

Liverpool Reading Quality Mark



School Improvement
Liverpool

As a school, we are aiming to achieve '

The Liverpool Reading Quality Mark'

by 2016

We have, however, been passionate ambassadors in promoting reading for many years. We believe that reading is wonderful, it opens the door to new horizons and it skills you for life.

We have been privileged to receive special letters of support from our reading ambassadors from the Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire Service.

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From Sir Jon Murphy QPM LLB (Hons)



JM/HJF

To whom it may concern

13 January 2016

St. Columba's link with Merseyside Police extends seven years. The first invitation to World Book Day at St. Columba's Catholic Primary School was to my predecessor, Chief Constable Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe. As the current Chief Constable I am now privileged to be a Reading Ambassador to the school. When I first accepted the invitation I realised that the benefit of reading a story for pleasure was two-fold, firstly to be a positive role model for children, as well as building their own confidence and love of reading.

The school is situated in an area of high social deprivation and the children and their families face a myriad of daily challenges. Reading for pleasure is not a high priority for many families but by showing that all people, even police officers, can enjoy reading, our community links have been strengthened and it has been a way of building relationships. The children like listening to a story and it is a pleasure to see the enjoyment on their faces as they listen.

I positively encourage my colleagues to do the same and over the years, members of the Chief Officer team, have also enjoyed the experience.

Merseyside Police is really proud to be working with the school and would like to continue to be ambassadors assisting all St Columba's are doing to help promote a culture of reading for pleasure.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jon Murphy'.

Sir Jon Murphy QPM
Chief Constable

Sir Jon Murphy QPM LLB (Hons)
Chief Constable
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From Mr Dan Stephens QFSM



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dan Stephens
Chief Fire Officer
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4YD

Telephone: 0151 296 4101
Fax: 0151 296 4116
(calls may be recorded)
Web Site: www.merseyfire.gov.uk

Your ref:

Our ref: DS/CFO/SW

Date: 22nd January 2016

I have been privileged to be a Reading ambassador for St. Columba's School for several years. When I became Chief Fire Officer, I was delighted that this was part of my remit. My predecessor, Tony McGuirk told me how much he enjoyed his visits and that he was impressed with how the school inspired their children to have a love of reading. Having a knowledge of the area and recognising the challenges faced by the teachers I too was very impressed.

For the children and families living in this area of Knowsley, reading for pleasure can be uncommon. Every year on World Book Day, I am astounded by the sheer enthusiasm for reading shown by both children and staff, which is testament to the commitment of every teacher at the school.

Last year I was unable to make the event so an Area Manager attended on my behalf. He was so impressed by the experience that he suggested we write an article for our Fire and Rescue Service magazine.

It is fantastic to see such inspirational work done in a community where teachers recognise the needs of their children and families and continue to strive for excellence. It's clearly evident that reading has such an impact on the children's attainment. Of most significance is the obvious bond between the children and their teachers. This doesn't happen by accident. The children are enthused by reading and this can only have a positive impact.

I'm really looking forward to reading again this coming World Book Day and have no hesitation in recommending the school for the Liverpool Reading Quality Mark. They more than deserve it.

Dan Stephens
Chief Fire Officer
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

