

10 February 2011

Dear Parent

PGS Senior School English Department World Book Day 'Great Big Bring and Buy Book Sale' – Thursday 3 March

World Book Day was designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. The origins of the day we now celebrate in the UK and Ireland come from Catalonia, where roses and books were given as gifts to love ones on St. George's Day – a tradition started over 90 years ago. World Book Day 2011 in the UK and Ireland will take place on Thursday 3 March. The initiative is so well established in schools here that we want to make sure that the day happens in term time to really make the most of this opportunity to celebrate books and reading.

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. To this end the PGS Senior School English Department is holding a World Book Day Great Big Bring and Buy Book Sale. We ask that you encourage your child to bring a book, they have read and enjoyed, to school where Sixth Form pupils will collect them prior to the event (this may be fiction, non-fiction, examination text books etc.). On the day pupils are asked to browse through the books and, for £1, purchase a book to read and enjoy. This is a delightful opportunity to widen the pupils' reading matter, and for them to immerse themselves in a reading culture. The monies raised on the day will go to support the fantastic work of the Piam Brown Children's Cancer Ward at Southampton General Hospital.

The Piam Brown Ward is the Wessex Paediatric Oncology Centre, based at Southampton General Hospital, treating all types of childhood cancer in the age range of one day old to eighteen years of age. The unit has ten in-patient beds and a day ward area. Leukaemia is the most common type of childhood cancer, accounting for approximately one-third of new patients each year. On average the unit receives 60 to 80 new patients each year, whilst caring for approximately 100 to 150 patients on treatment at any one time. The unit covers the whole of the Wessex region - stretching from the Isle of Wight, Dorchester, Brighton and on past Basingstoke and including the Channel Islands.

This is a wonderful event which will encourage your child to enjoy books whilst providing valuable support for a very worthy charity.

Mary Mitchell
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