



Fully booked: Wollongong West students (from back left) Ciara Smith, Jake Manea, Liam Judd and Christine Jiang with principal Cathy Reade and Australia Post South Coast manager Peter Groeller. Picture: ROBERT PEET

Free books for Wollongong West kids

By COURTNEY TRENWITH

WOLLONGONG West Public School students soon will have no excuse for not reading.

Not only will they have nine new books of their own, they will get to choose them.

Australia Post will donate more than 1700 books to the school as part of the Books in Homes Australia program for disadvantaged children.

The program will run for three terms next year.

Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will choose three books per term to keep.

The school library will also receive 48 books per term and teachers will have 30 books per term to give as prizes.

Principal Cathy Reade said it would be the first time many students had owned a book.

"Each book will have a label

in it saying 'this book belongs to' and the child's name," Ms Reade said.

"It's going to encourage children to read because those families that don't have many books in their home will now have at least nine."

Year 5 student Ciara Smith reads every night and can't wait to choose. "I like imagining what it would be like in the situation of the story," she said.