



What's going on this week?

Children's Laureate, Cressida Cowell, has written a letter asking the prime minister to allocate £100m a year to help school libraries. The writer said she wanted "something hopeful to come out of the darkness of the pandemic. If you want to level up, libraries have to be a key part of that." She had said she would like funding to be guaranteed in particular for primary school libraries in the way that it is for other areas such as sport. The letter has also been signed by former Children's Laureates including Michael Rosen, Quentin Blake and Jacqueline Wilson.

Main question:

Should all schools have a library?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster. What can we see? Do we recognise anyone in the picture? Explain that it shows the head girl at St Mary's C of E in Stoke showing the prime minister their school bus.
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource about libraries in schools. Do you think more money should be given to schools to spend on their libraries?
- Can you think of any features that make a library successful? Aside from books, do you think there is anything else a library needs?
- Do you think the layout of a library is important? If you could design your own layout of a library, what might it look like?
- Due to a lack of space, some schools have been very creative with their libraries, e.g. using a shed or bus. Can you think of any other creative uses of space for a library?
- Watch this week's useful video (link found below), which shows Cressida Cowell explaining why school's should receive funding for their libraries. Share your thoughts on her comments.
- Can you think of any books that you have learned a lot from? What is your favourite book?

Reflection

The school library can be many things and appear in many forms! They can promote and support reading for pleasure, contribute to social development and provide a place to learn.



KS1 Focus

Question:

What is a library?

Listen, think, share

- Write the word 'library' on the board. What do you think a library is? Have you ever been to a library before? What did it look like? What did you do when you were there?
- Explain that a library is a room or a whole building that contains books and sometimes other items such as films or music that people can borrow. If we borrow something, what does that mean?
- Look at resource 1, which shares more information about libraries and what they are. Would you enjoy visiting a library with everything mentioned in the resource? Why?
- The books in a library are often organised to make finding a book you will enjoy easier. Do you know what fiction and non-fiction books are? Which type of book do you prefer to read?
- Do you have a favourite book? What is it? Do you know who the author is? Explain that if you told a librarian which books you have enjoyed, they will be able to recommend others that you will probably enjoy too. Do you think this would encourage people to read more?
- Do you have a library in school? If you don't have a specific room or building, are you still able to borrow books from school to read? Do you think people are likely to read more if they are able to borrow books rather than buy them?

Reflection

A library is a room or a building that contains books that people can borrow. It often contains a space for you to sit and enjoy books or take part in story times or other activities.



KS2 Focus

Question:

What makes a place a library?

Listen, think, share

- Where is your nearest community library? Have you ever visited it or a different library? Where was it? Who did you go with? What did you do when you were there? What was the library like?
- Explain that a library is a place that contains books and other items such as films, music, ebooks that you can borrow. Think about what else a library may contain e.g. computers and internet access, historical information, a space to work and read, a librarian.
- What do you think makes a place a library? Look at resource 2, where some people share their opinions. Whose opinion fits best with how you feel?
- Focus on Zimar's comment. He thinks a library can be anywhere as long as there are books. Have you ever seen any unique or different spaces that have been used as a library e.g. a red telephone box?
- Have you ever taken part in a story time session or a reading challenge at your local library? Why do you think libraries run these sessions? Do you think it encourages us to read and enjoy books?
- Albert Einstein said, 'The only thing you absolutely have to know, is the location of a library.' What do you think he means by this?
- Do you enjoy reading? What do you like reading? Books, magazines? What genres do you enjoy? Do you prefer fiction or non-fiction books? Do you think a good library would help everyone develop a love and enjoyment of reading?

Reflection

What makes a library for one person, may not quite be the same as for someone else but most libraries provide a space to learn, to access information and to read for pleasure and enjoyment.



KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Ask the children to think about how you borrow and share books at school.

- Do you have books in your classroom? How are they organised?
- Do you have a school library?
- Do you have a librarian?
- What are the benefits of being able to borrow books from school?

Explain that some schools have a library whereas others do not.

- Do you think all schools should have a library and a librarian? List the benefits of having this facility.

Cressida Cowell has written to the prime minister asking for funding to be allocated to develop school libraries. Ask the children to use ideas from their discussion to plan and write their own letter to the prime minister!

Option 2: What makes a place a library? Ask the children to use resource 2 and their own ideas to design their dream school library. Think about:

- Where will the library be?
- What will be in your library e.g. books, a space for reading, internet access?
- How will you organise your library space?
- Will you have a colour scheme?

Encourage the children to create a floor plan (birds eye view sketch) of their design. You could ask them to annotate their ideas before sharing with others.



KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Ask the children to think about the last fiction book they read.

- What was the title?
- Who was the author?
- Who was the main character?
- What happened in the story?
- Did you enjoy the book? Why?

Explain that they are going to create a book review through art! They must use line, shape, tone and colour to create their review. Once they have completed their piece of art, share with others.

- How do you know this person did or did not enjoy their book?
- What do you think the book might have been about?
- Do you think you would enjoy this book?

Option 2: Remind the children that books are often organised in a library. They are put into sections and then each section is put into alphabetical order.

- What do we mean by alphabetical order?
- Can we say our alphabet?

Write the following names on the board:

- Michael Rosen
- Jill Murphy
- Malorie Blackman

Explain they are all authors of children's books.

- Have you read any of their books before?

Libraries use the author's surnames to organise books in alphabetical order. Ask the children to put the three authors into alphabetical order. Explore further by giving children books from your classroom to organise alphabetically. Provide the alphabet for those that need it.



This Week's Useful Websites

[This week's news story](#)

<https://bbc.in/2Qi50DZ>

This Week's Useful Videos

[Libraries Change Lives Project](#)

<https://bit.ly/2OKoGQD>

This Week's Virtual Assembly

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Allocate – give or distribute resources or money for a particular purpose.

Cressida Cowell has written a letter asking the prime minister to **allocate** £100m a year.

Children's Laureate – a writer or illustrator of children's books who is appointed to promote and encourage children's interest in literature and reading.

Children's Laureate, Cressida Cowell, has written a letter asking the prime minister to allocate £100m a year.

Contribute – help to cause or bring about something. They can promote and support reading for pleasure, **contribute** to social development and provide a place to learn.

Creative – being imaginative, inventive and original. Due to a lack of space, some schools have been very **creative** with their libraries.

Guaranteed – certain it will happen.

She had said she would like funding to be **guaranteed**.

Promote – support, encourage and give publicity to something.

They can **promote** and support reading for pleasure, contribute to social development and provide a place to learn.