



Lydgate Infant School Reading Newsletter

Autumn 2023



Welcome to our Lydgate Reading Newsletter! It's a chance to find out about high quality books as well as an opportunity to get tips and up to date information about helping your child with their reading journey.

A special message to our school from award-winning author...

IAN EAGLETON

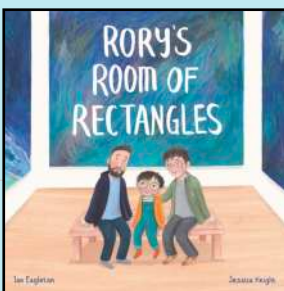


Hello everyone at Lydgate Infant School!

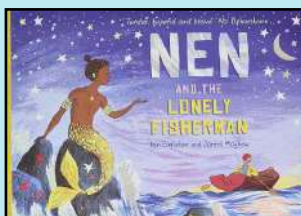
I hope you've had a wonderful Autumn Term and are all looking forward to the Christmas break. My name is Ian Eagleton and I'm an award-winning children's author. My books include *Nen and the Lonely Fisherman*, *The Woodcutter and the Snow Prince*, *Rory's Room of Rectangles*, *Violet's Tempest*, *Millie's Big Decision*, and finally *Glitter Boy*!

I thought I'd share with you all my TOP TIP for developing your writing and that is to READ LOTS OF POETRY! Whenever I'm starting a project, I spend a few days reading poetry linked to the themes I'll be exploring. For example, when I was writing *Nen and the Lonely Fisherman*, I spent a lot of time reading poems about the sea, poems about myths and legends, and poems about mermaids. It was actually an LGBTQ+ inclusive collection of poems by Rachel Plummer and Helene Boppert called *Wain* that initially sparked my interest in writing a love story between a sailor and a merman. There's something about immersing yourself in rich vocabulary and beautiful poems that really inspires me! I was really pleased to be able to challenge myself in my debut middle grade book *Glitter Boy* and write lots of poems from the main character's perspective and have them woven through the story.

So, what are you waiting for! Why not grab a hot chocolate, a blanket and a book of poetry this Christmas and enjoy the wonderful world of words! Who knows where it will lead you!

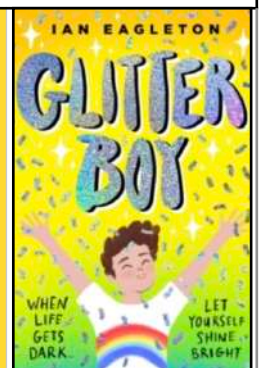


You can find more books that celebrate LGBTQ+ families at <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/l/lgbt-picture-books/>



LIS Poetry Challenge!

We would love our school community to take up Ian's challenge and snuggle up with hot chocolate and poetry over the holidays. Please send in photos of your family reading (or listening to) poetry, poetry recommendations or any poems or stories that you write. Please send them to Mrs Varley class9@lydgate-inf.sheffield.sch.uk or pass them to your teacher. Happy reading and writing!

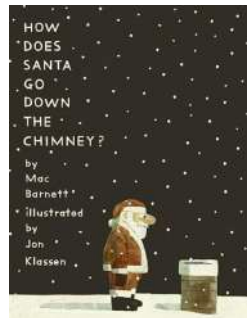


Recommendations - Winter Wonders



The Boy Who Brought the Snow by Hollie Hughes & Anna Wilson

In the heart of a great city lives a little boy without a home. But when Quinn finds a magical snow globe, everything begins to change . . . For when snow begins to fall, magic and kindness start to find their way out into the world. (F2-Y2)



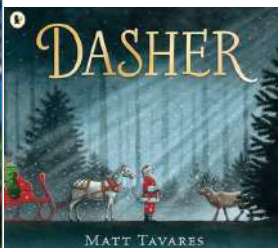
How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney? by Mac Barnett & Jon Klassen

When Santa arrives at a child's house on Christmas Eve, does he go down the chimney feetfirst or headfirst? What if he gets stuck? What if there's no chimney? Maybe he slides under the door, as thin as a piece of paper? Or is it possible he pours himself through the tap? There is mounting hilarity as the night continues. (F2-Y2).



Winter's Child by Angela McAllister & Grahame Baker-Smith

When Tom wishes winter would never end, he meets another boy who shares his love of snow and ice. Playing together every day, Tom hardly notices that spring doesn't come - until he realises the terrible effect of unending winter is having on the countryside and his sick grandma. His friend is Winter's child, and for the seasons to go on the friends must say goodbye until next year. (Y1-Y2)



Dasher by Matt Tavares

Dasher is a little doe with a wish in her heart. She spends her days with her family under the hot sun in a travelling circus, but she longs for a different life - one where there is snow beneath her hooves and the North Star above her head. One day, when the opportunity arises, Dasher seizes her destiny and takes off in pursuit of the life she wants to live. It's not long before she meets a nice man in a red suit with a horse-drawn sleigh, a man named Santa. And soon, with the help of a powerful Christmas wish, nothing will be the same...(F2-Y2).



Adventuremice 3: Mice on the Ice by Reeve & McIntyre

The Frost Fair is coming! But when a surprise snowfall puts the mice's plans at risk, it's up to Pedro and the team to save the Fair and bring joy to the town! Guaranteed to warm hearts everywhere. This is the third **chapter book** in the Adventuremice series. (Y2)

A letter from Debbie Thomas, lecturer in Reading for Pleasure at the Open University



The Open University visits Lydgate Infants

On Wednesday 22 November, myself (Debbie Thomas from the Open University's Reading for Pleasure team) and a cameraman, Andrew Rix, visited Lydgate Infants to film and photograph the children enjoying reading for pleasure and the wonderful environment created to support their readers.

