



Lydgate Infant School

Reading Newsletter

Winter 2024



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-illustrator...

Bethan Woollvin



Here's a picture of me and Panko. Doesn't Panko look great in a hat!



Look at all these paper shapes! I wonder what these are for?



Getting messy with paint in my studio! Splat! Having fun working on my new book!

Hello to all you super readers at Lydgate Infants!

It's Bethan here (again!) and I thought it was about time I wrote you another letter!

So, what's new since we last spoke? Well, it's definitely got a lot chillier outside, hasn't it? My hat, scarf and gloves are no longer hiding in my wardrobe - they've been very busy keeping me warm on my winter dog walks.

What have I been up to recently, you ask? Great question! This year has been very busy for me. I broke my own record and created not one, but **TWO** brand new books. I'm pretty sure my hand nearly fell off from all the writing and drawing! You'll be pleased to know these books will be out next year. Exciting stuff!

But what are the books about? Well...I really shouldn't say. They're **TOP SECRET!** Oh...alright! Here's a little clue: one of them is a *fairytale*. But which one could it be? You'll have to put on your detective hats and guess!

In other exciting news, I'm moving into a brand-new studio space in January - a whole room just for me to write and draw in! There's just one small problem...the walls are **EMPTY**. Completely bare! I might need to decorate them. Maybe I'll paint a giant mural like I did in your library! What do you think I should paint? Dragons? Unicorns? I need some ideas.

And now, here we are in December. This is my favourite time of year, as I get to watch lots of movies, eat tasty food, and spend lots of time with my family and friends. I hope you have some nice plans for your December break?

Oh, I learned something very cool recently. In Iceland, families have a tradition where they give each other a book on Christmas Eve. Then, they all snuggle up in their pyjamas, drink hot chocolate and spend the whole evening reading together. Doesn't that sound brilliant? I'm going to try it this year with my two dogs Podrick and Panko. I've already been to the library and picked out a book - *Bear and Bird: The Picnic* by Jarvis. I'll have a big mug of hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows, and Podrick and Panko will listen to me read (and probably steal a marshmallow or two).

So if you're looking for something fun to do during your break, perhaps you could give this tradition a try. Pick your favourite book, make a hot drink, and spend the evening with your favourite story. Maybe you could even challenge your family to join in!

Anyway, I better dash. Podrick and Panko are staring at me. It's well past walkies time!

Keep being the amazing readers I know you are, have a fantastic break and a happy new year too!

Bye for now!

Bethan

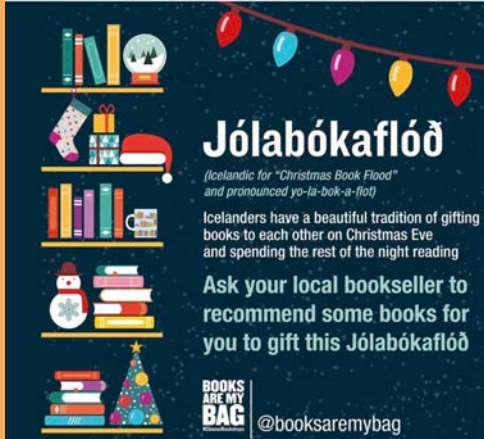
P.S - here are some more sneaky peeks of what I've been doing this year!

Bethan Woollvin is a children's author and illustrator based in Sheffield. She won the Macmillan Prize for Illustration for her debut picture book, *Little Red*. <https://www.bethanwoollvin.com/>

Send us your photos!

Jólabókaflóð – the Christmas book flood

Like Bethan Woollvin, why not join in this Icelandic Christmas Eve tradition! Please send us your photos if you do – we would love to see them!

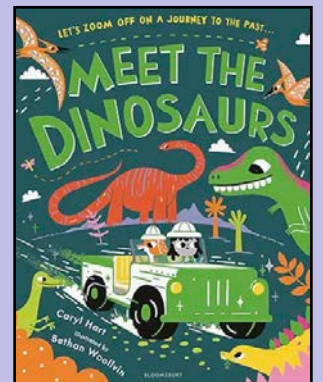
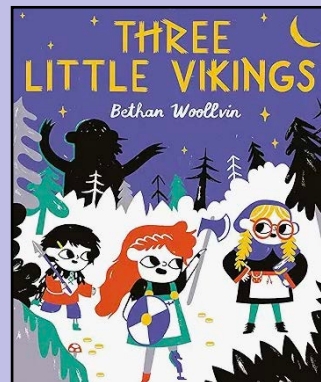
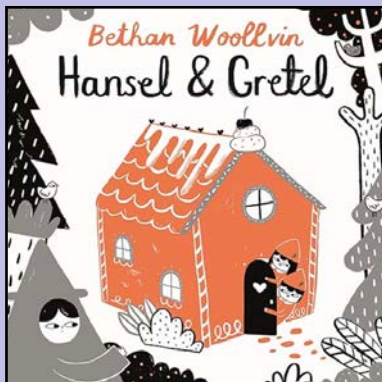


Books as presents

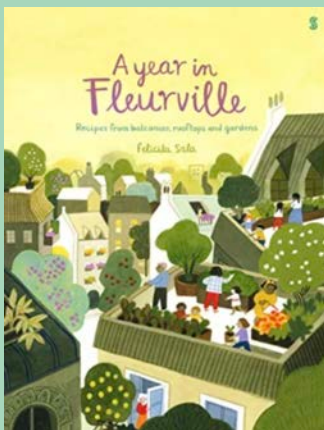
In Iceland there's a tradition called Jolabokaflod (literally "Christmas book flood") where people gift books to each other, then spend the evening reading and drinking hot chocolate. Books make great Christmas presents because it makes the book feel more special. If your children are more reluctant to read consider different formats like audiobooks, graphic novels, comics or magazines. You could also look for a book that ties into something else they love like a video game, film, TV show or sport. Another option is to give them a book token and make a trip of visiting a bookshop together and choosing what to buy. Or visit your local library together. If you pick something up to that's a great way to role model reading!

