

World Book Day ideas for primary schools

On 7 March 2019, children of all ages will celebrate the 22nd annual World Book Day by coming together to appreciate reading. The main aim of World Book Day is to encourage children to read for pleasure and provide them with the opportunity to have a book of their own.

In Manchester, schools and libraries across the city will enjoy fun reading activities. Here are 10 ways you can inspire your class to get involved in the magic of World Book Day...

1. Encourage your class to use their tokens

World Book Day will be distributing 15million £1 World Book Day book tokens to children across the UK. When your class receive their tokens, all they need to do is to take them to their local bookseller and swap them for one of the 12 £1 World Book Day books – for free! Alternatively, they can put their vouchers towards a full price book and receive £1 off.

2. Take part in Share a Story Live

Read Manchester has partnered with World Book Day to bring Share a Story Live, a nationwide event to encourage reading for 10 minutes every day, to the city. The event, which includes an exciting line-up of authors, will take place under the wings of Concorde at the Runway Visitor Park near the airport. Applications are now closed, but you can keep up to date with all the activity by following #ReadMCR.

3. Visit the World Book Day website for fun activities and resources

Head to worldbookday.com to find lots of ideas for creating a buzz around World Book Day. From book review and character profile templates, to posters, bunting and flyers, there's plenty to help your class get excited about reading at home, on the bus or even in the park! Read Manchester would love to see what you're up to on 7 March. You can share your activity on social media using #ReadMCR.

4. Inspire pupils to dress up as their favourite characters

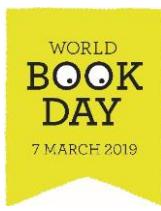
A popular way to celebrate World Book Day is to bring your favourite book character to life by dressing up! Ask your class to design a costume using easy-to-access or everyday items. If a child or parents are struggling for ideas, ask them to visit the World Book Day website where they can find some simple, inexpensive costume suggestions.

5. Read to the whole class

Even as children get older and can read independently, reading out loud allows them to enjoy the magic of a great story. Sharing a book as a whole class for 10 minutes every day can be a great way to build excitement about reading and encourage discussion.

6. Ask your pupils to visit their local libraries

Joining the library, borrowing books and using the computers is all free for children. Use World Book Day as an opportunity to tell pupils and parents about what local libraries offer. Encourage your class to visit their local libraries, where they'll find more activities to mark World Book Day and plenty more books to choose from. You can contact Jodie Osborne j.osborne@manchester.gov.uk to ask about their school offer and to be added to the mailing list for free author and illustrator visits.



7. Be a reading role model

Make sure you always have a book on your desk and are happy to talk to pupils about what you're reading. Always take an interest in your pupils' favourite books and be ready to suggest other titles by similar authors.

8. Encourage reading at home

National Literacy Trust research shows that children who enjoy reading outside school have significantly better mental wellbeing than their disengaged peers. To help improve their child's happiness and reading ability, parents can download the World Book Day resource on tips for reading at home with their children and developing their literacy ability.

9. You can read anything!

Encourage pupils to read more than just fictional books around World Book Day. They might enjoy taking 10 minutes to read non-fiction, comic books, magazines or online articles.

10. Create reading displays

Dedicate displays in classrooms and corridors to promoting World Book Day. You could share short book reviews of your class's favourite reads, or after the event, present the best costumes from the day.

Find out more about World Book Day activities in Manchester at readmanchester.org.uk or email c.pridgeon@manchester.gov.uk to sign up to the Read Manchester update.