

Ashurst's Big Idea

Introduce MyBookBlog (MyBB) as part of a bigger reading for pleasure drive - show the children how much the whole staff group loves and believes in reading.

Ashurst Primary School is a one-form entry community primary in St Helens, Merseyside. Ashurst launched MyBB in September. Rebecca King, Deputy Head Teacher and MyBB Manager, reflects on the past term and offers advice to new MyBB schools.

Why did Ashurst choose MyBB and what goal were you trying to achieve?

We were looking for something to follow on from our successful *Read Write Inc.* Phonics teaching. We wanted our readers to continue to grow in confidence and competence and also to love reading.

We also wanted to address our School Development Plan objectives - increasing the percentage of children reaching the expected standard in reading at the end of Key Stage Two and increasing the percentage of children achieving the high standards in reading at the end of Key Stage Two.

How close are you towards achieving your goal?

Our pupil voice surveys show us that children love MyBB - they are clearly more motivated to read. MyBB enables all of our children, regardless of ability, to be sufficiently challenged and totally excited about their reading.

We all love it – staff, parents and children. There were some children in our Year 6 who just wouldn't read for pleasure, but now MyBB is holding their hand. For lots of children who wouldn't have otherwise had the books at home or the parental support, it's building their stamina. Breaking the book down into chapters has really helped.

I know it's working and I can take that to the governors. In fact, the three parent governors were very enthusiastic at our last meeting so I am now securing funds for further ICT resources!

How do you use MyBB in school?

Teachers read MyBB books and explore the book trailers at storytime. This way, children always have lots of ideas about what they want to read at home!

MyBB was an excellent resource to use in Guided Reading last term. It was really easy to match sets of books to each group. We have now decided to replace guided reading with a whole class teaching model.



MyBB has really made us think about the texts we have in school. We are currently reviewing book bands system to be certain children are getting the right texts to read. MyBB has given us a greater insight about the children's interest and the books they want to read.

"I think MyBookBlog is fun because in my spare time, instead of watching TV, I can go on MyBookBlog and read my favourite books."

Grace, Year 3

From January 2017, we will move towards allocating even more time for children to read for pleasure, change books and access MyBB.

“Now, I think when I read on MyBookBlog, the minute I open a book I am in another world.”

Emily, Year 2

What advice would you give to other schools starting MyBB?

Being one of the first schools to implement MyBB, I have a lot of advice!

It's important not to see MyBB as just a website – it's about getting everyone in your school reading for pleasure. Last term, every teacher and learning assistant started using their MyBB profile and could talk about the books they were reading.



We launched MyBB as part of a whole-school reading for pleasure drive. In our launch term we've had a teacher and child shelfie selfie competition (teachers took photos of the bookshelves at home and children had to guess who they belonged to), a reading couch, a visit from a dog that listened to children read, storytime with a male role and so much more!

To make sure that you get this level of involvement:



- ◆ Ensure that MyBB is featured in the School Development Plan.
- ◆ Get backing from the headteacher and the governors.
- ◆ Assign a member of staff who is passionate about reading to become the MyBB manager. This person should really get to know the site well in advance and read through all of the resources so that implementation is successful.

I gave teachers lots of time to get to know the site so that they felt confident and knowledgeable before introducing it to the

“[When I first heard about MyBB] I thought it was going to be another game where all you do is read and move on. I think my first thoughts were completely wrong - MyBB is awesome; don't judge a book by its cover. I 100% recommend it - it's better than any website related to reading.”

Reece, Year 6

children. In my first staff meeting I showed teachers how to build their own bookshelf and gave them time to choose books and complete activities. Soon after I led another staff meeting on what should be in the first lesson. I have kept MyBB on the agenda throughout this term - we regularly review how it is going and set actions.

In fact I can share our next steps with you:

- ◆ Purchase further ICT resources to enable access for a greater number of children on a more frequent basis.
- ◆ Host parent workshops so that parents know what the site is and how they can support at home.
- ◆ Measure the impact of MyBB through data.

