



## INSET day – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

### No school for students

Dear Parent / Carers



Thank you to all the girls who took the trouble to wear something red to mark Red Wednesday. This is a day where we stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians and all who suffer for their peacefully held beliefs. This week we held Red Wednesday assemblies. The girls were reminded of how lucky we are to be able to attend a Catholic School and live out our faith without fear of persecution, but that it is not the same everywhere in the world.

Next week we enter the season of Advent and our chaplaincy team have been working hard with Marie in creating a reverse advent calendar. We would normally by now be in the final stages of preparing for our Carol Service but sadly this year due to Covid we are unable to. We are however hoping to do something on a much smaller scale virtually. More details to follow when they are finalised.

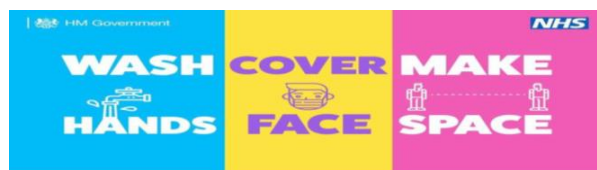
#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

If at any point in the future your daughter tests positive for Covid, it is essential that you inform the school as soon as possible even if it is after school hours or at the weekend. In the event that your daughter does test positive please email

**[covid@stursulas.com](mailto:covid@stursulas.com)**

This email will be checked regularly and a member of the Senior Team will contact you as soon as the email is picked up. We will have to gather information from your daughter about who she has been in contact with. This information is required by Public Health England, they will then advise us on the next steps.

Have a restful weekend  
Mrs Hamilton  
Headteacher





# St Ursula's Convent School

# The Weekly

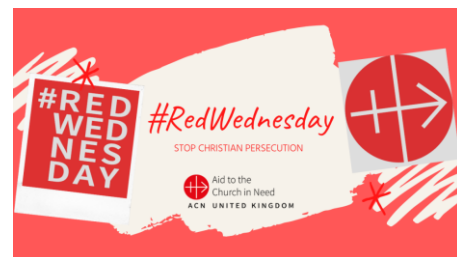
Week Ending  
27th November 2020  
Issue Number \*\*\*



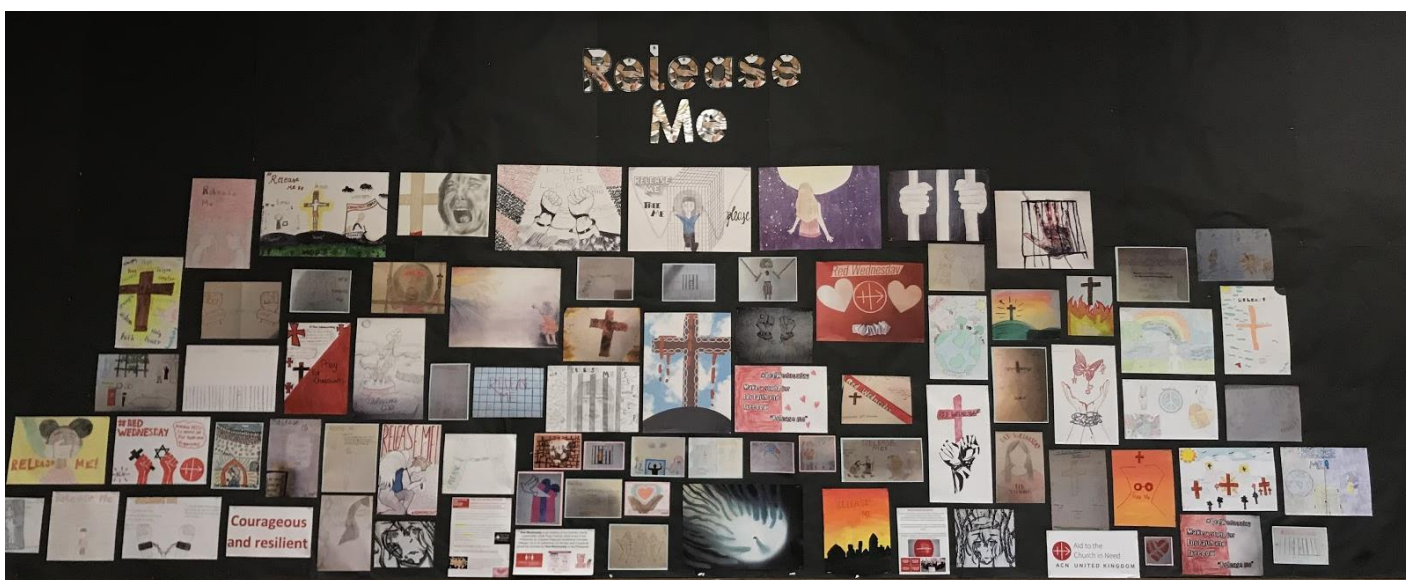
After this current lockdown ends we will be able to go to church to once again to participate sacramentally in the celebration of the Mass. However, for many people around the world this remains impossible.

