



Lydgate Infant School

Reading Newsletter

Summer 2025



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.

Author in the spotlight

Nicola Davies

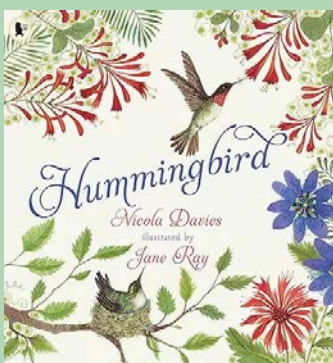


Here are a few of our favourite books by Nicola Davies...



Nicola Davies has written more than 50 books for children: picture books, non-fiction and poetry. She is also a zoologist (and former presenter of The Really Wild Show), with her passion for the natural world shining through in her words. There is a short video about Nicola here <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/videos/nicola-davies?theme=base>

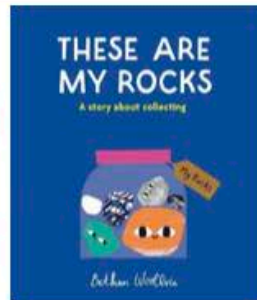
At LIS, we think Nicola is a tremendous author and we use many of her books in school. You can watch Nicola reading 'Hummingbird' here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hpd1wu2qjo



We asked Nicola if she would send a message about reading for pleasure to our pupils, and this is what she kindly wrote...

'Every book you read - including reading the illustrations in a picture book - will make you cleverer! Not only will you learn more, the more you read, but you will be able to think more clearly, and be able to express your own thoughts more easily. When you are comfortable reading long books never give up looking at picture books - especially the ones with the best illustrations. Pictures help to build your imagination, so you can come up with ideas for new stories, new inventions, new ways to change the world and make it better for all of us.'

Author Visit - Bethan Woollvin!



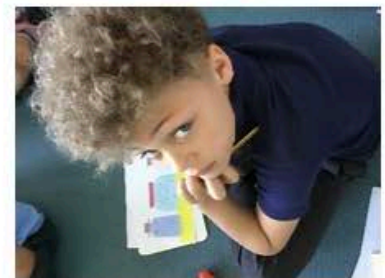
We were very excited to meet Bethan Woollvin in our whole school workshop!

Bethan was so inspiring and told us all about how she makes books. She also showed us lots of different kinds of collections. Bethan read her new book 'These Are My Rocks' (lucky us!)

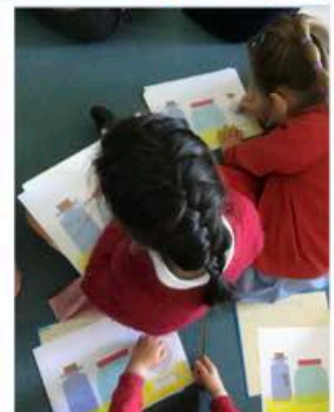
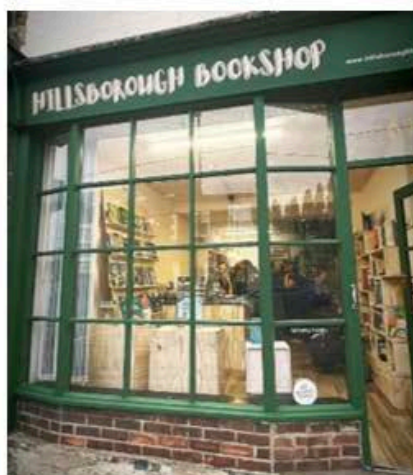
Bethan shared children's collections from home and we gave them a big thumbs up! Children loved seeing their collections on the screen.



Bethan showed us how she brings her drawings to life. We even got to draw our own collections!



Thank you so much to Hillsborough Bookshop for organising this memorable event! If you haven't visited this bookshop yet, it is definitely worth a visit. It is owned by the amazing Sophie and has beautiful, high quality texts.



'The Wilderness' Project

Classes 6 and 9 worked on an exciting project together for the UKLA Our Class Loves This Book Award. We read *The Wilderness* together, a story about a boy called Oktober who is afraid of the wilderness because he thinks a monster lurks there!



We loved sharing photos of the outdoor activities the LIS brave adventurers got up to over February half term!



The classes met again after half term to reflect on their own fears and what helps them to feel better.

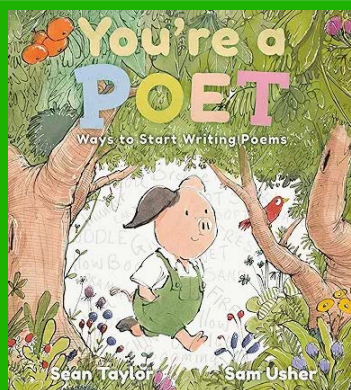
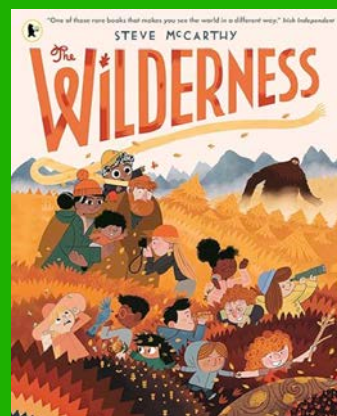
We turned our thoughts into words, bringing them together to create a 'wilderness monster' display (with the help of Miss Walker!)



We then created class poems. 'You're a Poet' (by Sean Taylor and Sam Usher) helped us to structure the poems.

We sent the poems via 'Poetry Post' to homes in our local area.

The children were thrilled to receive kind 'thank you' letters from many members of our local community!



The UKLA award panel were so impressed with the children's project that they sent us a big box of brilliant books for our library!



'The Wilderness' inspired poems by Class 9 and Class 6

I would give you
If you were frightened,
I would give you a smile as bright as
sunshine.
I would give you the first bluebell of spring.
I would give you a bouquet full of butterflies.
I would give you a nap on a cloud.
I would give you a stroll through a meadow.
I would give you the milky way.

I would give you hot chocolate with extra
marshmallows.
I would give you my favourite teddy.
I would give you 100 cuddles.

Class 9

different way." Irish In

NES

Fears and comforts
Fears are ...
Storms crashing
Spiders crawling
Darkness spreading
Feelings are ...
Hearts booming
Bodies shivering
Lips quivering
Comfort is ...
Music playing
Flowers blooming
Sun shining
Birds tweeting
Friends hugging

Class 6

Book Hut!

Every day at morning play we have enjoyed getting the books out to read with our friends in the book hut. There are lots of different texts to choose from including: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, graphic novels and Braille books!



