

Starks Field's Big Idea

Invest a lot of time and money in reinvigorating the library – apply for funding for books and organise a library re-launch.

Starks Field is a two-form entry primary school in Enfield, Greater London. They launched MyBookBlog (MyBB) in September 2016 and every child from Year 2 to Year 6 has a MyBB profile. MyBB Leader Cathriona Carolan runs regular school CPD on reading for pleasure. Here she reflects on what has made a difference this year.

Were there any barriers implementing MyBB and how did you overcome them?

Our library was poorly resourced and I knew that we didn't have enough books to get the children excited. We applied for the Foyles Grant, which gave us £2,000 to spend purely on books. We timed our library re-opening with World Book Day and invited parents for a tour around the new library. This was a success and got lots of parents into school too.

Further development of the library is something the school is really committed to. We have completed the first phase of the

project but we'd like to raise more funds for library furniture and continue to stock our library with new MyBB titles.

"I like reading because it's really fun, it's cool, and it helps me relax. I also like finding out more on MyBB."

Year 3 Child

What have you done to raise the profile of reading at Starks Field?

I've led staff training at this school about how important it is for teachers to show a love of reading. We've really focused on introducing children to new books. Teachers do this by reading their class a range of books and snippets and looking at the features on MyBB. Teachers display the books they are reading or would like to recommend on their classroom doors.

On World Book day we tried something new - every adult

in the school read a story at the same time in the day and children chose which story they wanted to listen to. The whole school enjoyed that. In fact, children requested that at least one Golden Time every half term be used for whole-school storytime so that idea was a real winner!

What do the children think of MyBB?

In a recent pupil survey of 193 children, 91% said they either strongly agree or agree that since starting MyBB, they enjoy reading





more. 80% said that choosing a book was a lot easier with MyBB. The survey also recorded favourite authors and it is great to see a range – CS Lewis, Jeremy Strong, Michael Rosen and Francesca Simon – in fact there are so many names I can't really see a pattern – which is good as it means they are exploring! The children said that the most useful features of the site were the book trailers and knowing a book's Challenge Guidance. It's clear that these features are supporting children to read widely and often.

“Reading for pleasure has been a key part of our school improvement plan this year. It is great to see children excited by books and we are seeing our progress in reading assessments go up too!”

**Alison Martin,
Head of School**

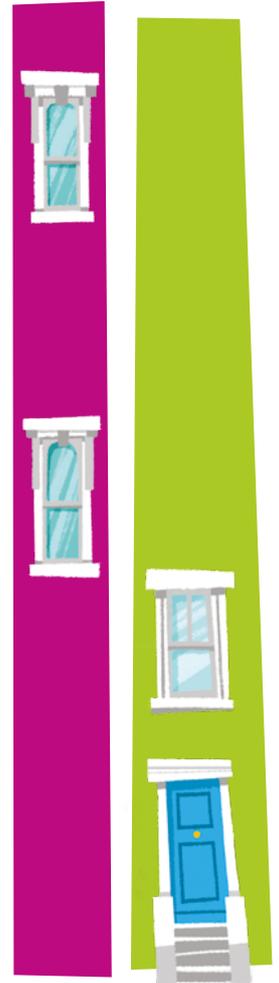
What do your teachers think of MyBB?

In a recent survey of teachers, 100% said that their children were more motivated to read. 86% reported that they were in better position to motivate children to read now. I think teachers are really excited about the range of great titles of MyBB. They have enjoyed exploring new books as well as seeing titles they remember and want to share.

What do parents think of MyBB?

In the first term we had MyBB parent workshops and sent letters home. However, it was only the second term that we saw a big improvement in parental engagement, probably because the children were so excited about their home reading! I've had some responses from individual parents that have blown me away.

On the next page of this case study is a letter from a parent of a nine-year-old boy called Tyler. Letters like this make our school's dedication to reading worthwhile. We sent this and a vlog Tyler made about his favourite book to the MyBB team. They contacted the author of the book for us and Tyler is soon to receive a signed poster to go above his reading sofa.



What are you looking forward to?

I've been able to preorder the 'coming soon' titles and these are displayed in a special box in the library. Every week I look forward to seeing which new titles have been released.

