



Lydgate Infant School

Reading Newsletter

Summer 2026



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

Lu Fraser



Lu Fraser is an award-winning children's author who has published 14 books. She lives with her family in England and writes children's picture books in a shed in her garden! Lu is an international best-selling and New York Times best-selling author. Her books have been translated into 34 languages.

You can listen to Lu Fraser's CBeebies bed time story which was created for Children in Need by following this link: [Lu Fraser CBeebies bedtime story](#) 'The Littlest Yak' by Lu Fraser has been transformed into a show and is now going into its fourth year on the stage! Lu is currently working on brand new picture books, so keep your eyes peeled for new titles later this year!

To find out more about Lu Fraser, you could visit her website by following this link: [Lu Fraser Children's Writer](#)

Hello, everyone at Lydgate Infant School!

I hope you've all had a **brilliant** summer term and are looking forward to the long summer holidays?

My name is Lu Fraser and I write picture books for children *just like you!* In fact, some of you have been reading one of my books recently ('The Forever Bear'), so I just wanted to write you a little note to say *thank you* and also to say...

...don't stop there! **Keep reading!**

Reading is one of the most **amazing** things you will *ever* get to do – it can open the door into a world filled with talking squirrels or zoom you away on a broom with a little witch. Books can take you anywhere, show you anything, teach you everything - they can make you laugh out loud and they can make you think, too. (Aren't they brilliant?!).

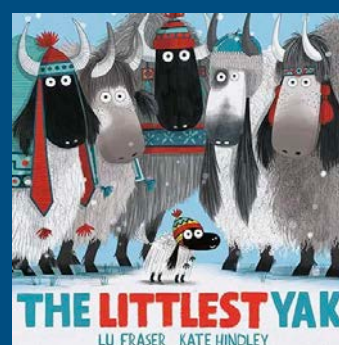
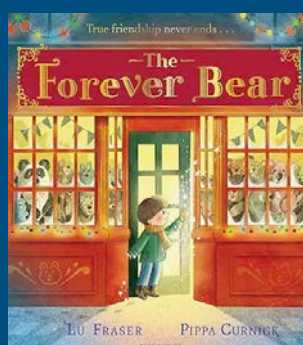
But I also know that finding the *right* book can be tricky (and getting to grips with some of those words, too). **Keep going!** Maybe the best place to start is by asking yourself this question:

'What kinds of books make **me** happy?'

And one of the other great things about books is that you can take them *anywhere* and read them *everywhere*, so, whatever wonderful things you are doing this summer, I hope that you will take a book along on your adventures. There's a story out there, somewhere, waiting just for you...

Happy reading! And with all my very best wishes,

Lu Fraser



Our favourite class reads!

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



Class 1

Clean Up!
By Nathan Bryon and
Dapo Adeola



Class 2

Going to the Volcano
By Andy Stanton
and Miguel Ordóñez



Class 3

Meet the Planets
By Caryl Hart and
Bethan Woollvin



Class 4

The Sun Thief
By Alice Hemming and
Nicola Slater



Class 5

The Big Book of Bugs
By Yuval Zommer



Class 6

Press Start!
By Thomas Flintham

Our favourite class reads!

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



Class 7

The Disgusting Sandwich
By Gareth Edwards and
Hannah Shaw



Class 8

Yo Ho Ho! A Pirating We'll Go
By Kaye Umansky and
Nick Sharratt



Class 9

Gory Rory Fangface Needs a Kiss
By Ziggy Hanaor and
Ollie Silvester



Class 10

The Hat Full of Secrets
By Karl Newson and
Wazza Pink



Class 11

Matilda
By Roald Dahl and
Quentin Blake



Class 12

The Day the Crayons Quit
By Drew Daywalt and
Oliver Jeffers

A lovely message for our pupils about multilingual reading and storytelling from Dr Sabine Little



Sabine Little is Professor of Literacy and Multilingualism at the University of Sheffield, and Vice President of the UK Literacy Association. Her work focuses on the links between language, identity, and belonging, and she regularly helps charities, organisations, individual schools, and governments in developing strategies that support multilingual children. Her work on setting up the multilingual section in Sheffield Children's Library won an international award for diversity and inclusion, and the Quilt of Welcome (which includes work from children at LIS) is currently touring London Libraries as part of the Lord Mayor's Loved and Wanted initiative. You can see more about the quilt at www.quiltofwelcome.org

Hi children at LIS,

My name is Sabine - some of you have met me when I came and visited around the time of World Book Day, to do some multilingual storytelling and shared reading in the school, and you also helped me with the Quilt of Welcome. I work at the University of Sheffield, where I spend my time figuring out how we can help schools and other places (like libraries) to understand how brilliant it is for children to speak lots of different languages.