'I love morning play time now!'

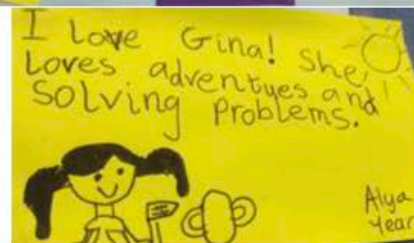
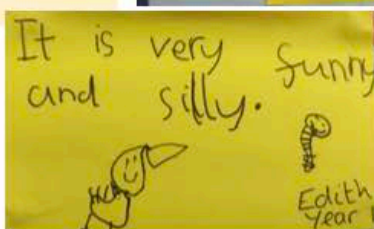
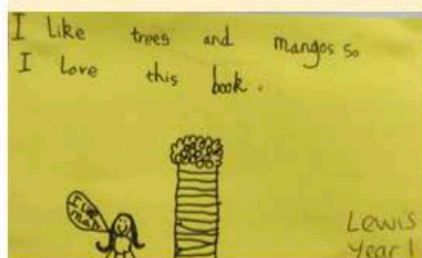


'It is so relaxing and makes me feel calm.'



The whole school have taken part in the SPARK! book awards. We have loved reading the books and watching the online author visits.

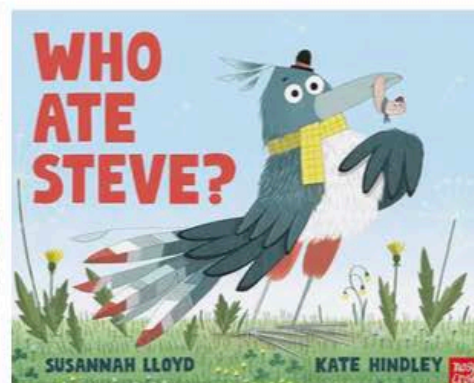
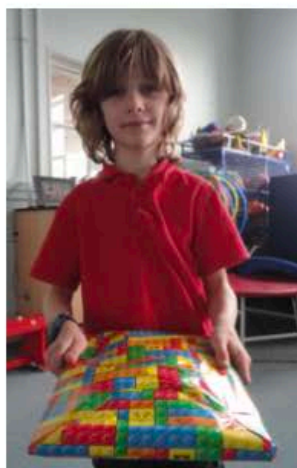
Our SPARK display got the children chatting about the books. Children added comments about their thoughts to the display.



Thank you to everyone who entered our SPARK! competition. Mr Bromage shared the entries during our whole school assembly. They were all brilliant and it was so difficult to choose a winner!



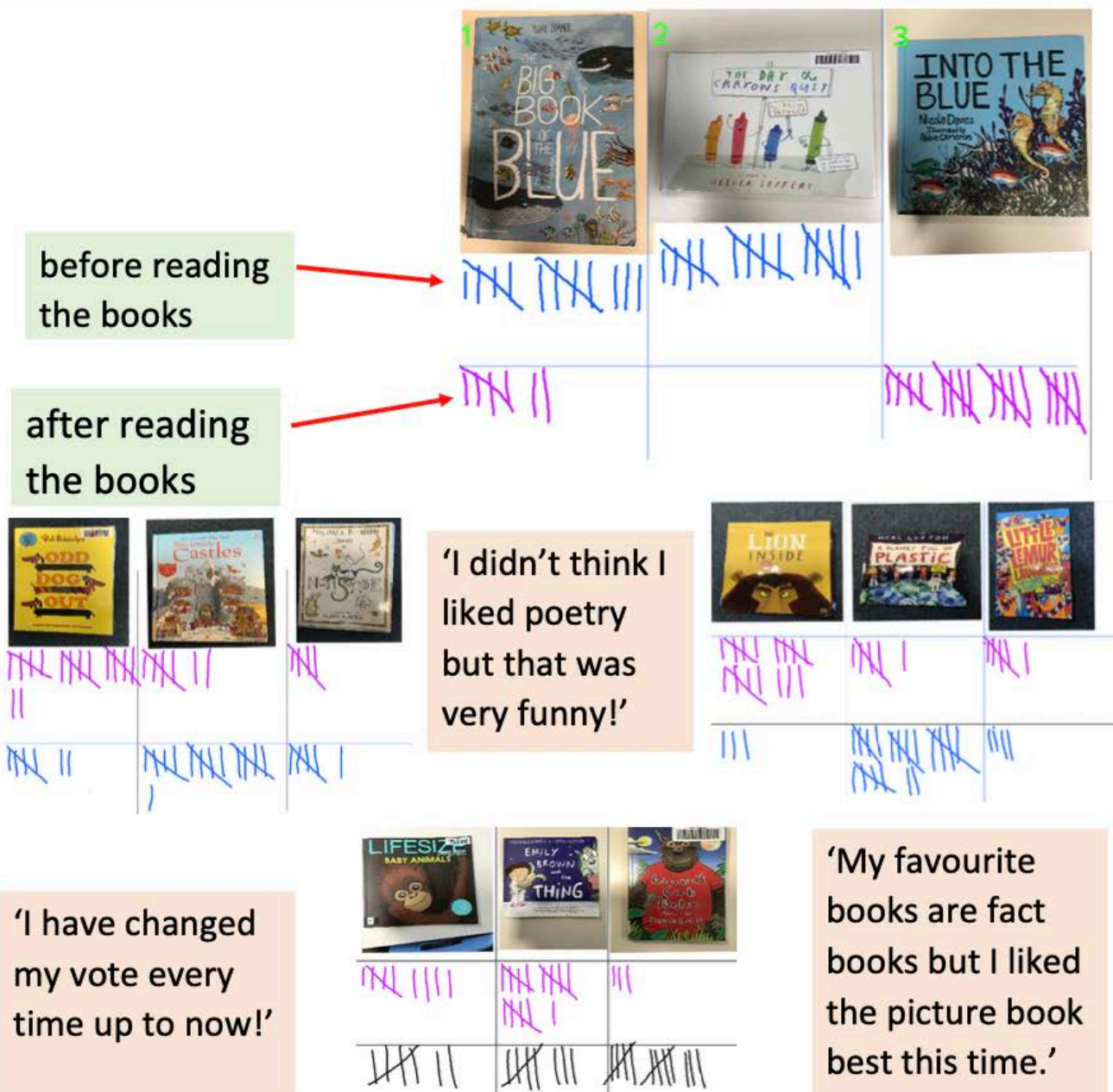
Congratulations to Daniel in Class 9 who was our school winner! He created an amazing animation based on 'Who Ate Steve?' He used ScratchJr to create his animation.