Lydgate Infants were selected for this following their work to develop reading for pleasure with the OU Reading Schools Programme in 2022-23 which they are continuing in 2023-24. During their visit they saw Mrs Varley's class relaxing and reading their books with each other and enjoying lots of book chat. In reception, the children were read to by Mrs Warner and shared books together. It was great to see them having so much fun reading together! In Miss Whitehead's class, the children were browsing and choosing their own books to read through a Book Blanket activity and then voted for which book they wanted to be read aloud. Miss Whitehead took the whole class to sit in the new library area and read aloud a book by Jon Klassen. It was great to see the connections her class have made between his books. And Miss Whitehead really is superb at reading aloud stories!



At the end of the afternoon, Mr Bromage, Mrs Varley and Miss Whitehead were all filmed discussing the development journey of the school in reading for pleasure. It was great to hear all the work that has been done, as well as all their plans to continue developing this.

The photographs and films will be used by the Reading for Pleasure team at the Open University in their work with schools across the UK to develop work in reading for pleasure and building communities of readers. You can see more about their work here: [Reading For Pleasure - Reading for Pleasure \(ourfp.org\)](https://ourfp.org)

Thank you to all the Lydgate Infants school staff and children who made us so welcome!



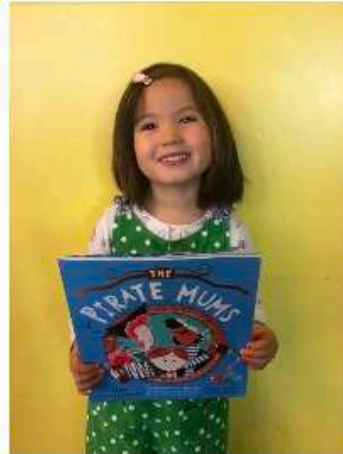
Catherine Rayner

Our favourite class reads!

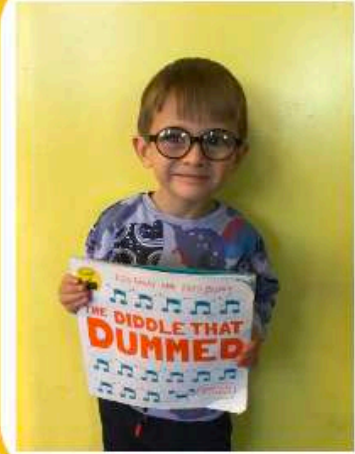
Take a look at our favourite book to listen to during our read aloud time.



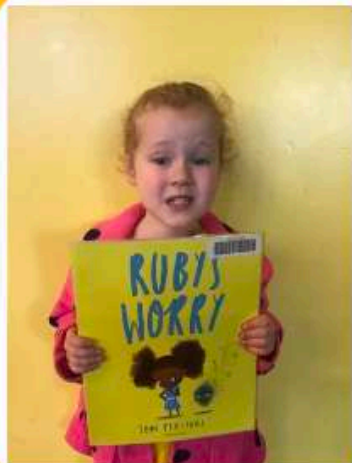
Class 1
Five Bears
By Catherine Rayner



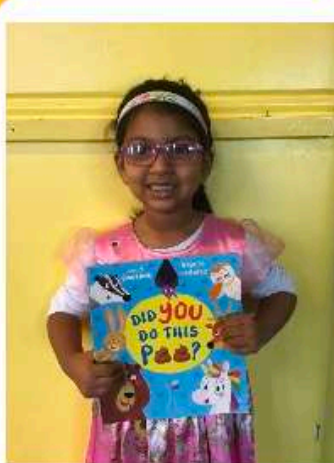
Class 2
The Pirate Mums
By Jodie Lancet-Grant and
Lydia Corry



Class 3
The Diddle That Dumbled
By Kes Gray and
Fred Blunt



Class 4
Ruby's Worry
By Tom Percival



Class 5
Did You Do This Poo?
By Lucy Rowland and
Gareth Conway



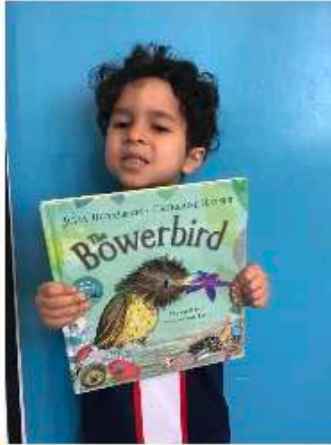
Class 6
Are You a Monster?
By Guilherme Karsten

Our favourite class reads!

Take a look at our favourite book to listen to during our read aloud time.



Class 7
I Say Ooh You Say Aah
By John Kane



Class 8
The Bowerbird
By Julia Donaldson and
Catherine Rayner



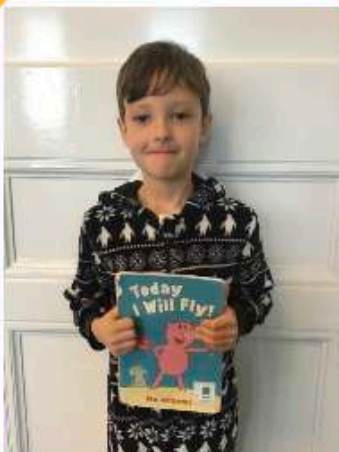
Class 9
The Three Billy Goats Gruff
By Mac Barnett and
Jon Klassen



Class 10
Nibbles The Book Monster
By Emma Yarlett



Class 11
Dog Man
By Dav Pilkey



Class 12
Today I Will Fly
By Mo Willems

Puffin School Virtual Visits

The whole school watched a virtual author and illustrator visit on 1st December. We enjoyed listening to Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sharratt talking about their new book, *You Choose Christmas*, and then joined in with a draw-along. Class 2 received a special message from Nick Sharratt!



