

Dear Children of HRPS

I think it is an amazing idea of Mr Kelly, the Headteacher, for all the staff and governors to share our favourite books for all to see.

The problem is; 'where to start?'. You may know that I am much older than your parents and older than many of your grandparents and when I was a small boy, just after the war (the 2nd World War, not the 1st !!) books were rather scarce and much treasured. The few we possessed were read over and over again and we made a habit of visiting the local library, at least, once a week.

The first memorable book was one I was given for my fifth birthday called, **Twitchy Whisker**, and, as you will have guessed, it is about a rabbit who was always getting into trouble but who, in the end, became a hero because he solved a burglary committed by an old rat called Rowland Rags. I still have the book today and would be happy to loan it to you if you promise to look after it.

Biggles was a World War 1 biplane fighter pilot and, as I grew a little older, I read most of the 30 odd books, written by a Captain W.E.Johns. about the daring adventures and conquests of this brave airman.

Another series of books, written by Enid Blyton, was called, **The Famous Five**. These stories were about the adventures of four children and a dog and, fortunately, there was always a happy ending.

However, as I entered secondary school, my passion was reading large chunks out of the complete set of, **Encyclopedia Britannica**. This was the only way of satisfying your curiosity about worldly facts and figures because, in those days, television and the internet had not been invented. Here is a photograph of me reading an encyclopedia in 1957.



Much later, I enjoyed reading many of the Roald Dahl books with our sons, particularly, **Danny Champion of the World**, with which, I am sure, you are very familiar. Our son's other favourites were the Richard Scarry books, entitled: **Cars and Trucks and Things that Go** and **Funniest Story Book Ever**.

I, also, loved reading with our four grandchildren, especially, David Walliams' , **Grandpa's Great Escape**. This story is about a boy called Jack who helped his grandfather escape from a terrible old folks home run by a sinister matron

Nowadays, for very easy light reading, I enjoy books by Jeffrey Archer such as: **The Clifton Chronicles**, and Bill Bryson's **Tales from a Small Island**.

Whatever you read, I hope you will love many different books for the rest of your long life.

Happy reading

Derek Noble
Governor