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, Red Wednesday, we wore red hair clips, hair scrunchies or face masks in solidarity with the many people around the world who suffer persecution each and every day for practising their faith. When you return to Mass, please remember in your prayers those who suffer in this way.

## DISCERNING & JOYFUL



## #RedWednesday Art Competition Display



25<sup>th</sup> November was also the feast day of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Despite her youth, she held firm to her belief in Jesus Christ, even when faced with imprisonment and torture. May her openness to the gifts of wisdom, courage and perseverance inspire us in our daily struggles.

**St. Catherine of Alexandria – PRAY FOR US.**

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY will now be Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December.**  
**£1 minimum payment to be made by ParentPay before 4<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Donations for the Catholic Children's Society**

<https://www.cathchild.org.uk/>

**and The Mizen Foundation** <http://mizenfoundation.org/>





## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

No doubt many of you will have Advent calendars at home. Often these calendars have something lovely hidden behind the window, a little treat for the day. With a reverse Advent calendar, each time a door is opened we put something in. It's a way of sharing what we have with those who will have very little at Christmas.

Students in the Chaplaincy Team have been busy making doors for our Reverse Advent Calendar – photos to follow in next week's newsletter.

We are asking for donations of:

**FOOD** - tins, packets and jars of food (pasta rice, noodles, pasta sauces, tinned meat and vegetables). As it's Christmas, we'd also like to give festive food, e.g. mince pies, biscuits and chocolates. Individually wrapped items are ideal.

**TOILETRIES** – shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste. ALL NEW & IN UNOPENED PACKAGING PLEASE.

**SOCKS** – new socks, men's preferred. Socks are one of the most needed items of clothing but least donated to homeless charities.

Thank you for giving generously.

**Donation period: 30/11/20 – 14/12/20**



Making change count  
for homeless people



**“In the poor and the outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ.” (Pope Francis)**



# St Ursula's Convent School

# The Weekly

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Well done to Year 8, who participated in workshops led by the Anne Frank Trust on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Students learned about prejudice and

discrimination and how to respond to this. Some comments from year 8 girls were "It was interesting and educational". "We learned how to talk about prejudice and discrimination and more about Anne Frank and her story. We also learnt how to respond back to racist statements as well as learning about discrimination in the past."

This workshop was an introduction to the year 8 annual Anne Frank project which will take place later next year. All classes behaved excellently and were very enthusiastic participants. Well done all!



Ms Devine

## CRUNCH-LINE CHRONICLES

Dear All,

Our Schools Police Liaison officer has alerted us to an online game related to 'County Lines' drug running. There are concerns about its potential influence on vulnerable young people as it has themes of drug-running, CSE and grooming.

This is currently available to download on play/Apples store

Please be alert to what your young people are playing and discuss the issues with them. Please report any concerns to your ISP centre.

Many thanks,

**Ms L. Ormerod**

**Safeguarding and Behaviour  
Manager**

### Letter from the JLT

Dear all,

We would like to congratulate Y11 for completing their PPEs and continuing to work hard!