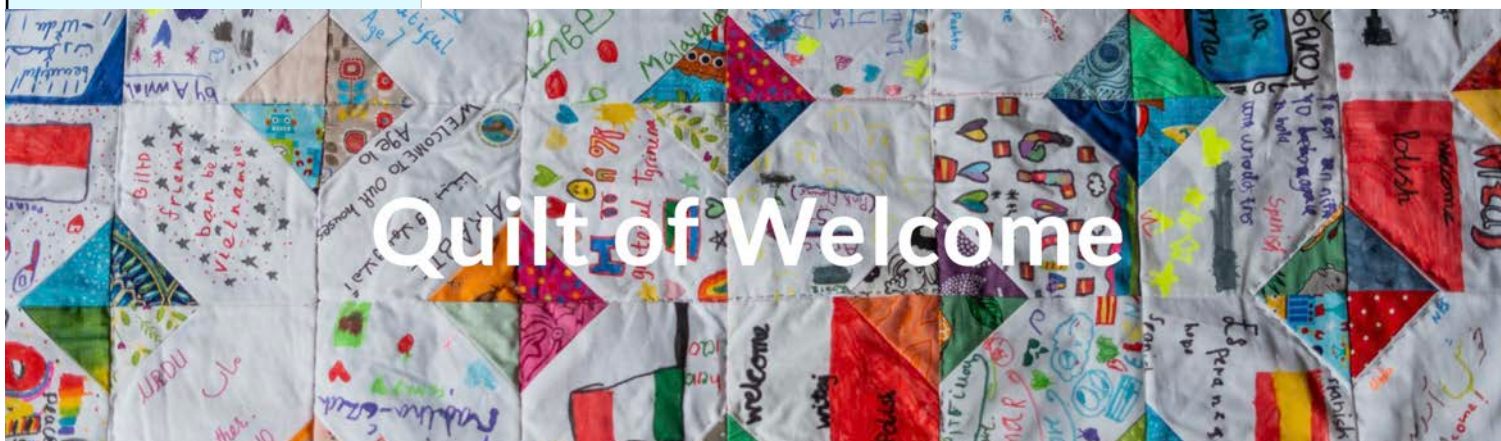
I love coming to LIS because your school is already doing lots of fantastic things, like the pictures you have of children with books they read in other languages, and having books in different languages available to read. I love how all children are interested in the languages everybody speaks, and so respectful of each other's languages and cultures.

Reading is a fantastic thing to do to in any language, but sometimes, when you speak more than one language, reading is easier in one language than in the other, and that can feel very frustrating. Over the years, I have learnt some great tips from other children on how to make it easier: you can listen to an audiobook, or you can even listen to the audiobook and read it at the same time, so your brain connects what you hear and what you see. If you don't have an audiobook, you can ask a grown-up to record the story on their phone, so you can listen again and again. And you can do the same for younger children - it might feel a bit strange reading a book that is for younger children, but if you can record the story for them, you can really help someone else develop their own reading. You can find books in lots of languages at Sheffield Central Children's Library! Make sure your parents always write any reading in your reading diaries, no matter what language it is in, and thank you for being such a fantastic school!

Next time I'm visiting the school, I am looking forward to learning more from you!

Lots of love,

Sabine x



Breakfast Club!

Breakfast Club have been enjoying a relaxing and social start to their day by sharing a story each morning.

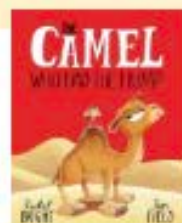
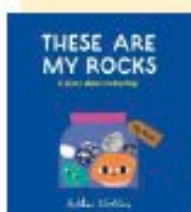


A current favourite at Breakfast Club is Oh Me, Oh My, A Pie! by Jan Fearnley. This made the children laugh and they had a great discussion about the importance of sharing!





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



The winner was...



It makes me
laugh so much!

F2 child

It is silly but you
learn about
trees too!

Y1 child

I like that the tree tells the story.

Y2 child

Thank you to everyone who entered our SPARK! competition!

Congratulations to Eilidh in
Class 8. She was not only
our school winner, but also
a runner up for the official
SPARK! competition!



Eilidh created an amazing
mosaic picture based on
*The Camel Who Had the
Hump*. Eilidh got a special
prize from the Spark team
Well done!



