

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY – IDEAS BANK

A continuous collection of classroom and whole school ideas to explore reading, writing and the importance of literacy. Suitable across primary and secondary phases.

About International Literacy Day

- Celebrated on 8 September each year
- Established by UNESCO to highlight the importance of literacy worldwide
- Raises awareness about the role of reading and writing in education and opportunity
- Encourages schools to promote strong literacy skills
- Highlights how literacy supports learning across all subjects

Whole School / All Through Ideas

- Introduce the day through an assembly exploring why literacy matters
- Discuss how reading and writing influence learning and opportunity
- Create a whole school reading challenge
- Display favourite books and quotes around the school
- Encourage students to recommend books to others
- Reflect on how literacy helps people communicate ideas
- Explore how literacy skills are used across different subjects
- Celebrate authors and the role of storytelling in society

Primary Ideas

- Create colourful bookmarks encouraging reading
- Write short stories or simple poems
- Draw favourite book characters
- Share stories in class and discuss the characters and themes
- Design posters promoting reading
- Create a classroom reading corner
- Write letters recommending books to classmates
- Build a display celebrating favourite stories

Secondary Ideas

- Explore how literacy influences academic success and opportunity
- Analyse speeches, articles or extracts from well known texts
- Debate the importance of literacy in modern societies
- Write persuasive pieces about the value of reading
- Investigate literacy rates around the world
- Create reading campaigns encouraging students to explore new books
- Reflect on how digital media influences reading habits
- Analyse how language shapes communication and understanding

Cross Curricular Links

- English, reading comprehension and writing skills
- History, literacy and education across time
- Citizenship, opportunity and access to education
- Media studies, communication and digital literacy
- Sociology, literacy and social development