



Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls

Dear Parent / Carer,

At Sutton Girls, we love to promote reading and literacy, and in the run up to our annual literacy festival, we are thrilled to announce our very first Whole School Read!

Reading is not only an essential skill and form of relaxation and escapism, but it is also a medium for highlighting issues and for provoking thoughtful discussion. With that in mind, the book that we have chosen is **'I have No Secrets'** by **Penny Joelson**. We have chosen this fantastic book due to its accessibility to a wide age and ability range, its sensitive handling of the issues that the main protagonist faces, and it's exciting, page turning quality. Staff and students alike are currently sharing and discussing the book and we would love you to join us!

The book is about 14 year old Jemma who has severe Cerebral Palsy. Unable to communicate or move, she relies on her family and carer for everything. She has a sharp brain and inquisitive nature, and knows all sorts of things about everyone. But when she is confronted with a terrible secret, she is utterly powerless to do anything. Though that might be about to change...

The Whole School Read commenced at the beginning of this week and will run up until the start of our Literacy Festival on Monday June 22nd. We have 40 copies of the book in the library to borrow for up to 2 weeks, and a reservation list if all books are on loan. Once students have read the book we ask them to write a review card for display, and they will receive a housepoint and a button badge to wear to show that they have taken part. Should students wish purchase their own book, we have been able to secure a number of copies through Waterstones at a 25% discount for £5.99 whilst stocks last. (RRP £7.99 in store and online). Available in the library.

Finally, as part of our Literacy Festival events, our Whole School Read will culminate with a visit from Penny Joelson herself on Tuesday 23rd June, so students will have the opportunity to meet the author at a special book signing!

We hope that our students enjoy reading and sharing the book, and that it will promote and enhance the sense of community already at the heart of our school. We would be delighted if you would like to join us in our Whole School Read, and we would love to know your thoughts about the book or the initiative. Please feel free to email any comments or queries to ljo@suttcold.bham.sch.uk, to contact us via our Facebook page, or to tweet us about the book using #SuttonGirlsReads!

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Lisa Jowett
Librarian

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