Author in the spotlight

EOIN MCLAUGHLIN



Hello Lydgate Infant School!

Your fantastic-amazing teachers Miss Whitehead and Mrs Varley told me that you've been reading my book *Once I was a Tree*. You guys clearly have great taste in books.

I'm so happy you enjoyed it and I'm over the moon that you voted for it in the UKLA and Spark Book Awards. Can you believe I won? I can't.

What was your favourite part — the dung beetle named Barbara or when the seed bumped its head 17 times and then passed through a squirrel called Derek?

Or maybe you're more mature than me and enjoyed the parts about the magic of reading.

I've also heard you guys have a Wildlife Garden. That sounds amazing. Is it filled with plants and animals and insects? I wonder what amazing stories they have to tell - maybe this Summer you could write your own story about a mini-beast or a worm or a badger. Or the wind or the rain or a star or an ant. I bet you could draw cool pictures too.

I hope you have an amazing summer holiday. I just wrote a new book that's all about summer holidays and the beach. It's called *We Were a Two*. It has jokes too. You might like it.

Here are three picture books I'll be reading on the beach this summer, that you might love too:

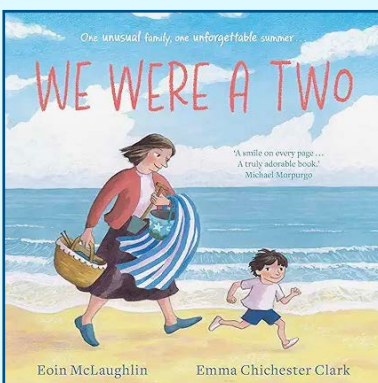
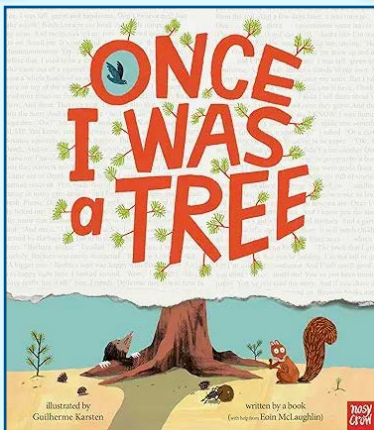
The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales
by Jon Scieszka

The Pet Potato
Book by Josh Lacey

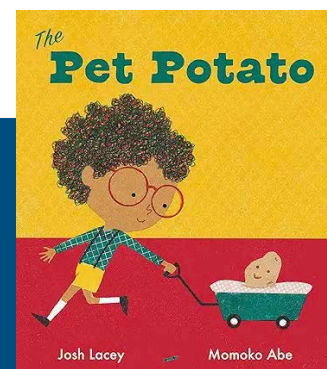
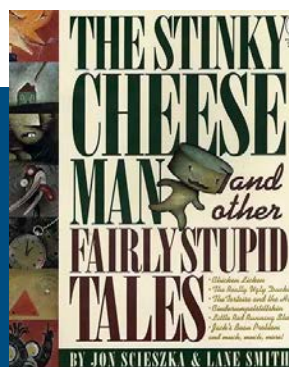
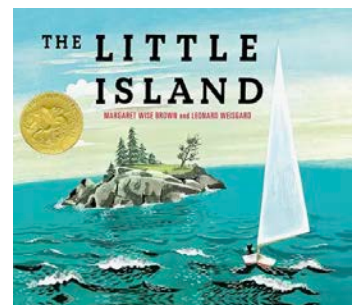
The Little Island
Book by Margaret Wise Brown

SCHooooOOOOOL'S OUT FOR SUM-MER

Eoin x



Eoin McLaughlin is a best-selling Irish children's author whose books have been translated into 29 languages. Before becoming an author, he was a Creative Director at Channel 4.



Class 9 and the English 4-11 Picture Book Awards Non-Fiction Category

Class 9 took part in the English 4-11 Picture Book Awards shadowing scheme in the non-fiction category. The books were read aloud at story time and then displayed so that the children could choose to reread them during our daily relaxed reading sessions. Once we had read and chatted about them all, Class 9 voted for their favourite. Frog, Weirdosaurus and Tuck Me In were popular, but their favourite was....The Great Oak Tree by Zoë Armstrong & Amélie Videlo! The official overall winner of the award in the 4-7 age category (as announced by the English Association) was Tuck Me In.



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 final book club of this academic year. Have you read them? Let us know your thoughts!