You Choose Christmas

by Pippa Goodhart & Nick Sharratt

Make up your own Christmas adventure where YOU CHOOSE what happens. Which Christmas jumper would you like to wear? Which job would you choose to do in Santa's workshop? Where would you like to sleep on Christmas Eve? The possibilities are infinite in this magical storytelling toolkit which will inspire children to make their own stories again and again - a brilliantly festive sequel to *YOU CHOOSE, YOU CHOOSE YOUR DREAMS* and *YOU CHOOSE IN SPACE*.



nick.sharratt 1d

What fantastic pictures! 🙌🙌🙌



Reading For Pleasure

Why is Reading for Pleasure important?

Children who read for pleasure have a wider vocabulary and general knowledge, an enriched imagination and more developed narrative writing (Senechal et al., 2018). Reading for Pleasure is more important than either wealth or social class as an indicator of success at school. It can increase empathy, improve relationships with others and improve wellbeing throughout life (The Reading Agency 2015).

Book Chat



Chatting with your child as you read together develops their language, comprehension and pleasure. We recommend watching this [short video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKFdKs_2wJY) about book chat from the superb reading team at The Open University

Supporting Readers at Home

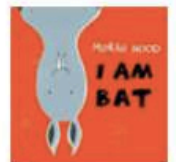
Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.



Reading aloud to your children shows them reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.



Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.



Book Chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too!



Children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school.



For more ideas see the OU website: <https://www.researchrichpedagogies.org>

Book Chat

Developing a Love of Reading



Book Chat encourages readers. Open questions, comments and prompts get the Book Chat going. Invite your child to make connections and share views.

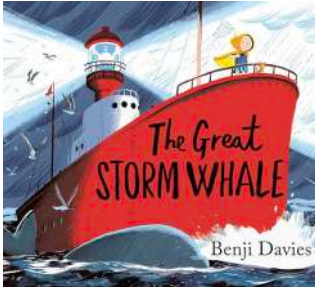
Join in with your thoughts too!

Book Chat develops language, comprehension and pleasure.



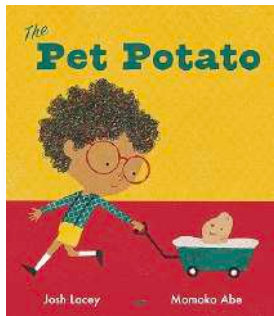
For more information visit:
bit.ly/RfPHome

Picturebook Recommendations



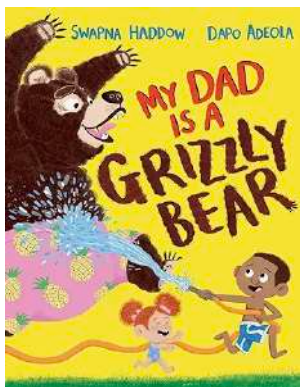
The Great Storm Whale by Benji Davies

As a fearsome storm blows around Noi's house, his grandma tells of an unforgettable friendship between a little girl and a whale, many storms ago. But as she finishes her tale of perseverance and new beginnings, Noi soon realises it's part of their own story, too. This is the fourth book in the wonderful Storm Whale series by the super-talented Benji Davies. (F2-Y2)



Pet Potato by Josh Lacey & Momoko Abe

Albert is so desperate to get a pet, he'll take anything - a cat, a dog, giraffe... he's not fussy, so he's super excited when Dad finally brings a pet home. There's just one problem: it's a potato. Potatoes can't do anything a proper pet does... can they? Perfect for any child who's desperate for a pet! (F2-Y2)



My Dad is a Grizzly Bear by Swapna Haddow & Dapo Adeola

In this family, it's just possible that Dad is a grizzly bear . . . He has fuzzy fur, enormous paws and loves the outdoors. He sleeps a lot even in the cinema and when he's awake, he's always hungry, usually eating up all the honey. What else could Dad be? But sometimes, when it's scary at night, a lovely big bear hug is just what is needed. (F2-Y2)



Don't Worry Little Crab by Chris Haughton

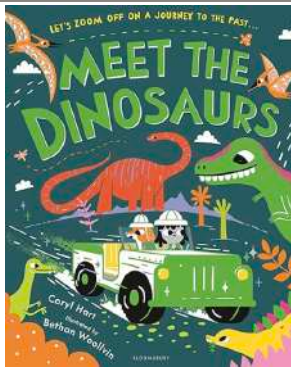
In the rockpool above the sea, live two crabs: Big Crab and Little Crab. Today, they're going for a dip in the sea. "This is going to be so great!" says Little Crab. But then Little Crab catches a first glimpse of the water... Oh. The waves! They're ENORMOUS. "Oh..." Will Little Crab be brave enough to go in? A beautiful picture book about working through anxiety and, with the support of a loved one, building up the courage to try something new. (F2-Y2)