Do we judge a book by its cover?

In Class 6, we have been looking at different book genres to understand the types of books we like at the moment.

Every fortnight, we choose a picture fiction book, a non-fiction and a poetry book. Before we read the books, we have a vote to decide which one we think we will enjoy the most. After we have read all three books, we do the vote again to see if we changed our mind.



Class 7 visit Broomhill Library!

All children in Year 1 get the chance to visit Broomhill library in the summer. Class 6 and 7 have already enjoyed their trip. Class 5 and 8 will be visiting in Summer 2.



Children enjoyed browsing the library and finding books based on their interests. They also had fun taking part in book activities, including finding the meaning of words in a dictionary and cracking a code to make a word!



Class 2 love cookery books!

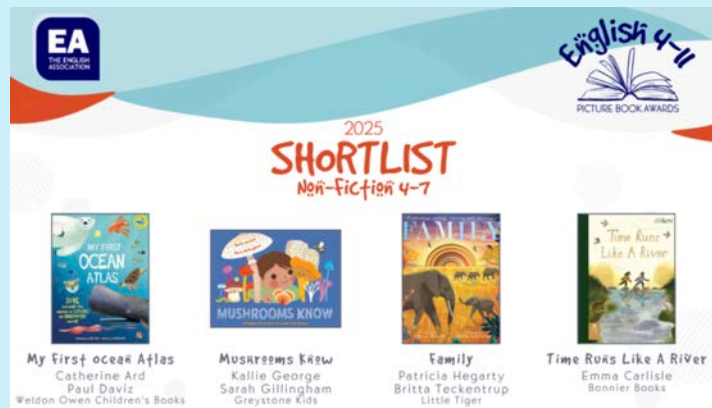
Class 2 love reading cookery books together during their relaxed reading time.

Samuel took one of the books home and used it to make a strawberry cake. Well done, Samuel - it looks delicious!



Class 9 judge the English Association Book Awards!

Mrs Varley and Class 9 were on the shortlisting panel for the 4-7 non-fiction category of the English Association Picture Book Awards. We loved reading and talking about all the long listed books. We voted for our top 8 choices. The overall winner of the award was 'Mushrooms Know' by Kellie George & Sara Gillingham.



Storytime at Breakfast Club

Miss Crookes is passionate about children Reading for Pleasure! The children at Breakfast Club are enjoying sharing stories with her before they go off to their classrooms. What a relaxing way to start the day!



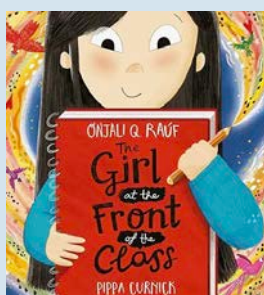
Please could you help us to refresh the books in our library?

If you are buying books for yourself, family or friends online at Love Reading <https://www.lovereadng.co.uk/> or Love Reading 4 Kids <https://www.lovereadng4kids.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.lovereadng.co.uk/our-purpose>
Thank you

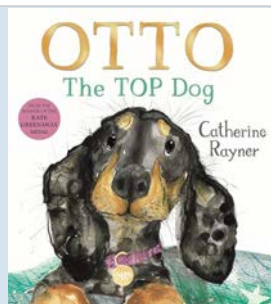


Sheffield Book Awards 2025

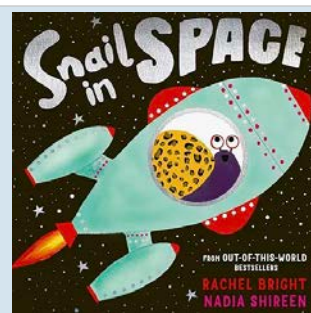
This half term, the whole school will be reading and talking about the three books shortlisted for the Sheffield Book Awards. Picturebook category. Please do chat with your child about which book they are planning to vote for and why!



The Girl at the Front of the Class
by Onjali Q. Rauf & Pippa Curnick



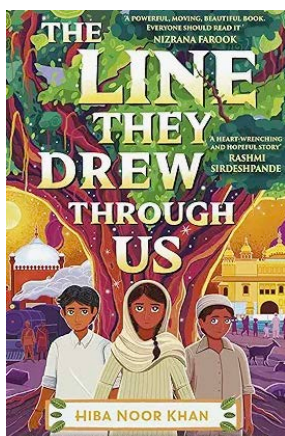
Otto the Top Dog
by Catherine Rayner



Snail in Space
by Rachel Bright and Nadia Shireen

LIS 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? We'd love to know your thoughts!



The Line They Drew Through Us
by Hiba Noor Khan
(For ages 9+)

Three best friends are born on the same day under miraculous circumstances. But by their twelfth birthday, Jahan, Ravi and Lakshmi's lives are about to change forever. The British announce Indian independence and draw lines of Partition that tear apart the country, and the friends. One of them flees, one of them disappears, and the other is left wondering, could a miracle bring them back together? [This is a must read!!](#)



The Ministry of Time
by Kaliane Bradley
(Adult Fiction)

A civil servant is offered a lucrative job in a mysterious new government ministry gathering 'expats' from across history to test whether time-travel is feasible. Her role is to work as a 'bridge': living with, supporting and monitoring expat '1847' - Commander Graham Gore, a former Victorian polar explorer. As the true shape of the project that brought them together begins to emerge, Gore and the bridge are forced to confront their past choices and imagined futures.

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

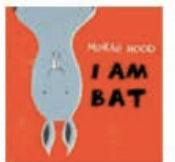
Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.



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.

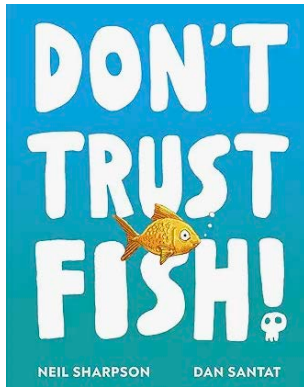
Join in with your thoughts too!

Book Chat develops language, comprehension and pleasure.