Good luck to all the other years with their exams, and well done to everyone for their dedication and perseverance. All of this hard work is contributing to something much greater, and remember, Christmas is just around the corner ☺

From your JLT



# St Ursula's Convent School

# The Weekly

Week Ending  
27th November 2020  
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KS3 and Yr10 exams  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.  
Good luck to all

## Key Stage 3 Exam Timetable – Autumn 2020

	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December			Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December			Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December			Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December		
	7	8	9	7	8	9	7	8	9	7	8	9
<b>P1</b> 8:50 – 9:30	Art / Product Design / Food Tech	DT Textiles / Product Design / Food Prep: 1hr 8:50 – 9:50 ET: 15mins	Art: 2 hrs 8:50 to continue after break ET: 30mins	English: 50min 8:50 – 9:40 ET: 8mins	History: 1hr 8:50 – 9:50 ET: 15mins	Maths: 1hr15 8:50 – 10:05 ET: 19mins	Maths: 1hr 15 8:50 – 10:05 ET: 19mins	Science: 1hr 8:40 – 9:40 ET: 15mins	RE: 1hr 8:50 – 9:50 ET: 15mins	Science: 1hr 8:50 – 9:50 ET: 15mins	RE: 1hr 8:50 – 9:50 ET: 15mins	History: 1hr 8:50 – 9:50 ET: 15mins
<b>P2</b> 9:30 – 10:20	DT: 1hr 8:50 – 9:50 ET: 15mins Art: 1hr 40 8:50 – 10:30 ET: 25mins (15mins of ET to continue after break)	Revision		Revision	Revision	4mins of ET in break (Cover required) Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision
10:20 – 10:40	Revision for pupils not finishing Art	BREAK	BREAK	Form	BREAK	BREAK	Revision / ET	BREAK	BREAK	Form	BREAK	BREAK
10:40 – 11:00	BREAK	Drama: 50min 10:40 – 11:30 ET: 8min	Art continues until 11:10	BREAK	French: 45min 10:40 – 11:25 ET: 7mins	English: 50min 10:40 – 11:30 ET: 8mins	BREAK	Spanish: 45min 10:40 – 11:25 ET: 7mins	Geography: 1hr 10:40 – 11:40 ET: 15mins	BREAK	English: 50min 10:40 – 11:30 ET: 8mins	Drama: 50min 10:40 – 11:30 ET: 8min
<b>P3</b> 11:00 – 11:45	Art ET finish at 11:15 Music: 45min 11:30 – 12:15 ET: 7mins	Revision	ET finishes at 11:40 Revision	RE: 1hr 11:00 – 12:00 ET: 15mins	Revision	Revision	History: 1hr 11:00 – 12:00 ET: 15mins	Revision	10mins ET in Lunch (Cover required)	Geography: 1hr 11:00 – 12:00 ET: 15mins	Revision	Revision
<b>P4</b> 11:45 – 12:45	Revision	LUNCH	LUNCH	Revision	LUNCH	LUNCH	Revision	LUNCH	LUNCH	Revision	LUNCH	LUNCH
<b>P5</b> 12:45 – 1:45	LUNCH	Art: 1hr 40 12:50 – 2:30 ET: 25mins	DT Textiles / Product Design / Food Prep: 1hr 1:00 – 2:00 ET: 15mins	LUNCH	Geography: 1hr 12:50 – 1:50 ET: 15mins	French: 45min 12:45 – 1:30 ET: 7mins	LUNCH	PE: 45min 12:45 – 1:30 ET: 7mins	Science: 1hr 1:00 – 2:00 ET: 15mins	LUNCH	Revision	Spanish: 45min 12:45 – 1:30 ET: 7mins
<b>P6</b> 1:45 – 2:30	Drama: 50min 1:45 – 2:35 ET: 8min	Revision	Revision	French: 45min 1:45 – 2:30 ET: 7mins	Revision	PE: 45min 1:50 – 2:35 ET: 7mins	Spanish: 45min 1:45 – 2:30 ET: 7mins	Music: 45min 1:50 – 2:35 ET: 7mins	Revision	PE: 45min 2:00 – 2:45 ET: 7mins	Maths: 1hr 15 1:10 – 2:25 ET: 19mins	Music: 45min 1:50 – 2:35 ET: 7mins
<b>P7</b> 2:30 – 3:00	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	End of Exams	End of Exams	End of Exams