I want a Dog by Jon Agee

One little girl is determined to find her perfect pet at a wonderfully unusual animal shelter. The Copley County Animal Shelter has an aardvark, a lizard, a goose, a weasel, and plenty more. But do they have a dog? Our little girl has even turned up with a trolley to take home a dog - and she will not take 'no' for an answer! This hilarious subversion of the standard you-cannot-have-a-pet trope is a wonderful read-aloud text with repetition and build up of drama. (F2-Y2)

Picturebook Recommendations



[Meet the Dinosaurs](#) by Bethan Woollvin

Join in with the rhymes and get ready to spot all the friendly (and not so friendly!) dinosaurs, from the huge Brontosaurus and amazing Diplodocus to the speedy Velociraptor and scary T-Rex. This bold, bright follow-up to the acclaimed picture books *Meet the Planets*, *Meet the Oceans* and *Meet the Weather* is filled with ALL your favourite dinos. Combining STEM learning with a rhyming twist, it's perfect for all would-be palaeontologists. **Publishes 18th January 2024!** (F2-Y1)



[The Wild](#) by Yuval Zommer

Once upon a time, somewhere not far away, was the Wild. The Wild was huge and giving, and everything from insects, to birds, to humans made their home in it. At first, people lived lightly and took what they needed, but when they started to take more, the Wild suffered. For the Wild to be healthy, someone must be brave enough to raise their voice. This modern fable has a hopeful and powerful message about how our environment needs us just as much as we need it. (F2-Y2)



[Teddy's Midnight Adventure](#) by Yoko More

On a magical moonlit night, Akiko and her Teddy look for his missing button eye. The garden at midnight is a strange, mysterious place. Can Mee-Chan the cat help them? Or perhaps Mrs Crow? Don't worry! By morning Teddy will be as good as new. Nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration 2024. (F2-Y2)



[A Home for Grace](#) by Kathryn White & Rachael Dean

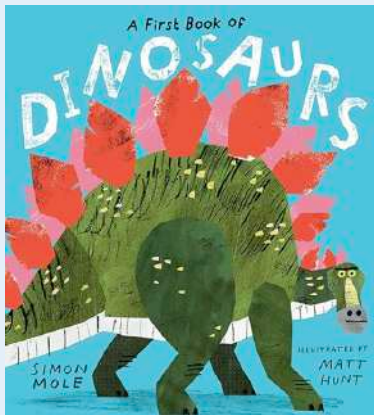
No one knows who Grace is. One day, she appeared in a shop doorway in a sleeping bag, with a cat called Luna, surrounded by strange things. When Jess and her mum strike up a friendship with Grace, Jess has questions: why did she leave her home? Does she have enough to eat? And what happens when the cold weather comes? A powerful and compassionate introduction to homelessness, and the need for kindness, understanding and friendship. Nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration 2024. Y1-Y2)



[Big](#) by Vashti Harrison

Once there was a girl with a big laugh and a big heart and very big dreams. She grew and grew and grew. And it was good... until it wasn't. When the girl grows big, the world begins to make her feel small. She feels out of place and invisible, and soon she isn't herself at all. But with the girl's size comes huge inner strength - and this helps her look past the hurtful words to see how perfect she really is. This quietly reassuring story explores the experience of being big in a world that celebrates small, promoting body positivity and self-acceptance in young readers. (Y2+)

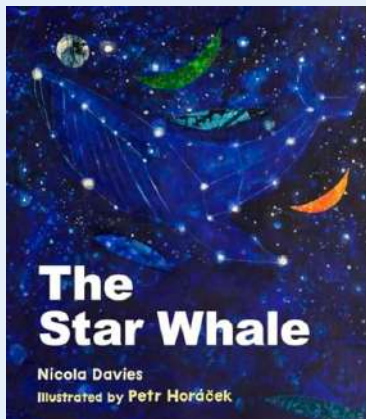
Poetry Recommendations



[A First Book of Dinosaurs](#)

by Simon Mole & Matt Hunt

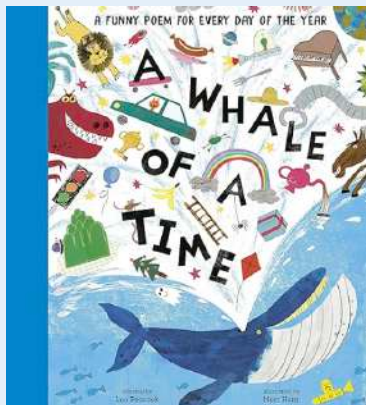
Welcome to a world where it's eat or be eaten – depending on how ferocious you are. From T-Rex to Triceratops, Stegosaurus to Velociraptor, meet the most awe-inspiring creatures ever to walk the Earth! Simon Mole turns fascinating facts into over 30 poems and fragments, full of humour and heart; Matt Hunt's magnificent illustrations bring these prehistoric beasts thundering off the page (F2-Y2)



[The Star Whale](#)

by Nicola Davies & Petr Horacek

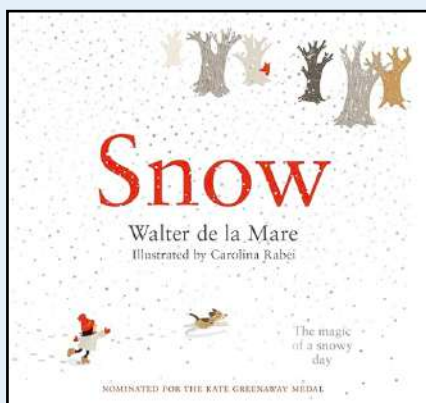
Discover a pangolin at dusk, fly on the bat's back, visit a lion and hear about his plight; try the moth alphabet tongue-twister, meet fighting Tazzies on a night out in Tasmania or dream about the five-legged dog and three-legged cat! Then find out about real, huge Titanosaurus and amazing Coelacanths. You might spot a kingfisher, that 'small glint of wonder', and see how 'wild reclaims the world' in the urban night-time. **This is stunning!!** (Y2+)