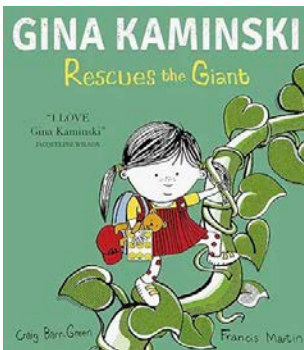
For more information visit:
bit.ly/RfPHome

Picturebook Recommendations



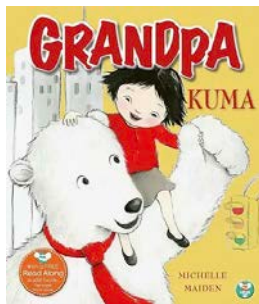
Don't Trust Fish by Neil Sharpson and Dan Santat

Have you ever noticed that fish spend all of their time under water? What are they plotting down there? We must find answers. But one thing's for sure. Whatever you do: Don't. Trust. Fish. Laugh along as you learn lots of fishy facts from a very suspicious narrator, who believes that there's something more than a bit fishy about fish... Prepare to laugh, learn, and maybe even look at your pet goldfish a little differently. Perfect for fans of Jon Klassen's *I Want My Hat Back* and B. J. Novak's *The Book with No Pictures*. (Y1-Y2)



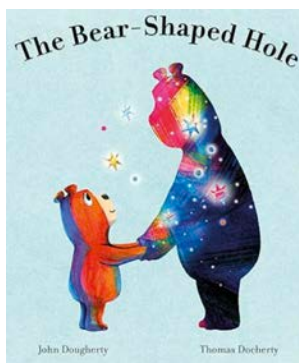
Gina Kaminski Rescues the Giant by Craig Barr-Green & Francis Martin

Gina Kaminski is back in this empowering retelling of Jack and the Beanstalk that challenges the traditional narratives we are told, with a confident, autistic character at its heart. Gina's here to tell you three facts. 1. The story of Jack and the Beanstalk is FULL of BIG mistakes. 2. She has a plan to fix them. 3. Her plan does NOT involve magic beans (but there will be cake). An ideal book to empower every child to be the hero of their own story. (F2-Y2)



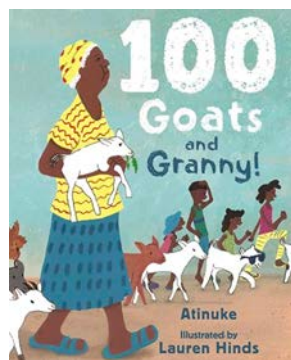
Grandpa Kuma by Michelle Maiden

Grandpa Kuma has travelled from Japan to America to meet his granddaughter and everyone is excited about the visit. Kuma has plenty to say...but no one understands him. So is it possible to get along and have fun before he has to fly home? A delightful look at the barriers language can create and the ways in which love and play can overcome. A dual language title. (F2-Y2)



The Bear-Shaped Hole by John and Thomas Docherty

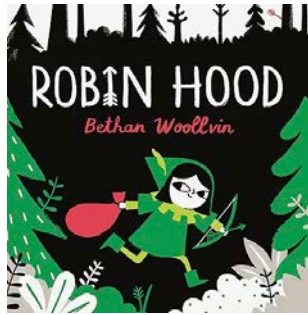
Gerda and Orlo are best bear friends. When Gerda was there, Orlo always had time for a game or a story, a joke or a rhyme. He was never too busy to listen, to talk, to help, to share, or to go for a walk. But Orlo reveals he is ill, and as he softly explains to Gerda, he is not going to get better. Gerda is overwhelmed by emotions she cannot quite explain, but Orlo gently helps her prepare, so they can spend their time together making memories that will last a lifetime. When the time comes, Gerda can fill the Bear-Shaped hole in her life with the special moments she shared with Orlo (F2-Y2)



100 Goats and Granny! by Atinuke

Introduce children to numbers 1 to 100! Granny's beloved goats follow her wherever she goes - to the tailor, to the salon, and on the bus. They are very cheeky, and even steal the aunties' panties! In the yard at home and then through the bustling market the children help Granny to keep count of them all until... Oh wait! Oh no! Where did goat 100 go? (F2-Y2)

Picturebook Recommendations



Robin Hood by Bethan Woollvin

In the heart of the woods by the oldest oak tree, you might find a fierce little girl. Her name is Robin Hood, and she is about to go on a rollicking adventure full of mischief and mayhem. The Sheriff is taking something from everybody – from the farms, the village and the forest itself! Can Robin protect her people from the thieving Sheriff? Bethan Woollvin reimagines the traditional English folktale, this time with a little girl at the helm of the story. Publishing on June 26th. (F2-Y2)



Bear by Natalia Shaloshvili

This is a whimsical and laugh-out-loud funny picture book about how hard it can be to say what you really mean – and why it's best to avoid bottling up emotions, so they don't come bursting out in one big AAAAAARGH. Bear is all set for a perfect day. But no sooner has Bear made himself comfortable, than along comes Fox who wants to share his bench. Bear agrees, begrudgingly. But no sooner has he overcome the idea of sharing his bench when Wolf pops up to ask for a bit of cookie. And before Bear knows it, it's all become too much for him! **AAAAAARGH!** yells Bear. (F2-Y2)



Wild by Katya Balen

A little girl loves playing in the woods and rejoicing in the wildness all around her. She sees secrets in the stars and stories in the earth. But one day she moves to the city. Surrounded by tall, grey buildings, she feels disconnected and alone. She has lost her wild. Or has she? Maybe she will find wildness where she least expects it. (F2-Y2)



The Something by Rebecca Cobb

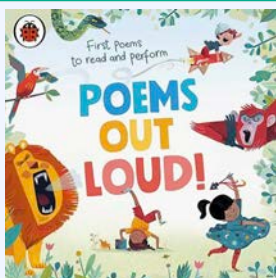
When a little boy's ball disappears down a mysterious hole in the garden, he can't stop thinking about what could be down there. Could it be a little mouse's house? The lair of a hungry troll? Or maybe even a dragon's den? Whatever the something is, he is determined to find out! (F2-Y1)



Welcome to the Best Bakery by Yue Zhang

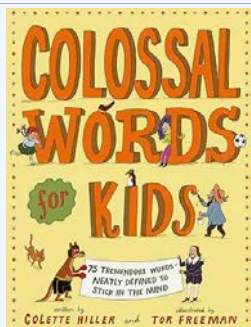
As night falls, Little White Rabbit follows her twitchy nose to a mobile bakery, where formidable chef, Mr Wolf is baking bread. Within its charming confines, they form an unexpected friendship and, despite their worries, begin to understand and trust each other as they embark on their dream of creating the world's most mouth-watering bread. An ensemble cast of adorable animal creatures bring this delightful story to life, perfect for all budding little bakers (F2-Y2)

Poetry Recommendations



Poems Out Loud: First Poems to Read and Perform

From rockets to mermaids and everything in between, there's something for everyone in this diverse and contemporary collection. Featuring award-winning poets, brand new voices, hip-hop artists and spoken-word performers, this is a wonderfully fresh, diverse and relevant new anthology that will get children laughing, thinking, sharing and performing! (Y1-Y2+)