Taken from 'Reading over Christmas' by the Scottish Book Trust <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/articles/reading-at-home-over-christmas>

Bethan Woollvin has two new books publishing in summer 2025! We can't wait to see them. Until then, here are some of our favourite books written and/or illustrated by Bethan...



New Year Reading Resolutions - tips from the Scottish Book trust



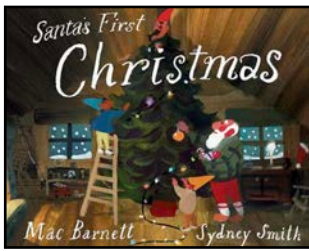
A Year in Fleurville: Recipes from Balconies, Rooftops and Gardens. By Felicity Sala.

Reading resolutions

With a new year on the horizon, it's a great time to talk about what you'd like to read in 2025. Do you want to read more? Read different genres? Or are there specific books you're looking forward to? Sharing your own resolutions or what you're excited for is a great way to help reading become a shared hobby.

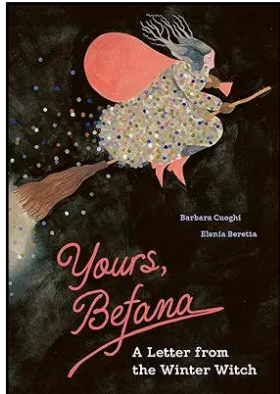
Remember that reading is everywhere. Even in moments like reading a recipe together whilst cooking or baking or learning the lyrics to a Christmas carol. Reading together doesn't have to be hours together with perfect focus: it can be found in small moments or everyday tasks. Whatever you read, we hope you enjoy doing it together!

Seasonal Recommendations



Santa's First Christmas by Mac Barnett and Sidney Smith

We all know that Santa makes everyone's dreams come true every Christmas, but it turns out that he needs a little help getting into the holiday spirit himself. Instead of letting Santa get right back to work after he returns home to the North Pole on Christmas morning, his loyal elves want to make sure he experiences the same Christmas cheer he provides for others. With the perfect tree, lots of delicious treats, and, of course, presents, Santa experiences the magic of Christmas for the very first time. (F2-Y2)



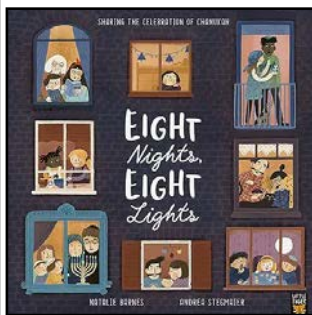
Yours, Befana: A Letter from the Winter Witch by Elenia Beretta.

The Christmas witch, Befana (from Italian folklore), shares a letter to children about what happens on Epiphany Eve, (5th January), when she takes to the sky to deliver gifts to all children everywhere. Befana is as fast as the wind on her broom, dressed in her warmest cloak. Jetting through the winter night, she cannot be seen, but all children know when she's been there from her gifts of sweets, nuts, and dried fruit, as well as her most precious gift of all: new weather, water, and sun (Y2+)



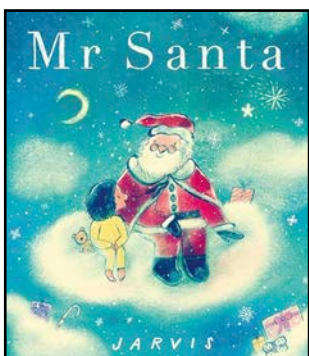
Winter Sleep: A Hibernation Story by Sean Taylor, Alex Morss and Cinyee Chiu

In this cozy bedtime story, follow a child and his grandma through a winter landscape to explore how the Earth goes to sleep for winter. Spot the sleeping animals as the tale unfolds, then learn about their hibernation habits from the information pages at the end. (F2-Y2)



Eight Nights, Eight Lights by Natalie Barnes and Andrea Stegmaier

Celebrate each night of Chanukah with eight different families and learn about the rituals and traditions which make up this wonderful holiday. With beautiful, rich illustrations and a lyrical, rhythmic text, this is the ideal gift to share with children at Chanukah. This comforting and cosy book is also perfect for any child who wants to learn more about The Festival of Lights (F2-Y2)

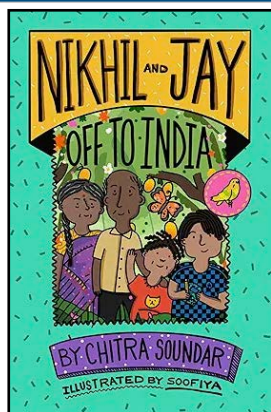


Mr Santa by Jarvis

When a little girl comes face to face with Santa in her own house, she can hardly believe it! It's her golden opportunity to ask him the questions – all the many questions! – that she's been desperate to know... Can Santa eat clouds? Does he stop at traffic lights? Is his belly button innie or outie? (F2-Y2)