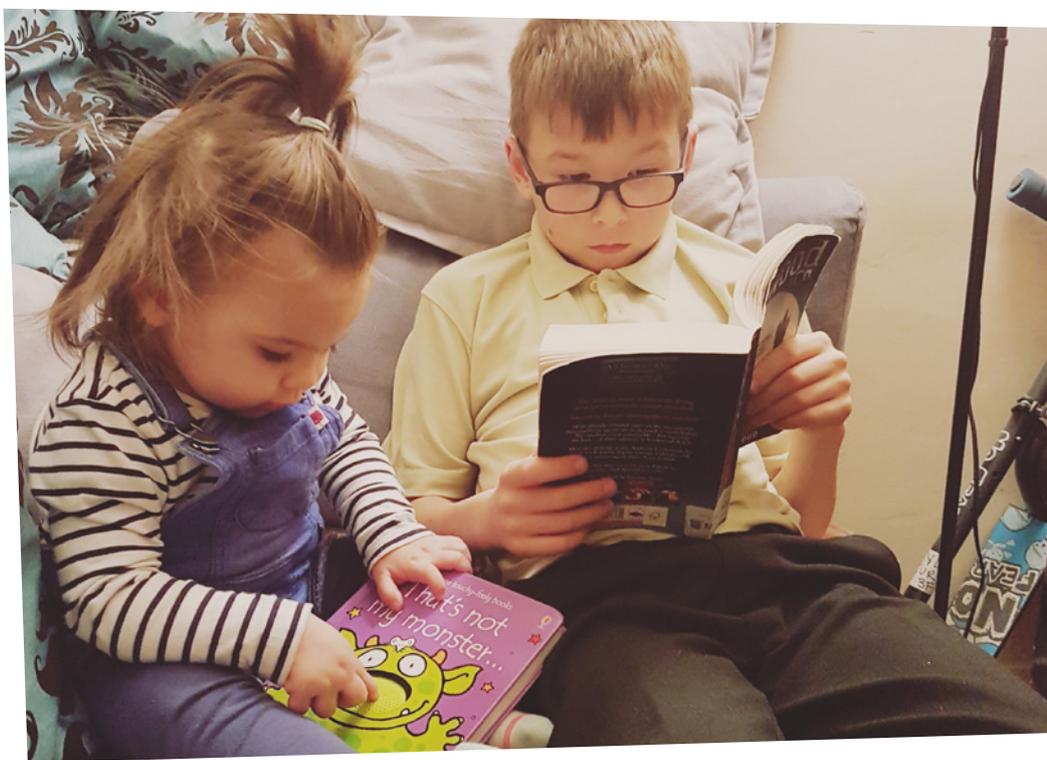


Nine-year-old Tyler from Starks Field Primary is loving MyBookBlog so much that his mum wrote to us about it:

"From a young age we struggled to find books that really gripped Tyler and gained his interest in reading. We had purchased many types of books for him to read but he never really seemed engrossed in

the books we bought him. We even put a small corner sofa and reading lamp in his room to encourage him to read more which in truth became a dumping ground for toys!

One day he came home from school with a letter about MyBookBlog. He was really excited to show me the website and tell me all about it.



Tyler loves to review the books online and loves to show me all the things that he has pinned on the virtual corkboard, and what books he has read. The bigger the book the prouder he is!!

From that day forward we noticed a big change in Tyler and in his reading and writing. He is reading a lot more with no prompting from us and he has even found a genre that he really enjoys reading – Thriller Mystery Books! He has tidied his sofa and has spent the last few months reading books in his room at every opportunity. Tyler has even started to write his own stories after being inspired by his favourite authors.

Tyler has a 1-year-old sister and she has noticed him reading a lot more and now she picks up books all the time asking for stories or quietly sitting there looking at books and trying to read with Tyler on his sofa.

As a parent I have seen such a change in both my children and

I am so proud to watch them becoming avid readers and developing their knowledge and vocabulary. It really is a joy to see them becoming inspired.

Thank you to MyBookBlog for giving children the opportunity to read a wide variety of books – the online interactive website is fantastic. It even doubles as a communication tool as I am able to see what books Tyler likes and buy similar books for him at home."

**Nicola Mills,
Tyler's Mum**

[Click here to watch a video blog that Tyler made where he reviews the book *Bullet Catcher* by Chris Bradford. We contacted Chris to share Tyler's review, and he loved it so much that he is sending Tyler a signed poster to go above his reading sofa!](#)