[A Whale of a Time: A Funny Poem for Every Day of the Year](#)

by Lou Peacock & Matt Hunt

A wonderful gift for all ages, this beautifully produced anthology is rib-ticklingly funny to wryly witty, each poem in this uplifting collection is guaranteed to put a smile on your face! Whether it's a poem about socks or spaniels, eggs or elephants, this bright and brilliant collection will bring you cheer and laughter every day. Perfect for reading aloud. (Y2+)



[Snow](#)

by Walter de la Mare

Outside, the world turns to white and three children and a dog build a snowman, throw snowballs and explore the frozen expanses (F2-Y2).

Graphic Novel Recommendations

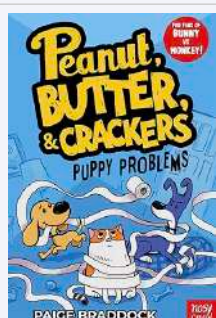
Emerging research shows that comics and graphic novels are motivating, support emerging readers and enrich the skills of accomplished readers. Find out more about the benefits of reading comics and graphic novels here:

<https://teach.com/resources/why-comics/>



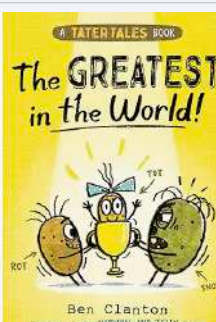
Max and Chaffy 3: Ice Chaffy by Jamie Smart

Max and Chaffy live on Animal Island. Today is a special day - a snow day! A surprise visitor has arrived to look for one of the rarest chaffies and you can help them in this interactive adventure story. (Y1-Y2)



Peanut, Butter and Crackers: Puppy Problems by Paige Braddock

Butter and Crackers are rescue pets living their best (and quiet) lives. With an owner who goes to work every day, they spend their days doing whatever they want. But when Peanut, a brand-new puppy arrives, everything changes. He has no appreciation of the quiet life, no idea how stairs work and he's afraid of the dark! But when Peanut escapes and gets lost, it turns out that home isn't home without the noisy little puppy after all...(Y1-Y2)



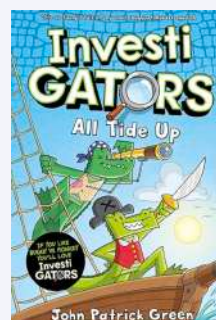
Tater Tales: The Greatest in the World by Ben Clanton

Rot is a mutant potato who wakes up feeling great, maybe even...the greatest in the world! But that only makes Rot's brother Snot the grumpiest in the world. The only solution? An epic contest to prove who is the greatest. once and for all. But as the stakes get higher through the muddy potato sack race, sacred hot potato roll, and a hilarious laughing contest, their rivalry spirals out of control. Will they ever be able to determine who the greatest in the world really is? (Y1-Y2+)



Donut Feed the Squirrel by Mika Song

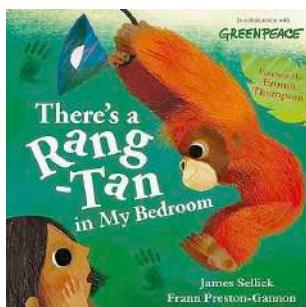
Norma and Belly really really REALLY want a donut. But things aren't going their way! With a burned breakfast and a grumpy donut seller at the local food truck, they may be stuck with only nuts to eat... But these squirrels won't give up that easily! They're on a mission to get their paws on the biggest, most delicious donut of their tiny lives! (Y1-Y2+)



InvestiGators: All Tide Up by John Patrick Green

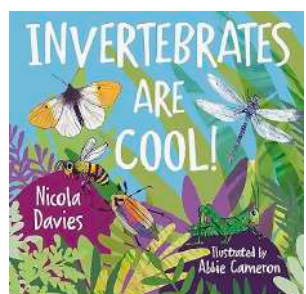
When the captain of a cruise ship is found drifting at sea, the search begins for his missing ship and passengers! Did it sink? Was it boat-napped? Are supernatural forces at play?! Can the Mango and Brash unravel this maritime mystery before a second ship befalls a similarly unfathomable fate? Seas the day and find out in this nautical adventure! This is the 7th book in this popular series (Y2+)

Information Book Recommendations



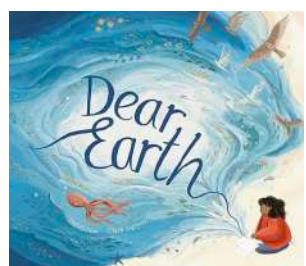
[There's a Rang-Tan in my Bedroom](#) by James Sellick & Frann Preston-Gannon

When a little girl discovers a mischievous orangutan on the loose in her bedroom, she can't understand why it keeps shouting OOO! at her shampoo and her chocolate. But when Rang-tan explains that there are humans running wild in her rainforest, burning down trees so they can grow palm oil to put in products, the little girl knows what she has to do: help save the orangutans! (Y1-Y2+)



[Invertebrates are Cool!](#) by Nicola Davies

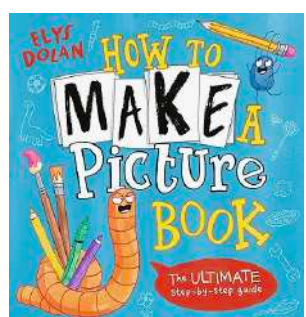
When most people think of invertebrates they think of scary spiders, but invertebrates cover all sorts of creepy crawlies from worms, snails, slugs, beetles and butterflies, and they can also be found deep in the sea as octopus, squid and more. Explore this world of bugs, mini-beasts and sea creatures in Nicola Davies's latest Animal Surprises book (F2-Y2)



[Dear Earth](#) by Isobel Otter & Clara Anganuzz

When Tessa writes a love letter to the Earth, it's the beginning of a glorious adventure. She blows bubbles with whales, soars with birds and joins in with the noisy rainforest hullabaloo!