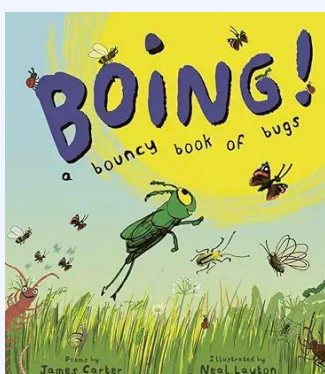
Colossal Words for Kids by Colette Hiller & Tor Freeman

Each poem in this funny, funky book teaches a specific important word, as well as its meaning and spelling, in an innovative and accessible format that kids will love. Using rhythm and wordplay, the poems help build a colossal vocabulary, thinking skills and literacy! But most of all, this book delights young readers with the joy and silliness of the English language. Shortlisted for the CLIPPA. (Y2+)



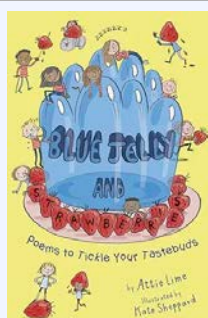
Big Red Dinosaur by Jane Newbury

Find hamsters, dogs, robins and unicorns, little cars and big diggers – and of course Big Red Dragon, in this brilliant collection of 15 action rhymes for Rhymes celebrate festivals and special events, such as Easter, Halloween, Diwali, Christmas and Chinese New Year. With clear instructions to parents and carers, there are fun activities and lots of joining in for every rhyme. (F2)



Boing! A Bouncy Book of Bugs by James Carter & Neal Layton.

Bestselling poet James Carter and illustrator Neal Layton love bugs and minibeasts and here they celebrate them all – from grasshoppers, ladybirds and dung beetles to moths, flies, wasps – and even bedbugs. Including the extraordinary tardigrades who can live in outer space. 24 poems, including shape poems, riddles, rhyming poems and free verse, plus amazing and informative facts about each bug or minibeast on every page, the world of insects is brought buzzing to life (F2-Y2)



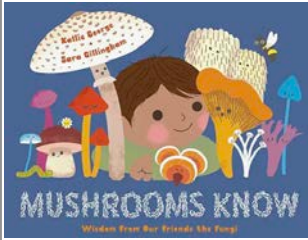
Blue Jelly and Strawberries by Attie Lime

Does T-Rex like a tickle? Do mercats chase mermice under the sea? Would you carry a frog in your hat? Play ping-pong with peas? Or how about finding a tree that grows doughnuts – and then eating blue jelly and strawberries? This is a joyful and exuberant debut collection of poems for younger children. Full of fun, puzzles and wordplay, with shape poems and nonsense poems – and also including quiet, thoughtful moments. (Y1-Y2+)

Poems by
James Carter

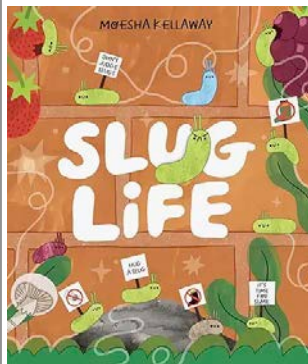
Illustrated by
Neal Layton

Information Book Recommendations



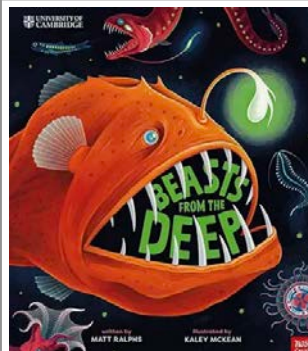
Mushrooms Know by Kallie George & Sara Gillinham

Mushrooms always wear their thinking caps. They know so many things. This vibrant and informative book shares the fascinating lessons that fungi can teach us: that small can be mighty, being unique is a reason to celebrate—and staying connected is key. An adorable, STEM-themed picture book for kids 4 to 8 yrs that reveals the wisdom mushrooms have to teach us. (F2-Y2)



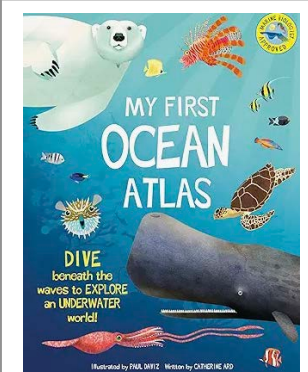
Slug Life by Moesha Kellaway

Being called rude names by humans has made slug Stevie super-grumpy, so his mum sends him to Slug Self-Esteem Class. Stevie discovers why he and his slimy kin are actually kind of amazing: they can regrow bits of themselves, their slime is liquid crystal and their climbing skills are better than Spiderman. The first in this series about creatures humans often try to squash! (Y2+)



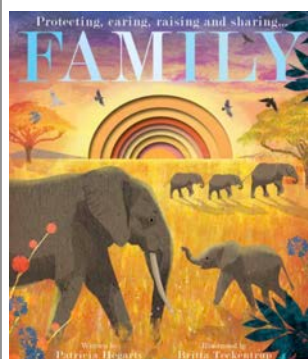
Beasts From the Deep by Matt Ralphs & Kaley Mckean

Did you know there is a place on Earth that's hardly been explored at all? A place with near-freezing temperatures, crushing water pressure and total darkness? Discover a magnificent menagerie of monsters that lurk deep down in our oceans - from sharks that can live for 500 years, to fish with teeth so long they can't close their mouths. Created in consultation with marine biologist Dr Helen Scales and the Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge (Y2+)



My First Ocean Atlas by Catherine Ard & Paul Davis

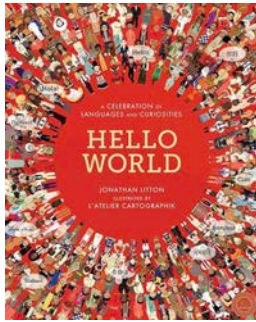
Take a trip to some of the most fascinating ocean habitats, from sun-filled kelp forests, through icy polar waters, to dark ocean depths. Enjoy penguins splashing and diving, dinner time in food-rich coastal waters, and the strange creatures that live in around mysterious smoking chimneys. Filled with bold, scientifically accurate illustrations, fascinating information, and an interactive "Spot It" game, My First Oceans Atlas will thrill animal-lovers and aspiring marine biologists alike. (F2-Y2)



