Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the 20th year there’s been a World Book Day, and on 2nd March 2017 children of all ages will come together to appreciate reading. Very loudly and very happily.

The main aim of World Book Day in the UK and Ireland is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books and reading by providing them with the opportunity to have a book of their own. As part of our drive to foster a love of reading in our children, we will be celebrating in style!

On the day itself, children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. During assembly this week, I showed the children some ideas for home-made costumes and stressed that they are not required to buy a costume - simple, home-made costumes are often much better and children have more fun creating them. There are plenty of ideas on the world book day website: www.worldbookday.com as well as this linked site: http://www.bookaid.org/support-us/world-book-day/world-book-day-dress-up. The dressing up will not have a competitive element - it’s just about having as much fun as possible and celebrating as a school community.

The whole day will be dedicated to ‘doing something booky’. One activity the children will be taking part in is the ‘Great Book Ideas Swap’, where the children either bring in from home, or choose from school, a book they love. They are then given time in lessons to talk about their book with as many different children as possible. The aim is to generate enthusiasm and motivate children to try new texts and authors.

Thanks to the generosity of National Book Tokens Ltd, publishers and booksellers, the World Book day organisers can send millions of book vouchers to children and young people (some 15 million, in fact: that’s one for nearly every child aged under eighteen in the country). Every child at Dormansland Primary School will receive a £1 book token to spend. They can take their voucher to a local bookseller or supermarket and can use it to pick one of TEN (exclusive, new and completely free) books. Or, if they’d rather, they can use it to get £1 off any book or audio book costing over £2.99 at a participating bookshop or book club (terms and conditions apply). Vouchers are valid from Monday 27th February-Sunday 26th March. I showed the children what books were available this year and judging by their reactions, being quick off the mark is advised. (Especially if your children wants the Horrid Henry text or the David Walliams story). Details of the books available can be found on the World Book Day website.

There’s more…… Finally, we are running an ‘Extreme Reading’ competition. The idea is to take a photo of your child or perhaps even the family reading somewhere unusual. I showed them some ideas and stressed the idea of unusual but SAFE places to read. Please email all entries to me by March 2nd - World Book Day- at jcarter@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk.

Have fun,

Miss Carter, English Co-ordinator