



PHOTO BY CARL GILCHRIST

Paulette Sterling, senior manager in charge of insurance services at Jamaica National Building Society, reads to a class of grade-one students at last Wednesday's launch of the NEM/JN Foundation Jamaica Partnership for Education Bookworm Bites Reading Series at Parry Town Primary School in St Ann.

Bookworm bites!

Reading series launched at Parry Town Primary

Carl Gilchrist
Gleaner Writer

PARRY TOWN, St. Ann: STUDENTS AT Parry Town Primary School in St Ann are expected to have a greater interest in reading as NEM Insurance Company, in partnership with the Jamaica National Building Society Foundation, last week launched its Jamaica Partnership for Education (JPE) Bookworm Bites Reading Series at the institution.

The reading series aims to foster greater interest in reading among young people across Jamaica and falls under a JPE programme which is raising funds to support a Government initiative, which aims to eradicate illiteracy in primary schools by 2015.

The programme originally targeted overseas Jamaicans, but in December 2010, NEM partnered with JNBS Foundation to offer its local customers the opportunity to also contribute to its existence.

"It's very simple," said NEM's general manager, Christopher

Hind. "Our staff offers customers the chance to donate \$100 towards improving education and wiping out illiteracy in Jamaica when they pay their premium. NEM undertakes to match every dollar contributed by customers."

Project manager, Anna Toby, said statistics regarding reading ability of children dictate that schools that cater to children from less-developed and volatile communities are not only required to educate their students, but actually have to lay the foundation for learning and instruction to begin effectively.

Principal Delton Walker is pleased with the programme.

"I'm very happy because it has highlighted the community and the students here will benefit greatly," Walker told **The Gleaner**. "When we get this type of support, because we cannot do it alone, and seeing that this foundation has decided to help us in partnership to tackle illiteracy, I'm very happy."

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