# St Ursula's Convent School

# The Weekly

Week Ending  
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## Year 10 Exam Timetable – Autumn 2020

	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Tue 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> December
P1 8:40 – 9:30	Food – M4 – 1hr 30m (1hr 53m extra time)			PE – M4 – 1hr (TBC extra time)
P2 9:30 – 10:20	DT – M5 – 1hr 15m (1hr 34m ex time)	Spanish – STA, M4 and M5 – 1hr (1hr 15m extra time)	Computer Science – M4 – 1hr 30m (1hr 53m ex time)	Drama – M5 – 1hr 15m (1hr 34m ex time)
10:20 – 10:40	Music – STA – 1hr 15m (1hr 34m ex time)	Silent Study – M7 and M8 Silent Study after exam has finished	Psychology – STA – 1hr (1hr 15m ex time)	Health and Social Care – STA
	Silent Study – U6, M7 and M8 Silent Study after exam has finished		Silent Study – M5, M7 and M8 Silent Study after exam has finished	Silent Study – M7 and M8 Silent Study after exam has finished
10:40 – 11:00	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
P3 11:00 – 11:45	Science – 1hr (1hr 15m extra time) In science classrooms on the M corridor	History – STA, M4 and M5 – 1hr 15m (1hr 34m extra time)	English Literature – 1hr (1hr 15m extra time) In form rooms on the M corridor	RE – 1hr (1hr 15m extra time) In form rooms on the M corridor
P4 11:45 – 12:45	Silent Study after exam has finished	Silent Study – M7 and M8 Silent Study after exam has finished	Silent Study after exam has finished	Silent Study after exam has finished
P5 12:45 – 1:45	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
P6 1:45 – 2:30	Maths 1 – 1hr (1hr 15m extra time) In maths classrooms on the M corridor	Geography – STA, M4 and M5 – 1hr (1hr 15m extra time)	French – STA and M4 – 1hr (1hr 15m extra time)	Maths 2 – 1hr (1hr 15m extra time) In maths classrooms on the M corridor
P7 2:30 – 3:10	Silent Study after exam has finished	Silent Study – M7 and M8 Silent Study after exam has finished	Silent Study – M5, M7 and M8 Silent Study after exam has finished	End of Exams



## How to Maintain a Balanced Reading Diet!

Miss Deegan has noticed a trend in year 7 of pupils reading only the same author or book series, such as Jacqueline Wilson or Dork Diaries. She encourages pupils to have a balanced and diverse reading diet, as certain books containing simple language, little text or pictures - they are fun to read but will not nourish pupils' brains!

Miss Deegan recommends maintaining a healthy reading diet by diversifying the genres, authors, and types of literature pupils read. Pupils should ensure they are reading not only 'Treat Books' such as manga, Dork Diaries or other simple works, but 'Meal Books' and 'Vegetable Books' such as novels, non-fiction and classic fiction to expand vocabulary and general knowledge. Some of these books wouldn't be a pupil's first choice but they're beneficial for them. The more diverse books pupils read the easier it becomes and their literary tastes broaden!

There are lots of amazing suggestions and reading lists of books to reserve on Oliver! Pupils should be brave and try something new and reserve a book by a new author! Miss Deegan is already encouraging reading new authors in lesson. Remember, reading for at least 20 minutes a day makes a statistical difference to test results across all subjects, make the time count!

### READING LISTS:

<https://stursulas.oliverasp.co.uk/library/home/browse/readingLists>



## The Advantages of Reading for Pleasure

Miss Deegan recommends that all pupils read for a **minimum** of **20 minutes per day**. Reading an appropriately challenging or engaging text for this length of time is statistically proven to improve overall exam grades.<sup>1</sup> There is also a strong link between the development of vocabulary and mental health and well-being.<sup>2</sup>

Studies show that children who read for pleasure achieve better results across all subjects. A study by Dr Alison Sullivan (Institute for Education, London University) of the reading habits of 6,000 children showed that:

***'Those who had read often at the age of 10 and had been reading books and newspapers more than once a week aged 16 had performed better than those who had read less':***

**14.4% advantage in vocabulary**

**9.9% advantage in maths**

**8.6% advantage in spelling<sup>3</sup>**

The influence of reading for pleasure was also found to have a greater effect than having a parent with a degree.