Tessa wants everyone to know how special our planet is. She believes that there is a chance to save the Earth if enough of us share the message (F2-Y2)



[How to Make a Picture Book](#) by Elys Dolan

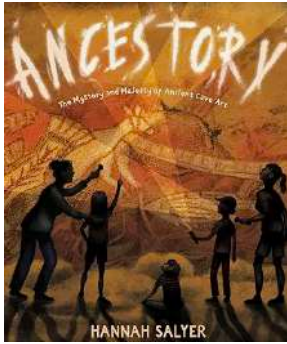
Ever wanted to make your own picture book? Award-winning author Elys Dolan shows you how - with the help of her very enthusiastic assistant, Bert. From finding a brilliant idea to using colour and space to tell your story, this entertaining guide is packed with activities, tips and jokes. Find inspiration, grab your pens and pencils, and get making! (Y2+)



[Songs of the Birds](#) by Isabel Otter & Clover Robin

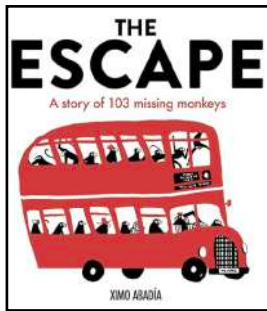
Be enchanted by the beautiful birdsong which can be found across Europe. With 24 different bird calls and eight habitats to explore, there is so much to learn about these brilliant animals. Budding birders will love delving into each habitat and finding out fascinating facts about the birds which live there. (F2-Y1)

Information Book Recommendations



[Ancestry: The Mystery and Magic of Ancient Cave Art](#) by Hannah Salyer

This striking nonfiction picture book investigates who created ancient wall art that's been discovered around the world and why. Around the world, our ancient ancestors' mysterious art is left behind on cave walls, in rainforests, and with ink made from charcoal and crushed clay. These people told their stories in magnificent drawings that still speak to us today, echoing across generations. The illustrations in this text are **stunning**. (Y2+)



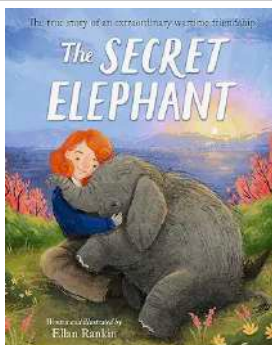
[The Escape: A Story of 103 Missing Monkeys](#) by Ximo Abadia

When 103 monkeys escape from the zoo and go on a mischief-filled adventure in the city, no one seems to see a thing. Can you find the cheeky chimps hiding in the busy scenes? In this bold and clever counting adventure, look closely to find all of the missing monkeys. It gets trickier, as the number of monkeys to spot on each page keeps getting bigger. At the end of the book, go back and make sure you've counted them all! (F2-Y2)



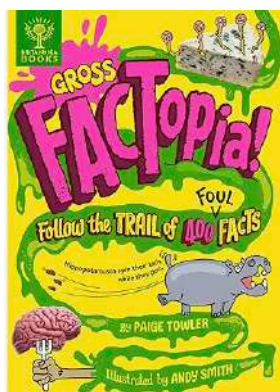
[The Bluest of Blues](#) by Fiona Robinson

A gorgeous picture book biography of botanist and photographer Anna Atkins—the first person to ever publish a book of photography. Her father gave her a scientific education, which was highly unusual for women and girls in the early 19th century. Fascinated with the plant life around her, Anna became a botanist. She recorded all her findings in detailed illustrations and engravings, until the invention of cyanotype photography in 1842. Anna used this new technology in order to catalogue plant specimens—a true marriage of science and art. (Y2+)



[The Secret Elephant](#) by Ellen Rankin

Discover the unbreakable bond between a baby elephant and her keeper in this heartfelt narrative set against the backdrop of World War II. As bombs begin to fall and huge blasts echo around the zoo, a baby elephant and her keeper sneak to the safety and comfort of the keeper's home. Here, they weather out the worst of the war together in secret. But what will happen when their secret is found out? Based on the incredible true story of Denise Weston Austin at Belfast Zoo (Y1-Y2)



[Gross Factopia](#) by Paige Towler and Andy Smith

In this disgustingly marvellous world, you will discover facts about smelly sports, weird world records, rank rodents, vile Victorians, horrible medicine, gory gastronomy and more. Every fact in this book is linked to the next in an ingenious trail of information, where you will slither from topic to topic in surprising and stomach-churning ways. (Y2+)

Chapter Book Recommendations

Princess Minna: The Wicked Wood by Kirsty Applebaum & Sahar Highgoo

In *The Wicked Wood*, the King and Queen have DISAPPEARED! The townsfolk saw them and Lorenzo the dragon disappearing into the Wicked Wood and they haven't come back! Minna's friends set off to find them, but they don't come back either! So Minna heads into the wood, where she finds everyone eating the gingerbread walls of the house of the Wicked Witch! Quick - everyone must get home before nightfall! But how can they fly home when Lorenzo has eaten so much gingerbread that he can't get off the ground? (5+, 7+)