King School (For ages 4+)

by Alexis Deacon

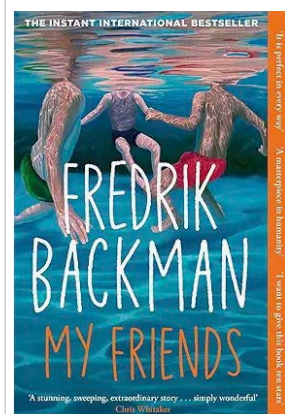
The people have a new King – but he is a child. He doesn't act like a King and likes doing headstands in puddles. So they build a special King School to teach him everything they think he should know, starting with: "Sit still, don't move, keep quiet and listen." The little King finds it all very hard, too hard – and at last shouts, "NO!" He's going to make the rules. Everyone's lives are literally turned upside-down, and everything is suddenly much more fun. He leads them out to the Wild and says, "This is my King School."



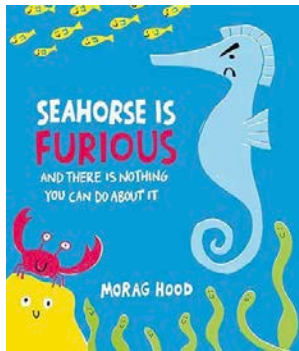
My Friends (Adult Fiction)

by Fredrik Backman

Twenty-five years ago, a group of teenagers found solace in each other during one unforgettable summer. Their friendship inspired a transcendent work of art, a painting that now mysteriously belongs to eighteen-year-old aspiring artist Louisa. Driven to learn the story behind its creation, Louisa embarks on a journey to the seaside town where it all began. But as she gets closer to the painting's birthplace, Louisa learns that happy endings do not always take the form we expect. Fredrik Backman returns with an unforgettably funny, deeply moving tale of four teenagers whose friendship creates a bond so powerful that it changes a complete stranger's life years later.



Picturebook Recommendations



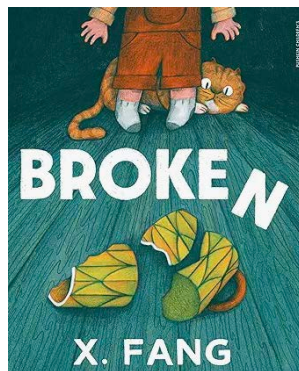
Seahorse is Furious and There Is Nothing You Can Do About It by Morag Hood

Seahorse is having a bad day, in a terrible week, in an awful ocean. He woke up wrong and stubbed his tail and everything is wet! So don't tell him funny stories or give him a hug, and DEFINITELY don't give him his favourite snacks on his special plate... Because Seahorse is furious and there is NOTHING you can do about it. Or is there...? (F2-Y1)



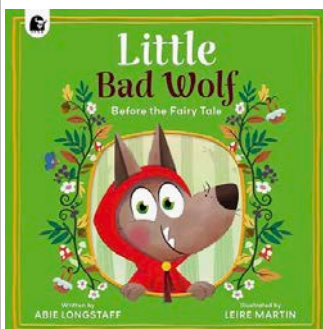
Milo and the Mountain by Jamie Carroll

Milo wants to climb The Mountain. He really does. But The Mountain is HUGE and Milo is scared. Can he ever reach the top? Yes, he can. With just a little help from his friends! (F2-Y2)



Broken by X. Fang

When Mei Mei accidentally breaks her ama's favourite cup, she's convinced it's the end of the world! What if Ama gets angry? What if she yells? What if she kicks Mei Mei out of her house? So Mei Mei decides not to say anything... But when Mimi - her ama's innocent cat - gets blamed, the guilt is too much! And as hard as she tries to hide from it, Mei Mei can't stop the truth from rushing out. (Y1-Y2)



Little Bad Wolf by Abie Longstaff & Leire Martin

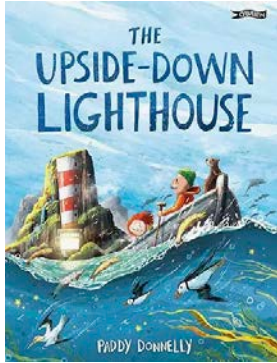
The Big Bad Wolf hasn't always been bad, but with his sharp teeth, short temper and a naughty Little Red stealing his special cloak, it might only be a matter of time... Full of adventure, mischief, and a big bad twist, Little Big Bad Wolf is the perfect read for children who love fairy tales with a fresh, playful edge - and a dash of trouble! Join Little Wolfie and his school friends as we learn what The Big Bad Wolf was like before the fairy tale. (Y1-Y2)



