

Reading Matters - St. Mary's C.E. Middle School Reading and Literacy Newsletter Autumn

Here we are, almost at Christmas! We hope you have had a lovely term, and that your children are enjoying sharing their reading books with you at home.

Some of our staff in school have been taking part in Jolabokafloð. It's been really exciting, and I hope it will become a tradition here at St. Mary's C.E. Middle School for many years to come.

Jolabokafloð

Imagine this: It's Christmas Eve and after receiving a brand-new book from your family or friends, you cosy up in your favourite reading nook or in front of the fire with a mug of hot cocoa and spend the rest of the evening reading.



That's exactly how Icelandic people celebrate Christmas each year. This tradition is known as Jolabokafloð, which translates roughly to "Christmas book flood" in English.

Joke:

Why was the library so tall? Because it had a lot of stories!



Jolabokafloð started during World War II, when paper was one of the few things not rationed in Iceland. Because of this, Icelanders gave books as gifts while other commodities were in short supply, turning them into a country of bookaholics to this day, according to jolabokafloð.org. In fact, a 2013 study conducted at Bifröst University found that 50 percent of Icelanders read more than eight books a year and 93 percent read at least one.



Coming soon: A wish list of books

We have had many interesting class discussions about books in school and have asked all of the pupils to suggest a book that they would like to see in our school library. We are busy putting together an Amazon Wish list of books, and hope that next term parents might feel able to purchase a book for St. Mary's Middle School from the list. We would be very grateful, and it will enable us to offer an even greater variety of books to our pupils. (This is entirely optional!)

Further details will appear in the first newsletter of 2024...

Many thanks, and season's wishes to you all!

Mrs. Monro - English Subject Lead