Your Pop-Up Book Hut

New Books, Book Swaps and Book Buzz

Children's Book Project

Introduction

Congratulations on having registered to receive one of our bright green Pop-Up Book Huts for your school: a powerful permanent gifting vehicle to engage your school's reading community for the next academic year!

Getting started

- Your Book Hut will arrive fully stocked in Autumn.
- Place it somewhere that will be accessible to members of the school community before and after school. You will need to fix it the wall for safety.
- Hold a launch event to build excitement and publicise your Hut to pupils and to families. This could be at a special assembly, an after-school event, or at any other time you choose!
- You might want to decorate the hut with balloons or have a ribbon to cut to really mark the occasion.



Restocking

- We'll send you a Summer top up but you might also want to also invite children to bring in any books they've grown out.
- Check and sort these donated books before restocking the hut.

Why hold a book drive?

Within your school community there may be children who have outgrown some of the titles they have received in the past and feel ready to send some of them off on new adventures with new owners. The pop-up book huts are the perfect sustainable way for schools to support their pupils in creating book rich communities.

Research has shown that the ability to share and recommend books to peers has a significant positive impact on how children view themselves as readers. Seeing themselves as someone who can guide others strengthens their identity as someone who has taste, judgement, and expertise in reading. Sharing books with peers also helps children see reading as a social activity and makes them feel part of a 'reading community' and therefore 'real readers.'

Top tips for a successful book drive

1. Involve pupils in making posters to publicise the event.
2. Regularly remind them of the details (and how they can select new books from the huts.)
3. Hold inter-class challenges to boost the fun level.
4. Have a totaliser or similar to track progress towards your target across the week.
5. End the week with a reading celebration (a special assembly or community reading event.)

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Maintaining interest in your Book Hut

After the initial splash of the hut launch, it is important to sustain the excitement and interest generated to ensure that your school community members are getting maximum usage. Below are some tried and tested suggestions:

- Have posters around the school reminding pupils and their families to visit the hut.
- Involve the school council in publicising the Book Hut and organising reading events where the hut could be the focus.
- Send out regular reminders and specific invitations to caregivers to come and browse the Book Hut with their children (maybe via a school newsletter or an 'invite-only' breakfast and book event.)
- Hold mini book drives across the year to restock or have a regularly accessible drop-off point for ad hoc donations.
- Consider the hut's location and whether there is seating nearby to facilitate before and after school browsing. Does it need rotating around different playgrounds for example?
- Ensure the Book Hut is easily accessible during whole school events where caregivers will be in attendance. For example: open mornings, Summer fêtes, celebration assemblies, sports days, or parents' evenings.

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Taking care of your Book Hut

To ensure that you have many happy and productive years with your book hut we have the following tips:

- Please tell pupils to take care of it and don't allow them to draw on it or scratch it.
- Ensure that it is attached to a wall and if outside, that it is under cover.
- If strong wind or heavy rain is forecast, bring it inside.
- If you have builders on site, please instruct them to take care of its condition.

- Regular wear and tear will mean that an annual paint touch up and replacement of latches etc may be required by your maintenance team. We would be really grateful if you could maintain the distinctive Children's Book Project green (we would be happy to provide you with the pantone colour).







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