Family by Patricia Hegarty & Britta Teckentrup

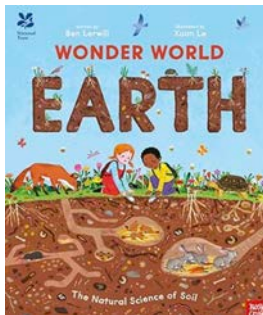
Discover the incredible habits of animals and their families, from diving dolphins to marvellous manatees, and explore what family means to all kinds of creatures. Stunning artwork brings to life nature's incredible stories of the ways in which animals protect and support each other. Lyrical rhyming text creates a calming tone, making this a perfect bedtime read. Die-cuts let young readers peep through the pages, revealing different horizons all across the world (F2-Y1)

Information Book Recommendations

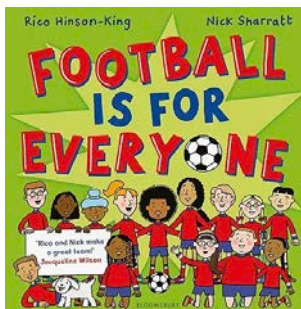


Hello World: A Celebration of Languages and Curiosities by Jonathan Litton & L'Atelier Cartographic

Learn to greet people around the globe in this interactive atlas of hellos. With over 150 languages, flaps to reveal pronunciation and fact-files explaining how to write 'hi' in hieroglyphs and how to sign 'hao' in Native American hand talk. Hello World opens up a world of exploration and greetings at your fingertips (Y2+)

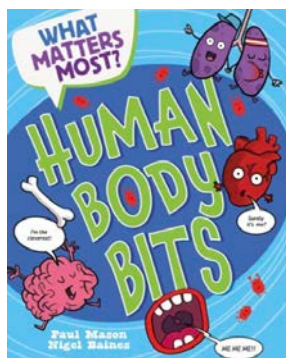


National Trust Wonder World: Earth by Ben Lerwill and Xuan Le
What's the point of soil? What's it ever done for us? From hosting billions of worms to minibeasts and microbes, to being the home of fungi that could allow trees to talk, to providing enough nutrients to feed a planet . . . soil is a muddy, magical, marvellous miracle! An accessible blend of science and nature writing created to inspire awe, wonder and curiosity about the natural world in a picture book format. (Y1-Y2+)



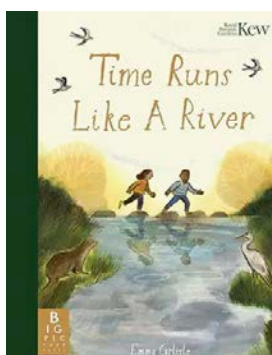
Football is for Everyone by Rico Hinson-King & Nick Sharratt

An empowering and authentic football story by Junior Premier League footballer Rico Hinson-King about bravery, teamwork and making sure that everyone is included. Charlie loves football. He practises all the time, and his dreams come true when he gets a spot on a pro football team. However, at school things aren't going so well as he is left out of football games. Charlie notices other children are being left out too – just because they are different. So Charlie starts a team where all are welcome, no matter who you are or what you look like. (F2-Y1)



Human Body Bits by Paul Mason & Nigel Baines

Brain is sure that he is the most important part in the human body, after all he is in charge, but what about the heart – she's always pumping –and blood cells are convinced they are the most hard-working! So which body part really matters most? Publishes in paperback June 26th (Y1-Y2+)



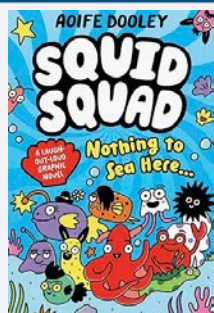
Time Runs Like A River by Emma Carlise

Rivers can be fast-flowing or still, raging or calm, just like us. This lyrical picture book explores the concepts of time and change through the ebb and flow of a river. From the fleeting flash of a kingfisher to slow grinding of pebbles, this beautiful book encourages readers to notice the big and small things happening in nature, as well as reflecting on things which have come and gone, and those yet to be enjoyed. Available in hardback. Publishes in paperback on 3rd July. (F2-Y2)

Graphic Novel Recommendations

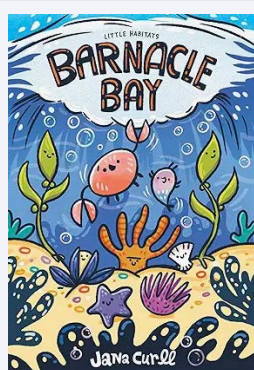
Emerging research shows that comics and graphic novels are motivating, support emerging readers and enrich the skills of accomplished readers. Find out more about the benefits of reading comics and graphic novels here:

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



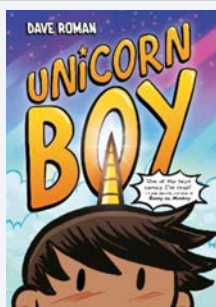
Squid Squad by Aoife Dooley

Ollie and Zing live in a town called Nowhere, deep under the sea – a place that's home to the wackiest and weirdest creatures of the ocean, like the stinky Blob, crafty Hypno-snail, and the mysterious Snakey Unicorn Thing... Ollie and Zing's antics with their colourful neighbours always keep things lively – especially when they get the better of dastardly old Thornelius, the thorn-shooting sea slug! For fans of Bunny vs Monkey. (Y1-Y2+)



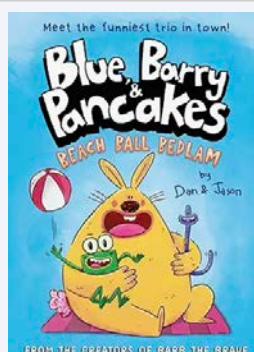
Barnacle Bay by Sheena Jana Curll

This hilarious new graphic novel explores the ecosystem of a bay and the marine creatures and plant life that call it home. Crab is fed up with the bay. Each day is the same; nobody cares for him or appreciates his sense of humor. So he's leaving. Just when he is about to go, he bumps into Larva, who is looking for a home. Crab agrees to show Larva around the bay, exploring its many places and residents, on his way out. Together, they visit the sea kelp, a fine shell-lection of oysters, mussels, clams, and a bickering group of sea anemones, amongst many more neighbours in the bay. (Y2+)



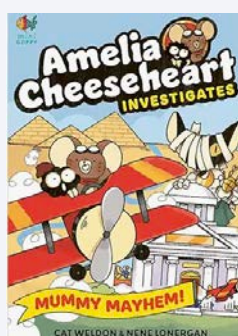
Unicorn Boy by Dave Roman

The first few years of Brian's life were unremarkable – nothing weird about this kid, no sir. Then he found a bump on his head. And it grew and grew and grew...into a full-blown sparkling, singing unicorn horn! It was the last thing a shy kid like Brian could ever want – but destiny waits for no Unicorn Boy. And when shadowy creatures from another realm kidnap his best friend Avery, Brian must accept his fate as a hero and go on a perilous journey to try and save the day! (Y2+)



