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***Storytime session for Markeaton pupils with Derby North MP to mark National Storytelling Week***

Press Release 04 February 2021

* Amanda Solloway, MP for Derby North read to 30 pupils aged 4-7 via online link for their daily story session
* National Storytelling Week runs from the 30th of January to the 6th of February
* Markeaton Primary School run storytime sessions for their pupils every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

To mark National Storytelling Week, Amanda Solloway, Member of Parliament for Derby North was a special story-time reader to young Markeaton School pupils on Wednesday.

Amanda read ‘Dragons in the City’ to the pupils, aged 4 to 7 as part of the school’s recognition of Chinese New Year. The story is about the colourful Chinese New Year celebrations and the different traditions involved, including the dragon parade, lucky red envelopes and fireworks. Chinese New Year falls on the 12th of February this year and will mark the Year of the Ox.

National Storytelling Week serves to inspire people’s minds through the power of reading and to promote the importance of reading in nurturing imaginations. Although the week is being marked differently this year on account of the coronavirus pandemic, storytelling and reading retain their importance.

The Annual Literacy Survey was carried out in June last year by the National Literacy Trust and found that more children and young people were enjoying reading since the lockdown restrictions came into place. The survey found that children’s enjoyment of reading increased during lockdown, from 47.8% to 55.9%, with more than a third of children and young people saying that they were reading more during lockdown.

**Ian Johnson, the Headteacher at Markeaton Primary School said:**

*“This afternoon children from Markeaton Primary School were joined by Amanda Solloway, MP for Derby North for their online daily story time session. She read ‘Dragons in the City’ as part of the School’s recognition of Chinese New Year and we would all like to say thank you for such a wonderful retelling of the story!”*

**Amanda Solloway MP said:**

*”I had a wonderful time reading ‘Dragons in the City’ to the pupils at Markeaton Primary School and I would like to thank them for inviting me to be a part of this week’s storytime sessions. Reading and storytelling is a fantastic way to learn more and fire up our imaginations and I would encourage everyone to pick up a book this week and experience the magic of reading.*

*Storytelling has the power to bring us closer together in our homes during lockdown restrictions and it has been great to see more and more children taking the opportunity to read more extensively. Whether its fact or fiction, it’s a great way to discover something new.”*

**ENDS**

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