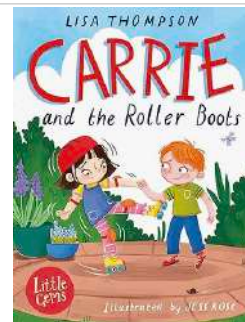
Bear and Bird: The Stars and Other Stories by Jarvis

Bear and Bird are best friends! And while they don't always understand each other, they both agree: all they want it to make the other happy. So, when Bear gobbles up the special, surprise cake Bird made for him, Bird laughs and laughs. And when Bird gets completely lost after sitting on a rock with legs, Bear comes to the rescue, on a walking rock of his own. Full of funny mix-ups and comic misunderstandings, these four stories are the second instalment in an irresistibly charming new chapter book series (5+)



Carrie and the Roller Boots (Little Gems) by Lisa Thompson

Carrie's best friend Sidney is planning to show off his tap-dancing skills during Friday Fun Time at school and Carrie wants to join in. She plans an amazing routine where Sidney will dance and she will roller skate. But there's one big problem ... Carrie has never roller skated before. Will the performance end in disaster or will their friendship help them to dazzle the audience? (5+, 7+)



Little Bird Lost by Patricia Hegarty

Deer is grazing in the forest, minding his own business, when he hears someone calling out for help. Little Bird has injured his wing in a fall and has been separated from his flock, who are flying away to another, warmer land. Deer is keen to help Little Bird and introduces him to his forest friends, who tell them that Little Bird needs to follow the sun in order to find his flock. But how can he do that when he can no longer fly? Deer offers to journey with him and they set off on an adventure through the forest and the seasons (5+)



The Long Way Home by Corrinne Averiss & Krystyna Litten

Nanu and Otto are off on a climbing adventure - to the top of Lion Mountain! Otto is a born explorer, just like his grandma, who is brave and bold and can't resist the urge for adventure. But Nanu is having a forgetting day. She forgets her backpack and the name of the mountain ... and then she forgets the way home and leads them deep into the forest. (5+)



Chapter Book Recommendations

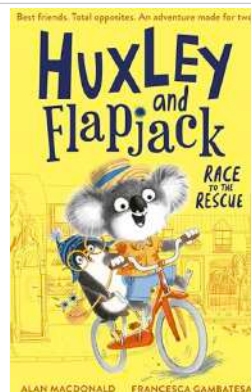
Ballet Bunnies: The New Class by Swapna Reddy & Binny Talib

Learning to ballet dance is harder than Millie expected. The other dancers in the class aren't very nice to her either. But just when she's thinking that maybe ballet isn't for her after all, Millie meets the ballet bunnies! They live hidden in the ballet school and secretly take the ballet classes with the humans. Maybe the ballet bunnies can help Millie master some news ballet skills after all! (5+, 7+)



Huxley and Flapjack by Alan MacDonald & Francesca Gambatesa

Meet Huxley, an irrepressible koala with BIG ideas, and his best friend, Flapjack, a rather jumpy penguin. Flapjack would rather stay at home, but for Huxley, each new day sparkles with possibility and the chance of adventure. Huxley has some pocket money to spend, and where better to spend it than the grand opening of Jollygoods, a new department store in town. But after a mix up with a robber, Huxley is mistaken for a thief. Can Huxley - with a lot of help from Flapjack - catch the real robber? (5+, 7+)



The Secret Explorers by S J King

Meet the Secret Explorers - a band of brainiac kids from all around the world, here to take young readers on a series of fact-filled fictional adventures! In this story, Leah the biology explorer and Connor the marine expert set off into the Mexican desert. There, they have to rescue a pack of wolf cubs while avoiding dust storms! The gripping narrative is filled with scientific facts as the explorers navigate the desert and come across different species and habitats. (7+)



Indigo Wilde and the Giant Problem by Pippa Curnick

In the third book of the series, Indigo and her brother Quigley live in a house secretly full of magical Creatures. Indigo is never happier than when feeding chocolate to the fire-breathing rabbit or making nests for the colourful hophop birds. But when a giant appears in the garden she has an enormous problem on her hands. Can Indigo and Quigley help the giant save his sister, against all the odds? Indigo will need help from all her friends in both the Known and Unknown Worlds to save the day. (7+)



The Girl Who Became a Fish by Polly Ho-Yen

Ita is afraid of lots of things. She's afraid of talking to her classmates at her new school. She's afraid of walking through her new town. But most of all she is afraid of water. When one day she realises the river in her new town turns her into a fish, she is forced to face up to her fears. In doing so, can she bring her family together again? (7+)



New local children's bookshop!

