to the many music and drama opportunities available to our children. Now, in order to acknowledge how well we do this, the school is going for Artsmark Accreditation. This is the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings and is accredited by Arts Council England.

In order to achieve our Artsmark Award, we are further developing our creative and cultural provision across the curriculum and the wider community. We want to be a champion of cultural education.

Already we have established relationships with cultural organisations, such as the Palace Theatre Watford, the National Gallery and the British Museum, to bring further opportunities for creative learning into school. We are also linking up with Herts 2020 - the year of cultural celebrations across the whole of Hertfordshire.

Our Assistant Head Teacher, Mo Serby, is the driving force behind this project. She is working as part of the steering group for HCEP - Hertfordshire Cultural and Educational Partnership - which aims to develop cultural education across the whole of Hertfordshire.

This is an exciting time to be in Sarratt School. We will keep you all updated of our journey through newsletters and our Twitter feed.

Mrs Nicola O'Hare
Head of School



Events

October 18

Quiz Night

October 21 and 22

Parent Consultation

October 23

Y4 Dance Festival

October 25

Y3 visit Celtic Harmony

End of Autumn Term 1

October 31

Secondary application deadline

Important information

Next week we will be holding parent consultations in school. This is an opportunity to find out about how your child has settled into their new year group, their progress and next steps in learning. Wherever possible, please make alternative arrangements for your children on the evening as the appointments are for adults only. We always aim to run to time - if you require more time to talk to the teacher, please make an additional appointment at a later date.

We donated 46.3kg of food to the local Foodbank – great team effort!

Key contacts:

SPA Chair: Mrs Juliane Coupland spa.chair@sarratt.herts.sch.uk

Chair of Governors: Mr Matthew Gould mgould@sarratt.herts.sch.uk

Sunset and Sunrise Club: info@sunriseandsunset.org

Mrs. Serby's Recommended Reads

We often get asked by parents, 'Which books would you recommend for my child?' For this task, I have requested the services of our in-house expert on children's fiction – Mrs Serby! Each half term, we will be asking for her pick of the books out there – both old and new. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as she does! Here goes...

I love to read children's books and I am always asking children about the books they are reading. Over the years, I have come across a wide selection of books for all ages and now I have a chance to share some of these ideas with you.



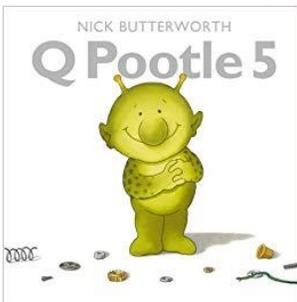
For my first suggestion, I am going to recommend a book for Year 2 called The Wizard, the Ugly and the Book of Shame by Pablo Bernasconi.

This enchanting picture book, with collage style pictures and rich vocabulary, tells the story of Chancery, a wizard's assistant. He is ashamed of being blue and ugly and is thus very unhappy with low self-confidence. As the story unfolds, Chancery has to learn to look beyond his reflection and find the beauty which lies beneath.

For Years 3 and 4, how about looking at The Creakers by Tom Fletcher? This is a fast paced adventure written by the McBusted guitarist where our young hero, Lucy Dungston, has to lead all the children in her town on a mission to save all of the adults who have mysteriously disappeared. It has exciting illustrations throughout, giving the reader hints and ideas as to what is going on which encourage children to predict what will happen next. This magical book is written in a friendly, almost personal perspective, helping children understand the narrator viewpoint. As you read through the story, the plot twists and turns so that young, free readers, are able to build their reading stamina as they need to hold a long, more complex story in their minds.



Nick Butterworth is one of my favourite authors of children's picture books. Both my children loved to read many of his books, but for Reception and Year 1, I recommend Q Pootle 5. This lovable alien roams around space - and sometimes comes to Earth - in a small, wonderfully simple spacecraft. In this story, he meets different Earthlings who help him repair his damaged booster rocket before racing to his moon party with other alien friends.



This story can be enjoyed over and over again. There are vivid illustrations to discuss with your child to help develop inference and deduction skills as well as a simple narrative to ask children to sequence to you.

Finally, for KS2, I would try The Girl Savage by Katherine Rundell. This was the first book by Katherine Rundell and is a great starting place to enjoy her writing. Whilemina has grown up a free spirit in Zimbabwe but circumstances change and she has to come to England to be educated. In this story of self-discovery, we learn how courage comes in many different forms and that to believe in who you are and to trust your own heritage can take you a long way. The author herself was born in Africa and draws on her own experiences of African farm life to paint evocative pictures for the reader, giving our young writers a model to emulate in their own writing.



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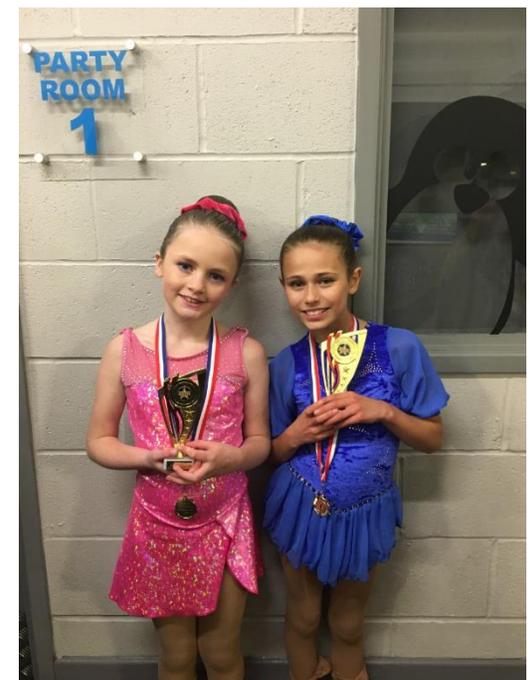
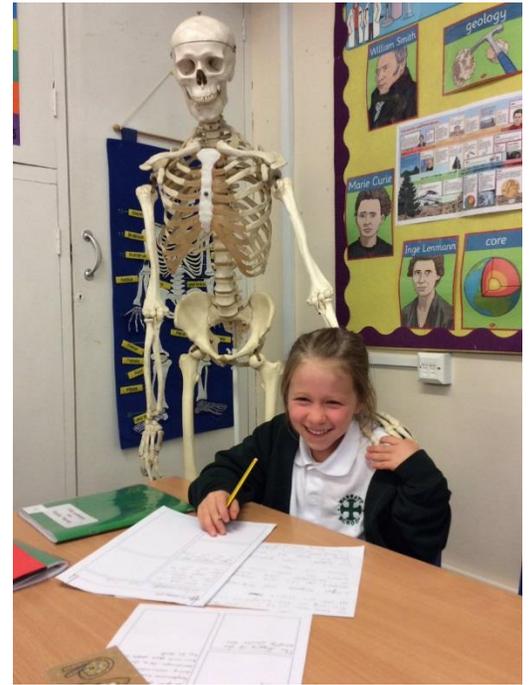
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Our Week in Pictures!

An unexpected visitor to Y3, a delivery of new coding equipment, an excursion to The Roald Dahl Museum, more success for our Skating Stars and our curious Reception Class interviewing adults in school are just a few of the many highlights we've seen this week.



SPA News

Good luck to all you Quizzers! We look forward to seeing you all on Friday Night at the Village Hall. All proceeds go towards funding the Christmas Pantomime Visit to The Watford Palace Theatre. If you can't make it on the night, show your support by purchasing raffle tickets. They are on sale at the end of each day.

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