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Dear New Member of Saltash.net Community,

Welcome to Saltash.net Community School! My name is Matt Coot and I'm the person responsible for running the school library. Our community isn't just about the students, so I wanted to welcome you and explain all about how the library can support your child's development.

Your child would have received a library card along with this letter. That library card can be used by your child to take away up to three books at a time from the library. They can do this by going to the library desk and speaking to Mrs Sandra Westaway, the Assistant Librarian; to one of our many voluntary Student Librarian team, or, of course, to me. They will then have two weeks to read the book before the deadline to return it. They are welcome to renew the book for another two weeks, if they are not ready to return it. Reminders to return will be sent to Form Tutors, however if the book isn't returned after a long time, we will send a letter home to you. At this time, we will ask for the book to be returned and if it cannot be, we will request payment of the cost to replace the book.

Your child received this letter, and the library card, during their first fortnightly library lesson. During these library lessons, they will be able to choose new books, take online quizzes on books they've read (called Accelerated Reader Reading Practice Quizzes) and to, of course, read! There will also be termly online tests on your child's reading ability. This test is called STAR and will be used to track your child's progress with their reading age and their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD), which is the type of book, in the library, that they should be aiming to read. All of this sounds very complicated, but rest assured it will be simple for your child (I'm the only one who has to be confused by the complicated nature of it!). However, if you have any further questions about this, please do get in touch and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Of course, it should be said that your child isn't just welcome to the library during their scheduled library lesson, but will be welcomed at any time during the day. We are open from 8.15am until 3.30pm, and we are happy to greet any student during these times. There will also be monthly themed activities on particular notable days or weeks. The first of these has already happened: Roald Dahl Day. We joined in with the international celebrations of this great author's centenary with many activities during lunchtimes and, of course, the Roald Dahl Cinema, which showed four adaptations of Roald Dahl books that had been turned into films. These showings occurred after-school throughout the week and was free to attend. Many students (and staff!) enjoyed the films along with some tasty popcorn! There were also decorations and the library team may have got a bit carried away with dressing up as characters. The next scheduled event will be celebrating Dyslexia Awareness Week with a focus on all those fascinating and fantastic people who have contributed so much to the world despite suffering from dyslexia. We can't resist any opportunity for fun and games at the Saltash.net Community School Library, so please encourage your student to drop by.

The Modern Foreign Language department has joined forces with the library to develop the incredible international stock of books and DVDs that we have for students to take home to read and watch. These foreign language books and films will help students develop their own skills in languages as they enjoy



reading their favourite titles in foreign words. Why not challenge your child to read the Harry Potter series in French or German?

We look forward to celebrating successes as your child progresses with their reading skills at Saltash.net Community School! I also look forward to meeting you during Parent Surgery evenings or at any time during the year if you want to drop in for a chat about your child's particular needs with reading.

Again, if you have any questions whatsoever, please do get in touch.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Coot', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr M Coot
Library Manager
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