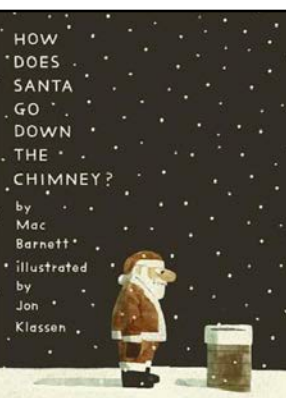
Illustrated by Cinyee Chiu

Seasonal Recommendations



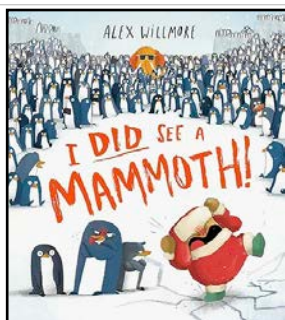
Nikhil and Jay: Off to India by Chitra Soundar

Nikhil and Jay and Amma and Appa are off to India for the Christmas holidays to visit Chennai Granny and Grandad. In Grandad's garden they are excited to see parrots and Chennai squirrels, a mango tree and a coconut tree. They go to the beach, play in the big waves and eat Granny's Indian savoury snacks. The boys have their first Chennai Christmas, with mango-leaf decorations, Indian sweets for Father Christmas, a basket of Indian wooden toys – and a special Christmas star. And last but not least, the family see in the New Year the Indian way. (Y2)



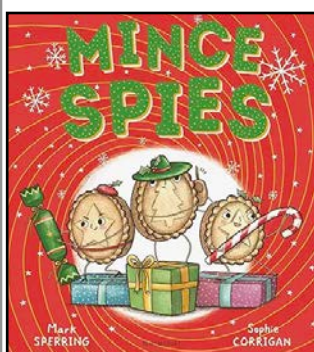
How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney? by Jon Klassen and Mac Barnett

The multi-award-winning duo of Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen tackle a perennial question: how does Santa go down the chimney? 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? What happens once he's inside? (F2-Y2)



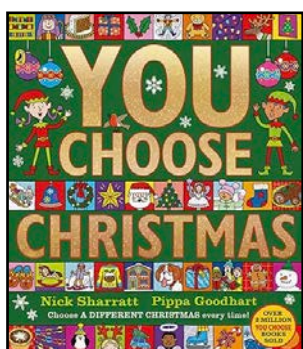
I Did See a Mammoth! by Alex Willmore

Winner of the Lollies Book Award 2024 – best laugh out loud picture book. Welcome to the Antarctic, where an intrepid bunch of explorers is making an in-depth study of penguins. Penguins. Penguins. So many penguin. But one young explorer has discovered something different. Something totally wild, spectacularly cool and quite a lot ... EXTINCT. (F2-Y2)



Mince Spies by Mark Sperring and Sophie Corrigan

Who or what is destroying all the Christmas treats in the supermarkets? Santa sends his Mince Spies on a secret mission to uncover the culprits. With puff-pastry jetpacks, shortcrust walkie-talkies and squirry whipped cream they foil the villains – with a bit of help from Santa. A hilarious rhyming romp of a story with a festive message for all baddies: it's better when you're nice! (F2-Y2)



You Choose Christmas by Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sherratt.

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 (F2-Y2)

What have you been reading outside school?

Eliza (Class 9) visited Hardwick Hall in Chesterfield. She read lots of the information panels so that she could discover more about the house and the people that lived in it. Brilliant reading, Eliza!

We would love to hear about what other pupils have been reading. Please send details to Mrs Varley via class9@lydgate-inf.sheffield.sch.uk.



New storytelling chair

We are so excited about the arrival of this beautiful, new storytelling chair for our library. Many thanks to LISA for funding this and to Mrs Debra Warner for choosing it. We think it looks rather splendid next to Bethan Woollvin's mural.



Can you help us to grow our library stock?

If you are buying books for yourself, family or friends online at Love Reading <https://www.lovereadings.co.uk/> or Love Reading 4 Kids <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/> please consider choosing Lydgate Infant School from the list of possible schools to donate to at the check out. At no additional cost to you, 25% of the cover price of your purchase(s) will be donated by Love Reading to LIS. We can then use the donation to buy new books for our library and classroom book corners. You can find out more about Love reading's social purpose here <https://www.lovereadings.co.uk/our-purpose> Thank you!!