Miss Deegan encourages that for every three books a pupil reads at least one should be challenging!

<sup>1</sup> Nagy and Herman, 1987

<sup>2</sup> The Oxford Language Report, <http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/Oxford-Language-Report.PDF?region=uk>

<sup>3</sup> Dr Alice Sullivan, Institute of Education

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-24046971>





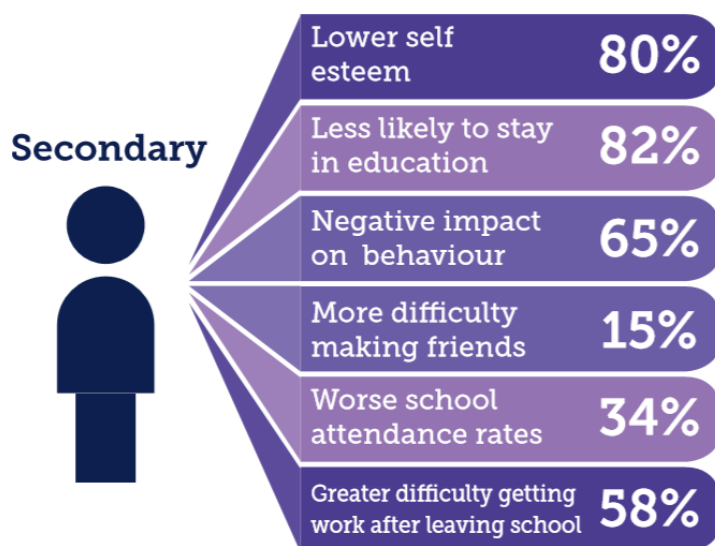
## Reading improves academic achievement and mental health.

Encouraging your daughter to read for pleasure will both bolster her academic achievement and her mental health.

The Oxford Language Report (a research survey of over 1,000 teachers of both primary and secondary age groups about literacy across the nation) has made some significant findings in regards to the effect of the 'word gap' – a lack of vocabulary due to poor reading skills – on both academic achievement and mental health.

In addition to the academic benefits of reading, primary and secondary school teachers found that:

***'Self esteem, behaviour and a child's ability to make friends were all felt to be negatively affected by low levels of vocabulary. The diagram below illustrates the proportion of teachers surveyed who believe the word gap is impacting on pupils in the following ways' (Oxford Language Report, p. 7 [OUP: 2019])***



If you are interested in more of the report's findings you can read the whole document here: <http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/Oxford-Language-Report.PDF?region=uk>



