

Are you a true Reading Champion?

This year, Mrs Gearty is looking for a dedicated **Reading Champion** to represent each class at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

St Joseph's **Reading Champions** will have a very special role at our school...promoting reading whenever and wherever possible!

Reading Champions will do this in a number of ways:

- Taking part in **special assemblies** to promote reading and specific books, authors or activities.
- **Selecting new books** for class reading areas, guided reading sessions and the school library.
- Contributing to our **termly news**

Calling all Papa Panov Fans!

This year's Christmas Nativity centred around the wonderful traditional tale of Papa Panov. Beautifully performed by the talented pupils of year five and accompanied by the wonderful voices of the junior choir, the evening was a real feast for the eyes and ears! Why not make

letter, *The Reading Tree*.

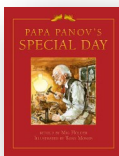
- Deciding on **whole school reading challenges** or activities to stimulate our love of reading even further.
- Developing their knowledge and ability to **recommend books of all genres** to children who are 'stuck' on what to read next!
- Taking an active role **organising World Book Day 2017**.

Do you think you have what it takes to be a true **Reading Champion**? If so, request an application form from your class teacher in January.

Let's make **everyone a reader and everyday a reading day!**

Papa Panov a Christmas tradition in your house this festive season by reading the whole, heart warming tale?

This special Christmas edition has just been voted 'Book of the Month' on the **lovereadingforkids** website.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's



Reading Tree

Take One Book...

...so that is just what we did!

This Christmas time, our whole school community was united in our love of reading to celebrate the work of former children's laureate, Michael Morpurgo.

Each class spent time reading Morpurgo's beautiful Christmas tale, *Coming Home* and creating poems, Christmas cards, paper chains, tree decorations, pictures and even Christmas bird cakes based around this rich text.

The tale itself tells the story of a plucky little robin who finds his way 'home' for Christmas; fighting harsh winds, cruel rains and even the sharp claws of a hungry hawk!



Coming Home is also the inspiration for the 2016 Waitrose Christmas advert.

I'm sure many of our children would now class themselves as robin 'experts'! Knowing all about the migration of Scandinavian robins and how the British variety is the only bird to sing from sunrise to sunset!

Look inside to see the wonderfully creative work they have produced.

Coming Home for Christmas!

In year one, the children shared the story and then found their own wings! They made puppet and collage robins and thought about where they would journey if they were the courageous little bird!



Year two had a marvellous time reading and discussing the story together...with many children coming back for second and third helpings!

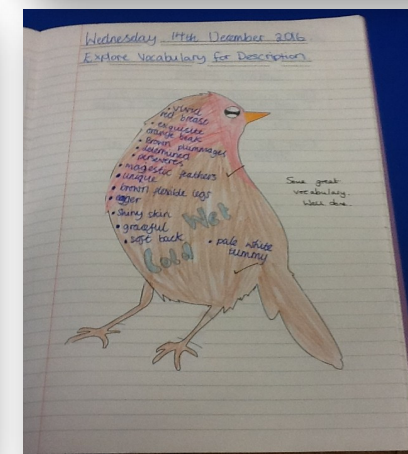
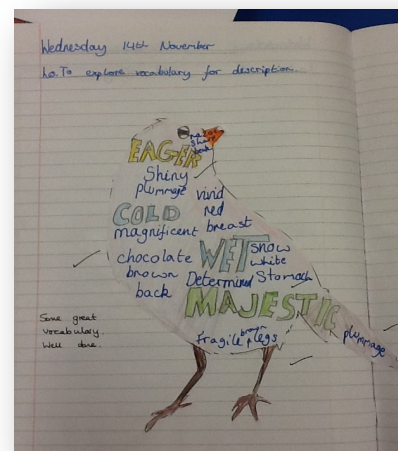
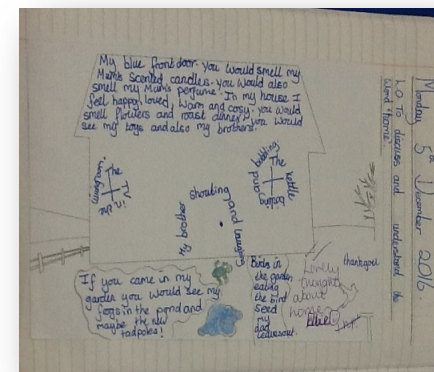
The robin escaping the talons of a hungry hawk proved very exciting for 2LS!

Year three had a wonderfully festive time sculpting clay robins after they had explored the text and discussed how courageous and clever the little hero was.



Year four children explored the importance of 'home' with pupils spending time trying to understand just why the little robin fought so long and hard to get to his!

They took part in a 'conscience alley' activity with pupils giving reasons for and against the small hero continuing on his arduous journey!



Year five pupils immersed themselves in some detailed character work featuring the hero of the text himself...the plucky robin! Then, moved on to create journeys home for other 'winter' animals in their own poems.



In year six, pupils spent time analysing the text and enjoying Michael Morpurgo's beautiful lyrical language, before producing some superb 'Coming Home' poems which centred around their own journeys home from school at the end of a hectic Christmas term!