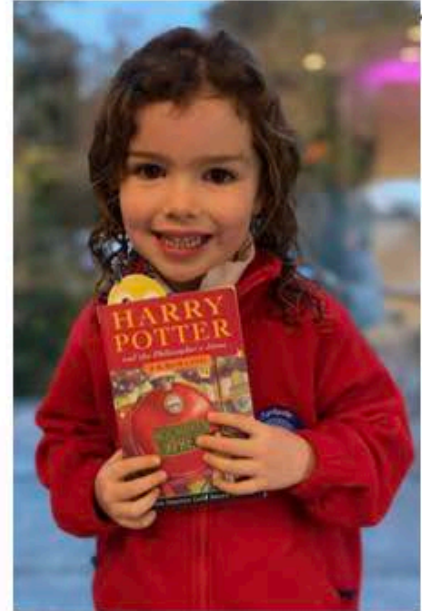


BUY A BOOK,
SUPPORT A SCHOOL,
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

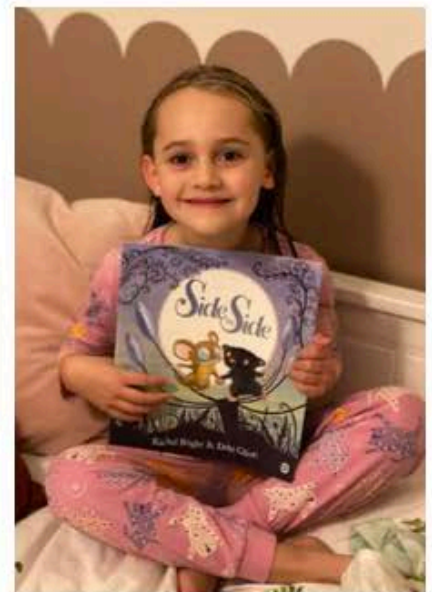


Our Favourite Bedtime Read

In Class 6, we have been thinking about our favourite books! We have shared our books with our friends and had lots of fantastic book talk!



This helped us decide on books that we might want in our reading corner!



What is your favourite bedtime read?

Our favourite class reads!

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



Class 1

Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons
By Eric Litwin and James Dean



Class 2

The Big Katie Morag Storybook
By Mairi Hedderwick



Class 3

Pick a Pine Tree
By Patricia Toht and Jarvis



Class 4

Meesha Makes Friends
By Tom Percival



Class 5

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



Class 6

Today I Will Fly!
By Mo Willems

Our favourite class reads!

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



Class 7

There's a Bear on My Chair
By Ross Collins



Class 8

Alan's Big, Scary Teeth
By Jarvis



Class 9

I Want My Hat Back
By Jon Klassen



Class 10

The Jolley-Rogers and the
Monster's Gold
By Jonny Duddle



Class 11

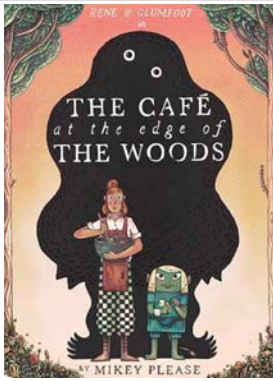
Yapping Away
By Joshua Seigal



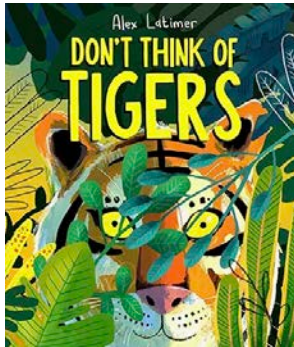
Class 12

Penguin In Peril
By Helen Hancocks

Picturebook Recommendations



The Cafe at the Edge of the Woods by Mikey Please
Rene's dreams have finally come true! She's opened a café beside an enchanted wood, and with the help of a newfound waiter, Glumfoot, she is ready to serve the finest cuisine! But the locals seem to favour a most peculiar palette, requesting all sorts of disgusting things. Can Glumfoot's quick-thinking save the day? Join Rene and Glumfoot in this other-worldly story full of magical humour, mythical creatures and culinary curiosities. (F2-Y2)



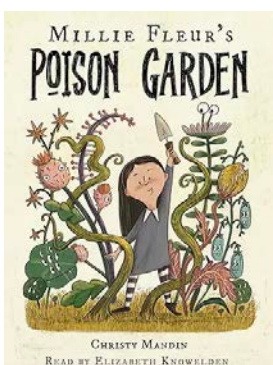
Don't Think of Tigers by Bethan Clarke & Anders Frang
Gus the Goat loves guessing. And he loves rhyming. So, when he meets Mavis Mole, he can't help himself trying to guess where she lives. Is it in a hole? In a bowl!? In a Sausage ROLL!! No, not quite. This super-silly and totally HOLE-ARIOUS story will have kids laughing out loud and joining in with Gus Goat's outlandish guessing game. Perfect for inspiring a love of language in little ones. (Mrs Varley & Miss Whitehead laughed A LOT when this was read aloud to them!!) (F2-Y2)



The Great Paint by Alex Willmore
Frog thinks he's pretty artistic and that the rest of the forest could do with a little bit of inventive improvement. From painting to sculpture, to performance art and origami, Frog gets to work on beautifying everything around him... but will his friends appreciate his creativity? And how will Frog show them he's sorry and that true creative inspiration lies in the friendship of others? (F2-Y2)

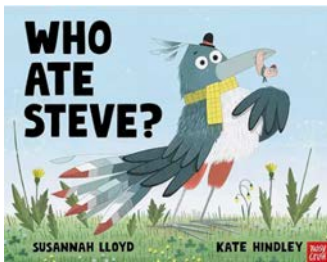


Maybe Later, Georgie by Luke Scriven
All Georgie wants to do is play with his big brother, who ALWAYS comes up with the best games and adventures! But recently, all Georgie hears is the same phrase, time and again - 'Maybe later, Georgie'. Will later ever arrive? Luke A simply illustrated story about brotherly love, bound to capture the hearts of parents and children alike. (F2-Y2)