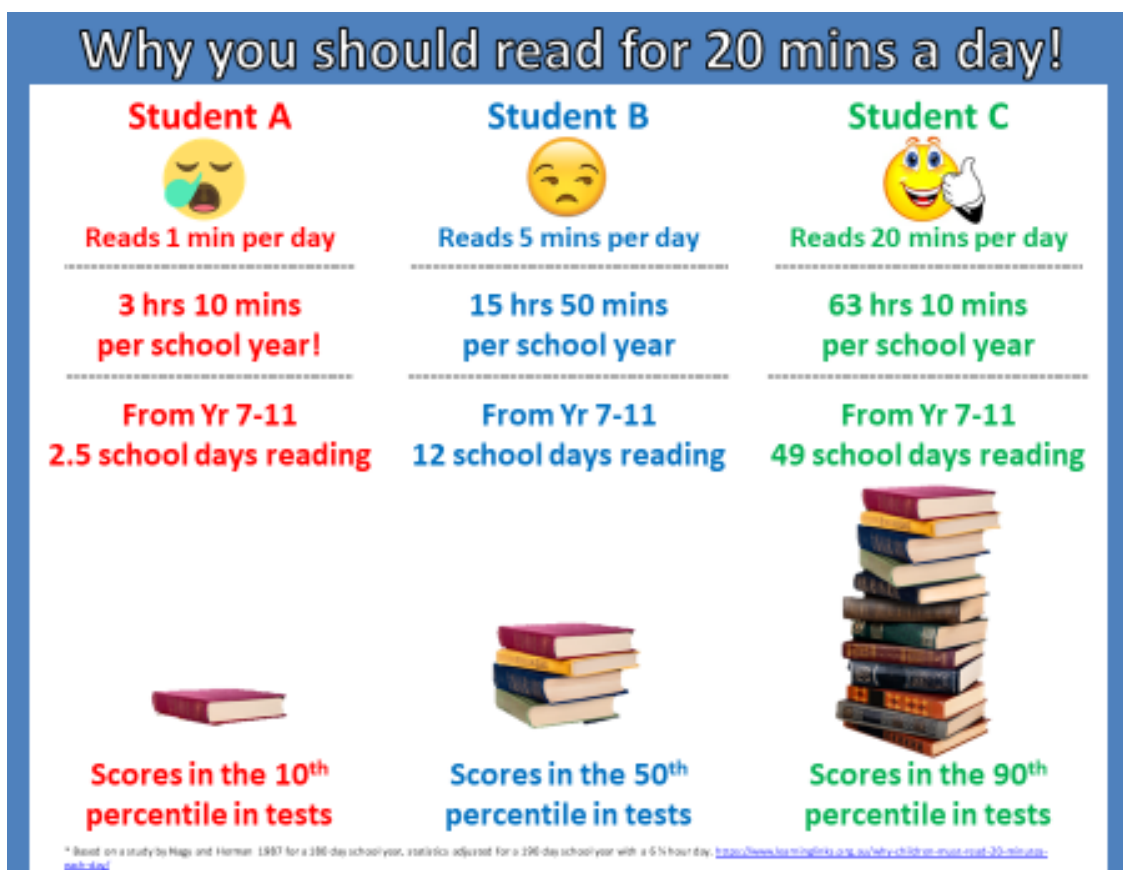
The report goes on to cite that:

***'Vocabulary skills at age 13 strongly predict both Maths and English Literature GCSE results more strongly than socio-economic background'\****

\*Spencer, S., Clegg, J., Stackhouse, J. and Robert Rush, R. (2017) Contribution of spoken language and socio-economic background to adolescents' educational achievement at age 16 years. Cited from Oxford Language Report, p. 12, [OUP: 2019]).

How often your daughter is reading, and in fact *what* she is reading can have more of an effect on her performance than her background.

***There are many reading lists available on the library system and pupils can also access eBooks through the ePlatform. Pupils can also access the vocabulary app 'PiXL Unlock' – if they've lost their details they must contact Miss Deegan. Pupils should have a personal reading book with them at all times as they may be asked to read at any time by any teacher.***





## The online library is now accessible!

Thanks to the generous funding of FOSTUR, pupils in all years can now reserve books or read eBooks online!

Oliver Library System

<https://stursulas.oliverasp.co.uk/library/home/news>



ePlatform Ebooks

<https://stursulascs.eplatform.co/>



An instruction manual on how pupils can access the books and eBooks through Oliver, or just login to the ePlatform directly is now on SMHW, the library padlet page on the school website, and the library Google Drive page.

### EBOOK ERROR MESSAGES

Some pupils have been unable to login to the ePlatform eBooks as they receive an error message stating 'Internal Server Error'. Miss Deegan is investigating this problem with the software developer and all of these accounts have been identified. We hope to have this sorted shortly!

## Overdue Books from 2019-2020

The library currently has approximately **1200** overdue books! All books from last year must be returned as Miss Deegan is performing a stock audit. In January 2021 if pupils have unreturned books from the 2019-2020 school year Miss Deegan will be sending letters and e-mails home about payment for replacements, so please encourage pupils to return books this term to their year book box!