

Oxford Children's Book Group

BOOK SWAP – BOOST YOUR SCHOOL'S BUZZ ABOUT READING!!

The OCBG enjoys encouraging children to read, and we think this kind of event has more impact on boosting reading than anything else we do.

Pupil feedback (2022) : “*Thank you for being there*” and “*Thank you for all those books*”....

The idea is for the children to bring into school at least three books (in good condition) that they have outgrown or grown tired of. Children can bring in any number of books but can only take away three. The idea is that children who have brought in fewer than 3 or no books at all can still gain three. Pupils who bring in more can be seen as ‘Super Donor Swappers’, who are generously supporting others to own books and to read. Many parents are glad to donate books to the school for this reason. The school library and classroom libraries also benefit because surplus books can be donated to the school.

We suggest the children amass the books in their classroom from a Monday to a Thursday. OCBG then arrive on the Friday at 12, bringing along extra books to supplement those brought in by the children (circa 100+). The class teachers send the books chosen by the children to the hall, where the OCBG members organize onto tables all the books by Key Stage/ reading difficulty. Dinner tables can be left out to use for the Book Swap.

One hour later, teachers may bring their classes to the hall, to choose their new books. It helps to organize a simple rota to stagger the arrival of classes into the hall. 15 minutes for two classes is usually adequate. One pattern that works well is a KS1 class coming along with a KS2 class, because the children are searching on different tables for their books. It also helps to set out carpet squares or bean bags for ‘early-chooser’ children to sit on and read or share their newly acquired books.

Other schools have found that it really does give a big boost to reading because it gets children talking about and recommending books to each other.

Sample timetable for one-form entry:

- 1.10 pm -1.25pm Class Z (Y1) and Class Y (Y6) =60 pupils
- 1.30-1.45 pm Class A (Y2)and Class B (Y5) =60 pupils
- 1.50- 2.15 Class C (Reception) = 30 pupils
- 2.20- 2.35 Class D (Y3) and (Class G (Y 4) = 60 pupils

Sample timetable for two-form entry:

- 1.00- 1.15pm Reception Class X (30 pupils) plus Y5 (60 pupils) =90 pupils
- 1.20-1.35 pm Y1 =60 pupils
- 1.40-1.55 pm Y4 =60 pupils
- 2- 2.15 Reception Class Z (30 pupils) and Y6 = 90 pupils
- 2.20 -2.35 pm Y3 = 60 pupils
- 2.40-2.55 pm Y2 = 60 pupils (packed up in advance, with their coats and bags, ready to go home with their new books)