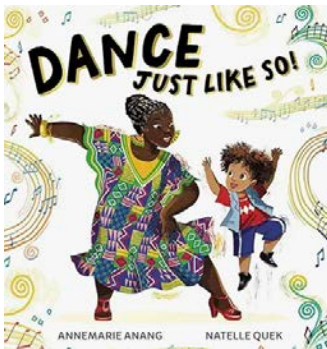
Millie Fleur's Poison Garden by Christy Mandin
Garden Glen is a very bland place. Every house and every garden looks exactly like the other. That is, until Millie Fleur La Fae comes to town. Up on a scruffy hill, beside a ramschackle house, Millie Fleur plants her marvelously strange garden, filled with Sneezing Stickyweed, Fanged Fairymoss, and Grumpy Gilliflower. Millie Fleur finds it enchanting, but the townspeople of Garden Glen call it poison! Inspired by the Poison Garden at Anwick Castle Gardens. (F2-Y2)

Picturebook Recommendations



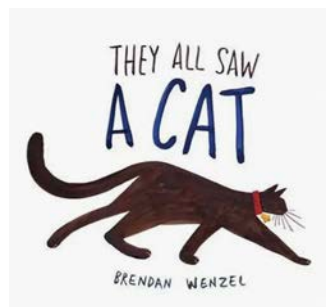
Who Ate Steve? by Susannah Lloyd

Welcome to this extremely interesting book about size. Marcel is a bird. He is big. Steve is a worm, and he is . . . Wait a minute! Steve has DISAPPEARED! Does Marcel know something about it? And can he be persuaded to return that poor worm RIGHT NOW? A hilariously quirky mini mystery reminiscent of Jon Klassen's classic I Want My Hat Back. (F2-Y2)



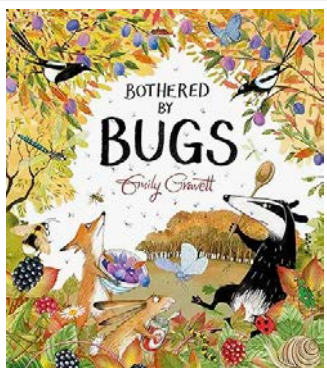
Dance Just Like So by Annemarie Anang and Natelle Quek

It's dance class day and Gran will teach Kwesi and the neighbours her trophy-winning dance, the Shooby-Doo Mambo. But Gran hurts her knee before Kwesi can learn all the steps. How will he learn the special dance now? Slowly Kwesi finds the confidence to practice the steps on his own, but dancing without Gran is not the same...Kwesi's inventive solution delivers a heartwarming surprise. Next dance class day, he and Gran dance the new Shooby-Do Mambo. Twirling their glittery canes in the air while seated on chairs, they wow all the neighbours Just Like So! (F2-Y1)



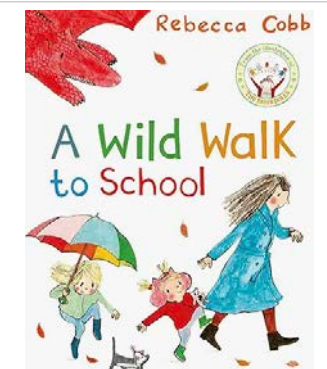
They All Saw A Cat by Brendan Wenzel

A New York Times bestseller and 2017 Caldecott Medal and Honor Book. The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws . . . In this glorious celebration of observation, curiosity, and imagination, Brendan Wenzel shows us the many lives of one cat, and how perspective shapes what we see. When you see a cat, what do you see? (F2-Y1)



Bothered by Bugs by Emily Gravett

In Bothered By Bugs, Pete the Badger is choosing a delicious recipe from his new fruit cookbook when his peace is interrupted by a teeny tiny fly. The fly becomes a swarm and soon all the animals are being bothered by bugs and insects of all kinds – so they help Pete rid the forest of/capture every single one. But . . . disaster! Now nobody's around to clean up the poo, and come autumn, there's not a berry or a cherry to be found. Will Pete and the other animals learn their lesson and restore order to the forest? (F2-Y2)

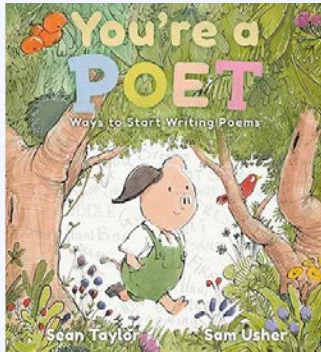


A Wild Walk to School by Rebecca Cobb

It's time to walk to school and mum wants the children to get there on time. But what Mum doesn't realise is that the hill is in fact the tummy of a sleeping giant and it's important to tread carefully when the floor turns to lava! It's just as well Mum has these two Brave Explorers with her... (F2-Y1)

