

Orgill's Big Idea

Create MyBB reading ambassadors who support children to choose books and work one to one with the younger children.

Orgill Primary, a single form entry school in Cumbria, launched MyBookBlog (MyBB) in September 2016. Every child from Year 2 to Year 6 has a MyBB profile page. Here, the KS2 leader Helen Hawley reflects on MyBB's success so far.

Why did you choose MyBB?

We wanted to improve standards in reading, particularly reading comprehension in lower Key Stage 2. Our pupils performed extremely well in the phonics screening check but then were not sustaining such high levels of attainment as they progressed through the school.

However, we also knew that children's comprehension improved when they enjoyed reading and were reading more. We wanted something that didn't make reading a chore and MyBB really caught our attention. There's a strong focus on reading comprehension but this is aligned with a love of reading.



What has been the impact so far?

Significant. Our children are massively engaged – they are talking about books and thinking more about what they are reading, across the curriculum. The older children love the linked non-fiction.

We surveyed all of the children in Years 2 to 6 and 100% said they enjoyed reading more now. Also, when I go to look at each class on the teacher dashboard, every single child is reading every week. Even the children working below expectations are still getting through around 20 chapters a week. In each class there are only a small handful of children (between two and six) with



low for comprehension scores and I know why. We are in a great position to help them find a more suitable book.

How and when do you use MyBB?

From 9.00 to 10.45 we have *Read Write Inc.* Literacy and Language

“We have struggled to engage Dylan in reading for a while. He just wasn't interested at all, which was quite frustrating for us as he is very good at reading. Since he started using MyBB, I've never known him read so much! MyBookBlog gets a big thumbs up from us!!”

Kathryn, Parent of
Dylan, Year 2



“MyBB has changed what I think about reading – I like it a lot more now. Reading a book with MyBB is so fun and by the way, you can read almost any book you can think of. It is super cool. I love it!”

Ella, Year 6

with one to one to support from MyBB ambassadors.

- ◆ Display the books the teachers are currently reading on classroom doors.

It was a really successful meeting so we are going to have half-termly ‘catch up’ meetings to keep us moving forward.

What one thing would you say to other schools when getting started with MyBB?

Get your children excited about the activities through teacher modeling. Show children how to choose a book that’s right for them.

and Spelling and MyBB. So we have probably about 15 minutes where children are on iPads for MyBB activities. The teachers are

also reading a class book in storytime and then completing activities using their own profile – the children help them answer the questions. Then some of the children choose to read the class book as well as their own book at home.

What have you done to inspire a love of reading across your school?

It’s important not just to see MyBB

“My children thrive under the responsibility that MyBB provides. They enjoy choosing their own books and strive to achieve in their quizzes. Children are happy, engaged and get lost in their books.”

Lesley, Year 5 Teacher

as a website - getting children to read for pleasure is a mission that the whole school has to be behind. Last term we gave teachers and children MyBB time every day and at the end of the term, I collected their ideas for new ways to engage our mission.

Here they are:

- ◆ Hold regular MyBB assemblies where staff and children share their favourite books.
- ◆ Create MyBB ambassadors, children who use it particularly effectively, to support other children.
- ◆ Introduce MyBB to Year 2

“Children who would rarely read for pleasure or who found comprehension difficult, are now reading every day and enjoying it! They can’t wait to add new books to their bookshelves, blog about what they’ve read, do quizzes and add to their collectables.”

Natasha, Teaching Assistant (Year 5/6)