Did you know that a new children's bookshop has opened in Hillsborough? Mrs Varley has been to visit and can report that the shop is utterly beautiful with a wide range of high quality books. The owner is very welcoming and knowledgeable. The shop's windows have been given a festive touch by local author-illustrator Lydia Monks! There are free story time sessions for toddlers. <https://www.hillsboroughbookshop.co.uk/>



HILLSBOROUGH BOOKSHOP

Extra Christmas
- opening times -

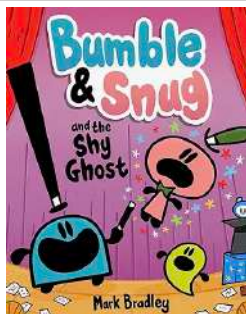
Sunday 10th Dec 11am-3pm
Sunday 17th Dec 11am-3pm

Thursday 30th Nov 10am-7pm
Thursday 7th Dec 10am-7pm
Thursday 14th Dec 10am-7pm
Thursday 21st Dec 10am-7pm



Lydgate Infant School Staff Book Club

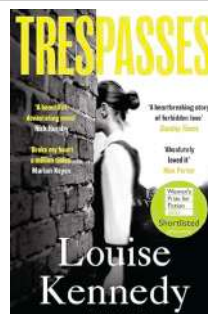
It's not only the children in school that love reading! Staff have been reading and talking about books as part of our staff book club. Below are the books that we have read this term. Have you read any of these? Do let us know your thoughts if you have!



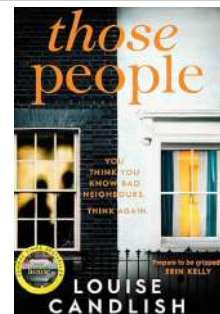
Bumble and Snug and the Shy Ghost
by Mark Bradley
(Y1-Y2+)



The Final Year
by Matt Goodfellow
and illustrated by Joe
Todd-Stanton
(Y6+)



Trespases
by Louise Kennedy
(Adult fiction)



Those People
by Louise Candlish
(Adult fiction)

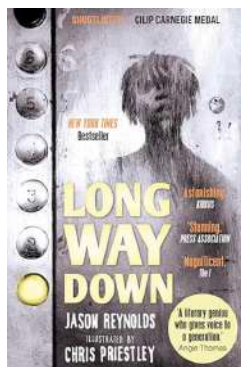
Children's book recommendation for the grown ups...

Children's fiction is not just for children! The best children's fiction 'helps us refind things we may not even know we have lost' (Katherine Rundell). Here are three awesome verse novels you might like to try over Christmas...



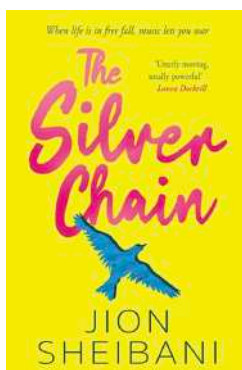
The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow & Joe Todd-Stanton

Life can be tough in your last year of primary school. Tests to take, preparing for the change to high school. Nate is ready for it all, knowing his best friend PS is at his side - they've been inseparable since Nursery. But when they are put in two different classes and PS finds a new friend in Turner, the school bully, Nate's world turns upside-down. He's dealt another blow when his youngest brother, Dylan is rushed into hospital. His new teacher sees a spark inside of Nate that's lit by his love of reading and writing and shows him how to use this to process what's going on. But with so much working against him, and anger rising inside him, will this be enough?



The Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

After Will's brother is shot in a gang crime, he knows the next steps. Don't cry. Don't snitch. Get revenge. So he gets in the lift with Shawn's gun, determined to follow The Rules. Only when the lift door opens, Buck walks in, Will's friend who died years ago. And Dani, who was shot years before that. As more people from his past arrive, Will has to ask himself if he really knows what he's doing. This haunting, lyrical, powerful verse novel will blow you away.



The Silver Chain by Jion Sheibani

Azadeh is a budding violinist on a music scholarship at an expensive private school, dealing with all the usual trials of being sixteen: trying her best to fit in, keep up and have fun. Then as her mum's mental health spirals out of control, Azadeh's world starts to unravel. Her friendships fall away, and as much as she and her dad try to keep a lid on everything, their problems insist on taking over. Feeling alone, it's her violin that finally helps Azadeh to find her way back to her friends, herself and even her mum.

Broomhill Library



<https://www.broomhill-library.org.uk/>

Opening times

Monday 10am-5pm
Tuesday 10am-1pm
Wednesday 10am-5pm
Thursday - closed
Friday 10am-5pm
Saturday 10am-1pm
Sunday - closed

Book Donations

Any book donations (good quality please) would be greatly appreciated by the library staff. The donated books are sold to raise funds for the library.

Other Bookish News

Winter Mini Challenge

The Reading Agency Winter Mini Reading challenge is now open and aims to provide reading encouragement and fun for children and families. There's a free-to-access website featuring rewards and incentives for reading and reviewing books during December and January. <https://readingagency.org.uk/news/media/join-the-winter-mini-challenge.html>



Multilingual book donations

We are trying to increase the stock of multilingual books in our school library and would welcome good quality donations. Please drop them in at the office - thank you!



Fundraising for new books - how you could help!

When buying books online at Love Reading 4 Kids, 25% of the cover price is donated to a school of your choice. If you are buying books at <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>, please consider choosing Lydgate Infant School at the checkout!



Buy from our bookstore and 25% of the cover price will be given to a school of your choice to buy more books.

Parent Book Swap

We know that parents like to read too, so please do take advantage of our parent book swap located just inside the main entrance next to the school office.



If you or your child read any of the books mentioned in the newsletter, please let us know what you thought of them. You could even send us a photo of your child reading the book!

Does your child have any great books that they would like to recommend to other children in our school? We would love to receive an email with details of the book or even a photo of your child enjoying it.

Please use this email address to contact us: class9@lydgate-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Here are some great websites that offer more book recommendations and reviews:

- BookTrust
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/>
- EmpathyLab
<https://www.empathylab.uk/2021-read-for-empathy-collections>

Happy reading,

Mrs Varley & Miss Whitehead