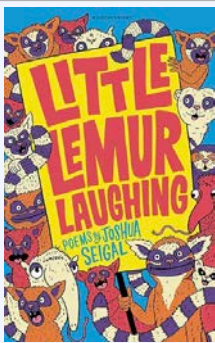
You're a

Poetry Recommendations



You're a Poet by Sean Taylor and Sam Usher

You're a Poet is a story book with a difference – through five uniquely warm and cosy tales, readers can delight in the happy world of Piglet, his family and his friends and, at the same time, learn five brilliantly fun and easy ways to write a poem. Within each story, Sean Taylor shows children how to make a: "Puddle Poem", a "Comparing Poem", a "Make a Person Poem", an "If I Was Poem" and an "I Would Give You Poem". With plenty of poetry-writing tips and tricks after each story. (F2-Y2)



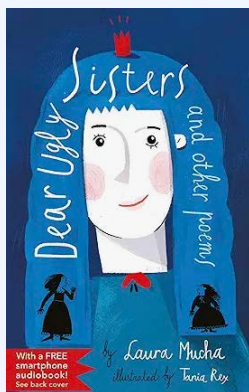
Little Lemur Laughing by Joshua Seigal

Covering every topic from spaghetti-eating dogs to conkers and from the joy of stickers to a stomping brontosaurus, Joshua Seigal's child's-eye view of the world makes these poems accessible and fun. (Y1, Y2)



Pick and Mix Poetry: Children's verse chosen by Julia Donaldson

With each poem hand-selected by Julia Donaldson, Pick and Mix Poetry is filled with over 300 poems, including familiar favourites, as well as exciting new voices, promising something for any and every occasion. From unforgettable classics to contemporary works from around the world. From football to turtles, pirates to trees, family to cakes and sweets, this is a sumptuous treat that is perfect to dip into or pore over (F2-Y2+)



Dear Ugly Sisters and other poems by Laura Mucha

Tonight I fancy a flight, so I shuffle my short feathers and jump. Original, dazzling and unconventional, this brilliant first solo collection has a surprise on every page. Go on a night flight, have a monster's lunch, immerse yourself in birdsong. Shout out an Apatosaurus rap before checking out Alexander Fleming's petri dish. Find fairy tales with a twist, poems to make you laugh – and reflective poems to think about. Full of variety, wit and warmth (Y2+)

Sean Taylor

Sam Usher

Information Book Recommendations



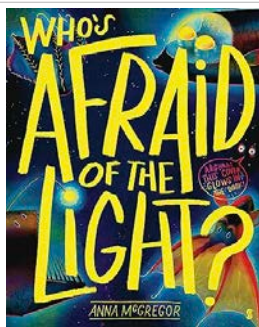
[Can Volcanoes Turn the Moon Blue?](#) by Olivia Watson and Veronica Chaves Morales

Volcanoes are incredible, as are the volcanologists who study them! Volcanic eruptions are powerful but could their effects reach all the way to the moon? Check out the stories behind volcanology and discover volcanoes hidden at the bottom of the ocean and the ways that volcanoes are helping our planet. (Y1-Y2)



[A Little Blue Dot](#) by Maren Hasenjäger

Somewhere in our vast universe floats a little blue dot. This dot is Earth and she is surrounded by lots of impressive planets – Saturn with his ice-crystal rings and 146 moons, fiery Mars with his huge storms and volcanoes, bright and beautiful Venus. A Little Blue Dot is a story packed full of scientific information about the planets in our solar system and space exploration. Told by the planets themselves and charmingly illustrated, this reassuring story will be a hit with readers big and small. (Y2)



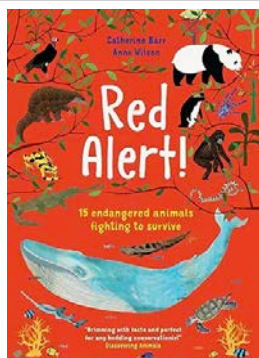
[Who's Afraid of the Light?](#) by Anna McGregor

This book introduces young readers to the wonders of the ocean's 'midnight zone', where no sunlight at all is able to penetrate. We meet Fergus as he hides from a parade of sea creatures that use bioluminescence to find their way in the dark. At least, we think he is hiding ... or is it something else entirely? (F2-Y2)



[Look What I Found by the River](#) by Moira Butterfield and Jesus Verona

Set off on a riverside adventure to find natural treasure, from a shiny, smooth river pebble to a little cushion of moss, then learn more about the found object with irresistibly illustrated and informative nature notes. Packed full of fascinating facts alongside a gentle rhyming narrative and encouraging children to get outside and explore their surroundings, this is a nature treasure hunt series for the whole family to treasure (F2-Y2)



[Red Alert!](#) by Catherine Barr

Pick a place. Choose a creature. Discover its story and the danger it faces. Then find out how to help it survive. 15 wild and wonderful creatures, all on the IUCN Red List, need our help – this important book is interactive, engaging and informative, and will inspire children to save their planet! (Y1-Y2)

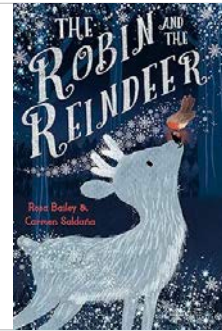
Chapter Book Recommendations

Princess Minna: The Giant Beanstalk by Kirsty Applebaum and Sahar Haghgoo

A giant beanstalk has grown up in the kingdom and the giant who lives at the top of it keeps stealing things from the townsfolk! Is Princess Minna brave enough to climb the beanstalk and bring back the stolen things, and will the giant EAT HER if she does? (5+)