Blue, Barry and Pancakes by Dan Abdo & Jason Patterson

Blue, Barry & Pancakes are best friends! They're always there for each other, and they love all the usual stuff... Games on the beach, birthday cake, alien pool parties and out-of-this-world adventures !At the beach, Barry and Pancakes lose Blue's beloved beach ball. So they come up with a plan to get it back, but things go hilariously wrong. The three friends must survive a giant whale's stomach, an alien pool party and Duckzilla's volcanic birthday bash if they ever hope to see Blue's beach ball again! (Y1-Y2)



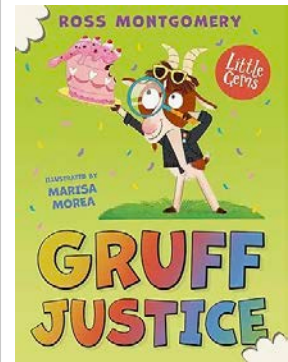
Amelia Cheeseheart Investigates by Cat Weldon & Nene Lonergan

Every evening after the museum closes, Amelia Cheeseheart and her best friend Webster go exploring. But what's this? Special objects are being stolen from the museum's Ancient Egyptian Room. Cleo the Cat Mummy is up to something... It's time for Amelia Cheeseheart to investigate! (Y1-Y2)

Chapter Book Recommendations

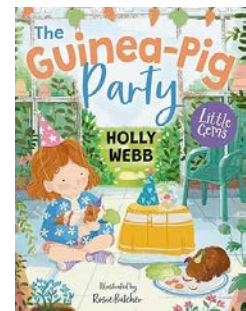
Gruff Justice by Ross Montgomery & Marisa Morea

Who's the naughty nibbler? Someone has taken a big bite out of the birthday cake the farmer has baked, and he's furious! For once, it's not Big Goat Gruff who's to blame, but can he find the real culprit before the farmer turns him into goat pie?! Big Goat Gruff is always in trouble for eating things on the farm. So when the farmer discovers that the birthday cake he made for his wife has a huge bite taken out of it, Gruff is naturally the first suspect. But he didn't do it! Can Gruff find the culprit and clear his name before the farmer and his wife get home and turn him into goat pie?! (5-7yrs)



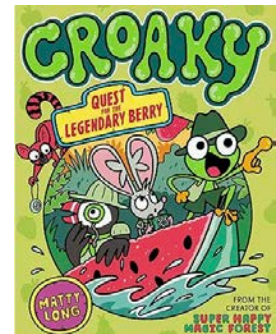
The Guinea-Pig Party by Holly Webb

Katy has always longed for a pet of her own, so when a cute ginger-and-white guinea pig turns up in her mum's vegetable patch, she thinks her dreams have come true! Katy calls the guinea pig Lettuce, as that seems to be her favourite food, and makes a lovely home for her in an old greenhouse at the bottom of the garden. But where has Lettuce come from and will Katy really be able to keep her? (5-7yrs)



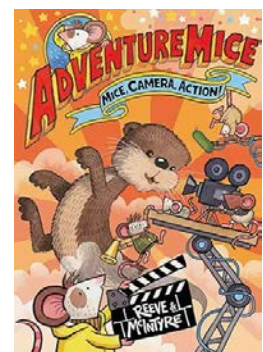
Croaky: Quest for the Legendary Berry by Matty Long

Croaky's head is filled with thoughts of wild adventures. He dreams of hopping across crocodile-infested waters, or being chased by a giant boulder, just like the famous TV explorer Tennessee Toad. When his Aunt Lilly signs him up for the Woggle Scouts, he expects to spend his time crafting with pinecones and selling cookies, but he soon discovers there's much more in store. In this second book, the woggle scouts take off in an old biplane to explore Giant Fruit Island. There they search for a mythical fruit that promises everlasting youth, but soon find their efforts blocked by mischievous lemurs, giant Grow Worms, and perilous river rapids. (5-7yrs)



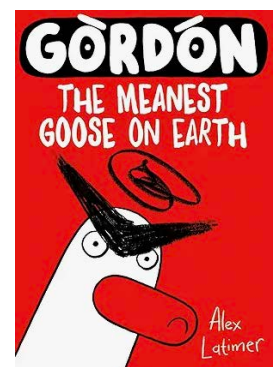
Adventuremice: Mice, Camera, Action! by Ki&Sahar Haghgoo

The newest sparkling title in the adored Adventuremice series! Get those cameras rolling - Pedro and co are off to Hollybush! There will be glitz, glam, and an out-of-control otter . . . All in service of ADVENTUREMICE: The Movie! (5-7yrs)



Gordon The Meanest Goose on Earth by Alex Latimer

There are plenty of mean geese in the world. They hiss and honk and chase you down for a handful of crumbs. But Gordon is the meanest of them all. He stomps on sandcastles, knocks ice-creams out of hands, and punches sharks - he's the worst, and he loves it. Until one day, something extraordinary happens . . . Anthony the Piglet gives him a flower. With this one act of kindness, Gordon's world begins to crumble. Join Gordon the Goose, Anthony the Piglet, and the citizens of Grover Gardens for a laugh-out-loud journey of empathy, courage, and soggy bread. (7+)



Chapter Book Recommendations

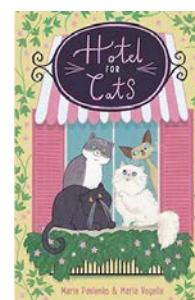
Woodland Explorers Club: Shyla's Woodwide Web by Ewa Jozefkiewicz & Gilliant Flint

At Forest School, the Woodland Explorers are learning about fungi and how it connects trees underground in a huge network known as the Wood Wide Web. When Shyla is given her grandmother's binoculars, she discovers mushrooms growing in a circle, called a pixie ring. Suddenly her eyes are opened to a whole new world – and magical woodland creatures show Shyla how to spread the word about protecting the forest. (7+)



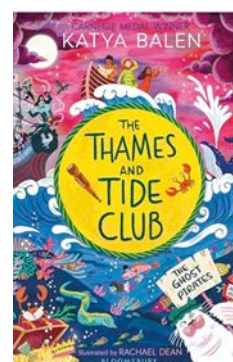
Hotel for Cats by Marie Pavlenko & Marie Voyelle