The Robin and the Reindeer by Rosa Bailey and Carmen Saldana
Little Reindeer is lost in the forest. It begins to snow. As the snowflakes crowd through the trees, she catches a glimpse of something: a flash of startling red and wings blurring in the air. A robin! In a piece of woodland magic, the generous robin lends the red from his feathers to Little Reindeer's nose, and they fly home together. Full colour illustrations in this early chapter book. (5+)



AdventureMice: The Ghostly Galleon by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre

This is the fifth book in this popular series. The spookiest time of the year calls for a treasure hunt! So when the Adventuremice hear about ghostly goings-on at sea, they try to get to the bottom of the mystery of old Captain Cheesebeard and his ancient treasure hoard (5+)



The Island Vet: Devil Bird Island by Gill Lewis

A camping trip to count puffins on Devil Bird Island turns into a real adventure for friends Tia and Nat. First, they have to rescue a mysterious marine animal caught in a fishing net and swept very far from home. Then, when it gets dark, they hear strange wailing and something white and ghostly flies at their tent. Safely back home, they unravel the mysteries of the previous night and learn some important lessons about how everyone on the planet needs to look out for the wildlife around them. (7+)



Dungeon Runners: Hero Trial

by Kieran Larwood and Joe Todd-Stanton

Kit has dreamed of being a Dungeon Runner all his life, although being a gnorf (part gnome, part dwarf) means he's much smaller than the other competitors. But when a space opens up for a new team in the Dungeon Running League, Kit doesn't want to miss this chance to try out! With his new friends Sandy and Thorn, they're ready to take on anything - mazes, puzzles, monsters, treasure and most of all adventure!(7+)



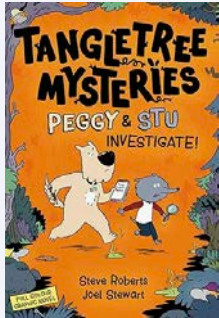
'It's so funny I fell off my chair laughing!' Reader aged 7½

Investi

Graphic Novel Recommendations

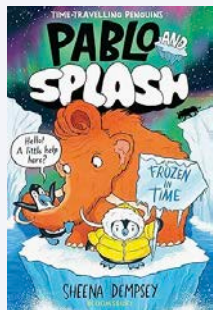
Emerging research shows that comics and graphic novels are motivating, support emerging readers and enrich the skills of accomplished readers. Find out more about the benefits of reading comics and graphic novels here:

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



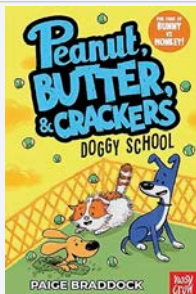
Tangletree Mysteries by Steve Roberts and Joel Stewart

Peggy the dog has a secret... every day, during her walk in the park, she scampers into Tangletree Wood and becomes a brilliant detective! No mystery is too tricky to solve for Peggy and her faithful sidekick, Stu. Join them for two twisty adventures: Slime Time and Mud Race (Y1-Y2)



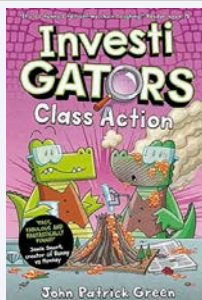
Pablo and Splash: Frozen in Time by Sheena Dempsey

Pablo and Splash go to visit Professor O'Brain in her lab, only to find that their friend has been left behind in the Ice Age by her misbehaving time machine. The brave penguin buddies set out on a rescue mission - destination 68,000 years ago! When a Neanderthal man accidentally wanders into their time machine, it's not just the professor who is stuck in the wrong time period. But luckily a scientific breakthrough for Pablo and Splash's endlessly upbeat approach to life's challenges helps save the day! (Y2)



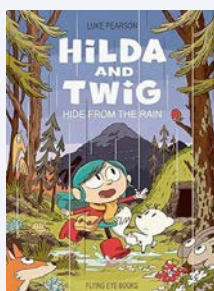
Peanut, Butter & Crackers: Doggy School by Paige Braddock

Crackers and floppy-eared puppy Peanut are off to doggy school! But when the two dogs are separated, Peanut is left to fend for himself against canine bullies. Determined to help him, Butter sneaks in and sets off a cat commotion! Can Peanut, Butter and Crackers find a way to make doggy school cool again? (Y2)



InvestiGators: Class Action by John Patrick Green

The InvestiGators are back . . . to school? Mango and Brash have always been a class act, now it's time to find out whether these alligator detectives can go undercover as school kids! When chaos breaks out in the classroom, Mango and Brash scramble to figure out who is after Bucky, the mascot at Mango's old school. Can the InvestiGators crack the case before Bucky is whisked away? And most importantly, is Friday still pizza day? (Y2+)



Hilda and Twig Hide From the Rain by Luke Pearson

Hilda and Twig would never let a bit of rain get in the way of an adventure, but it's different when your forest exploration is interrupted by a BIG storm. Sheltering in a mysterious mound in the earth, Twig quickly realises that trouble is afoot, and that his best blue-haired friend is in danger. Unfortunately, he's never really thought of himself as the brave one, but it looks like he's going to have to step up and save Hilda from a whole load of big, scaly trouble! (Y2+)

John Patrick Green

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



The Open University

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.

Read Aloud

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

Family Reading Time

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

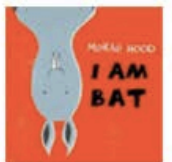
Book Chat

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

I wonder if...why... what...who...

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

Virtual Author Event

It was wonderful to hear (live!) from the amazing author and illustrator Rob Biddulph. He told us all about how he became an author and illustrator. We also found out about the inspiration for his new book 'I Follow the Fox.' Rob has a fox who comes to visit him when he is reading and writing so he decided to write a story about the little fox.



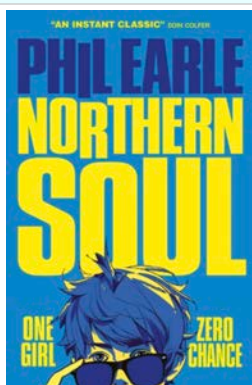
He then showed us how to do a step by step drawing of a rhino wearing a Santa hat! Rob has many more step by step drawings – just Google 'Draw with Rob.'

Class 4 are fantastic illustrators!



Lydgate Infant School Staff Book Club

It's not only the children in school that love reading! Staff love to read and chat about books as part of our staff book club. Below are the books that we have chosen for our next book club. Why don't you read along with us? Let us know your thoughts!



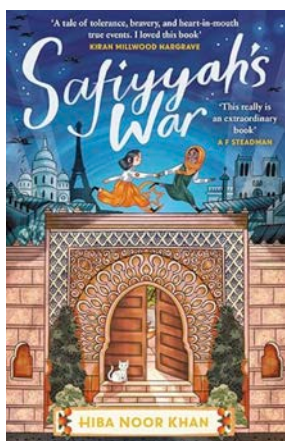
Northern Soul
by Phil Earle
(For ages 14+)



The Great Alone
by Kristin Hannah
(Adult Fiction)

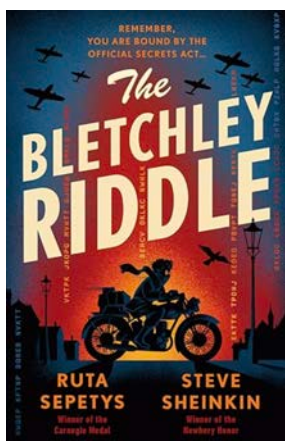
Children's book recommendation for the grown ups...

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 some incredible books that you might like to try.



Safiyyah's War by Hiba Noor Khan

Her best friend's family have fled, and the bombing makes her afraid to leave the mosque where she lives. But when her father is arrested by the Nazis for his secret Resistance work, it falls to Safiyyah to run the dangerous errands around the city. It's not long before hundreds of persecuted Jews seek sanctuary at the mosque. Can Safiyyah find the courage to enter the treacherous catacombs under Paris and lead the Jews to safety?



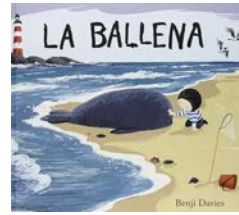
The Bletchley Riddle by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin

It is the summer of 1940. The world is at war. These days, you don't know who you can trust or who might be a secret spy... Maths whizz Jakob Novis has been recruited to the secret codebreaking centre at Bletchley Park. As Jakob works to crack the Nazi's Enigma cipher, his younger sister Lizzie is busy on an undercover mission of her own: to find their mother. Filled with codes to decipher and mysteries to unravel, this is the unputdownable historical adventure that will have you on the edge of your seats.

Other Bookish News

Multilingual book donations

There are 31 different languages spoken by children in our school! Because of this, we are trying to increase the stock of multilingual books in our school library and would welcome good quality donations. Bilingual texts are especially welcome! Please drop them in at the office - thank you! Thank you so much to those families who have already donated.



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. Lots more books have been added recently. Why not pop in and browse when you drop off or pick up your child?!



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.

Local independent children's bookshops



Opening times

Monday - Saturday 9am-5pm
 Sunday 11am - 3pm

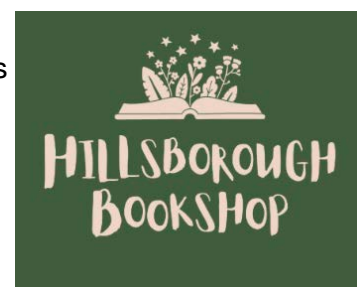
Rhyme & Reason Bookshop
 681 Ecclesall Rd
 Sheffield
 S11 8TG
 0114 2661950



Opening times

Tuesday - Saturday 10am-5pm
 Story time sessions Thursdays and Fridays
 11am

Hillsborough Bookshop
 89 Middlewood Rd
 Sheffield
 S6 4GX
 0114 4573964



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:

- Love Reading 4 Kids

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>



- BookTrust

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/>



- EmpathyLab read for empathy collection 2024

<https://www.empathylab.uk/RFE-2024>



- Yoto Carnegie Medal shortlist 2024

<https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/illustration-shortlist-2024/>



- Books for Keeps announces the UKLA Book Awards Shortlist 2024

<https://booksforkeeps.co.uk/shortlists-announced-for-the-ukla-book-awards-2024/>



- Outside in World - world literature and translated texts

<https://www.outsideinworld.org.uk/>



Happy reading,

Mrs Varley & Miss Whitehead