At a hotel in Paris four cats are in charge. There's bossy Bobine, a secret knitter; tough-talking Mulo; wannabe singing superstar Carpette; and Couscousse, who's friends with a ghost. When a scared new cat, Wolfgang, arrives, the feline friends have a new mission: to find out why he is afraid and how to make him feel at home. Translated from French. (7+)



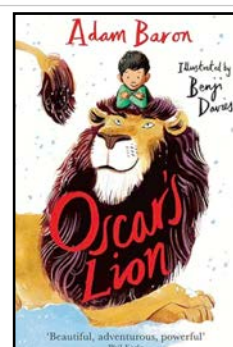
The Thames & Tide Club 3: The Ghost Pirates by Katya Balen

When the mudlarking gang find a mysterious cutlass on the banks of the Thames, they immediately know that something fishy is afoot. When the cutlass vanishes, and Mrs Drummonds disappears too, it's down to Clem and the gang to find them. The mystery leads them to a band of ghost pirates, who will stop at nothing to find their long-lost treasure. With the help from their friends in the Undercity, the gang must set sail on the seven seas, solve riddles and save the day. You do not need to have read books 1 and 2 to enjoy this book. (7+)



Oscar's Lion by Adam Baron

Oscar is a little terrified to find that a lion is going to be looking after him for the weekend. But when the lion lets him eat as many biscuits as he wants, and reads him his favourite story ten times, Oscar realises he might be on to something good. Soon, Oscar discovers that the lion can change into different animals and the pair find themselves having all kinds of adventures! But before the lion has to go, might he have one more amazing transformation up his sleeve? (7+)



Gaston le Dog by Michael Rosen

Gaston le Dog longs to return to the beautiful beach he remembers from years ago. So he sets off on an adventure – but mystery and danger lurk at every turn, and Gaston will need all the help he can get from the friends he meets along the way. But can they all be trusted? And will Gaston's odyssey bring him everything he hoped for? (7+)



Our favourite class reads!

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



Class 1

Do Not Open This Book!
By Andy Lee and Heath McKenzie



Class 2

Little Rabbit Foo Foo
By Michael Rosen and Arthur Robins



Class 3

Tadpole's Promise
By Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross



Class 4

Bunnies on the Bus
By Philip Ardagh and Ben Mantle



Class 5

Awesome Riddles
By Beaky and Starlight



Class 6

The Last Wolf
By Mini Grey

Our favourite class reads!

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



Class 7

Oi Frog!

By Kes Gray and Jim Field



Class 8

Is there a dog in this book?

By Viviane Schwarz



Class 9

Don't Trust Fish!

By Neil Sharpson and
Dan Santat



Class 10

Nibbles the Book Monster

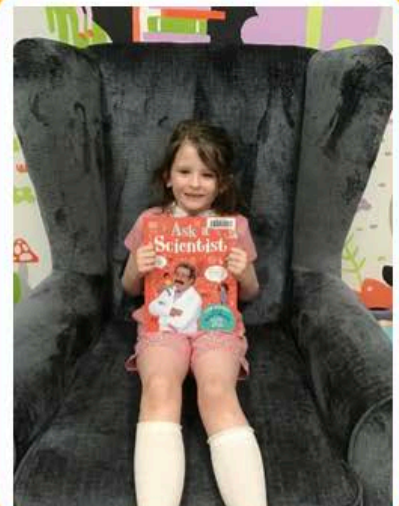
By Emma Yarlett



Class 11

Baby Aliens Got My Teacher

By Pamela Butchart and
Thomas Flintham



Class 12

Ask a Scientist

By Professor Robert Winston

Get Ready for the Summer Reading Challenge 2025!

Explore the Story Garden collection!

Hey there intrepid explorer,

How do you fancy journeying into an enchanting world to meet all kinds of creatures?

OR how about a rip-roaring adventure in the great outdoors? OR let's dazzle your friends with unbelievable facts about bugs, bees, and superhero plants?

Get inspired for your very own reading adventure with this year's official Summer Reading Challenge book collection - take a look below!

Lots of these titles will be available for you to enjoy **for free** through your local library.



THE
READING
AGENCY

Picture Books



THE
READING
AGENCY

Early Readers

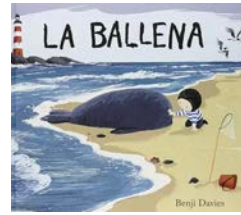


Find out more about the Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge (launching 21st June) by visiting a local library or online <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> . If you read any of the books, please share books reviews, recommendations or photos with us via class9@lydgate-inf.sheffield.sch.uk or your class teacher. Happy summer reading!

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-5:30pm
Tuesday 10am-5:30pm
Wednesday 10am-5:30pm
Thursday – closed
Friday 10am-5:30pm
Saturday 10am-1pm
Sunday – closed

Did you know...?

As well as books, you can also borrow ebooks, ecomics, emagazines, and audiobooks. You can reserve items online. It's all free – just apply for a library card online or at any Sheffield library.

Local independent children's bookshops



Opening times

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

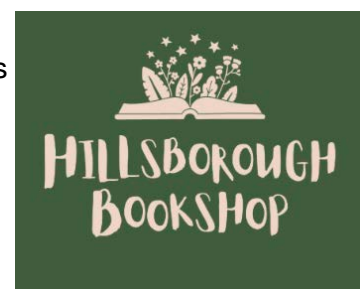
Rhyme & Reason Bookshop
681 Ecclesall Rd
Sheffield
S11 8TG
0114 2661950



Opening times

Wed 10-6, Thurs – Saturday 10am-4pm
Story time sessions Thursdays and Fridays
11am

Hillsborough Bookshop
89 Middlewood Rd
Sheffield
S6 4GX
0114 4573964



Road to Reading



Adults are invited to join the Reading Agency's Road to Reading to help them get into a regular reading habit. A little reading can go a long way. It can connect us to others, spark curiosity, boost our self-esteem and support our mental health. Also, children are also more likely to choose to read for pleasure if they see adults around them reading for pleasure. **Change your life, 30 minutes at a time!** Pledge to read every week and see what a difference it makes. Sign up (free) for book recommendations and advice. <https://worldbooknight.org/resources/6656>

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 collections

<https://empathylab.uk/rfe/>

- Yoto Carnegie Medals shortlist 2025

<https://carnegies.co.uk/medals/>

- UKLA Book Awards Shortlist 2025

<https://ukla.org/ukla-book-awards-2025-shortlist/>

- Outside in World - world literature and translated texts

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

- Books for Keeps free online independent magazine and book reviews

<https://booksforkeeps.co.uk/>

Happy reading,

Mrs Varley & Miss Whitehead