Mo's Stick by Fiona Lumbers

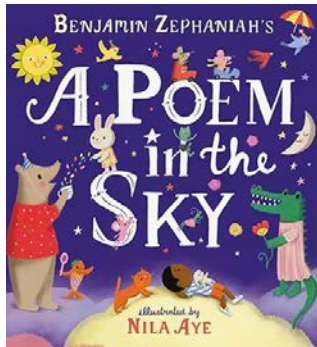
Mo is sad - the little mouse's favourite stick is GONE! It could take Mo up to the stars and across the sea, and no other stick will ever be as good. But was it the stick that was special, or could it have been Mo's wild and wonderful imagination? Beautifully rendered illustrations with collage elements make this hugely appealing for young readers. With clever die-cuts throughout, this is the perfect book to inspire imaginative play. (F2-Y1)

Picturebook Recommendations



The Upside Down Lighthouse by Paddy Donnelly

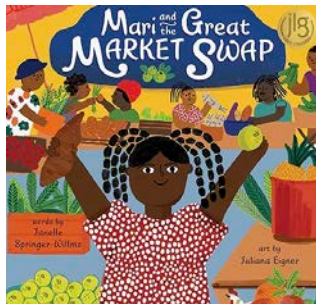
On a mysterious, foggy island, way out at sea, stands an upside-down lighthouse. Here, fish fly and birds swim. Stars shine during the day and waterfalls fall upwards! Come with Grandad and Meara to this topsy-turvy island full of wonders. And share the magic of looking at the world upside-down! (F2-Y2)



A Poem in the Sky

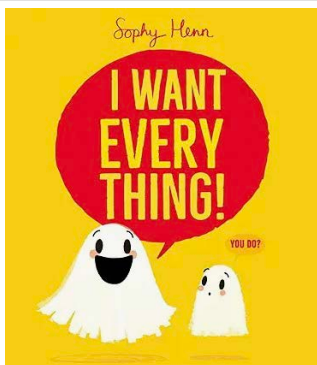
by Benjamin Zephaniah & Nila Aye

Poems are EVERYWHERE – in your dreams, on your fingers and in your teeth! There's even a poem in you. Can't you see it? It's right there. Get ready to see poems wherever you are in this toe-tapping celebration of rhythm and rhyme (F2-Y2)



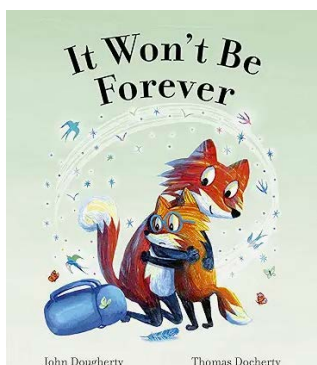
Mari and the Great Market Swap by Janelle Springer-Willms & Juliana Eigner

Mari loves to help Granny sell their ripe guavas at the market. But today, a truck toppled over on the main road, so customers can't reach the market. Without customers, the vendors won't make enough money to buy what they need for their families. But Mari is a problem solver, and she has an idea. What about... a great market swap! The story is set on the Caribbean island of Barbados, and endnotes provide further learning on markets, the types of food in the book, and creole languages. (F2-Y1)



I Want Everything by Sophie Henn

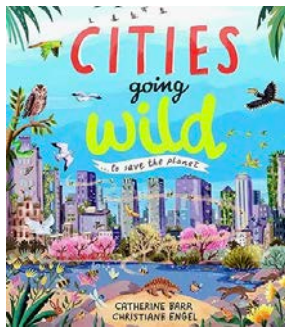
Big Ghost wants ALL the things! Except, do they, really? Luckily, Little Ghost is there to ask all the right questions (such as: 'Do you want an actual octopus as a hat?') to gently guide Big Ghost to the realisation that maybe what they really want is a friend to help them out when they get in a pickle. (F2-Y2)



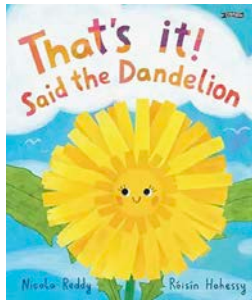
It Won't be Forever by John Dougherty & Thomas Docherty

In the woods there lives a fox family. One of the cubs, Vixie, has a close relationship with her dad, Rey. He makes her feel safe and he's always there for her. One day, Rey has to go away for a while, but Vixie can't bear to be apart from her dad! Rey reassures her he'll be back before she knows it and gifts her a kingfisher feather as a reminder of love. He promises that as soon as he can, he'll be back home. So Vixie is brave and sooner than she knows it, her daddy comes back! Vixie knows that missing her dad is not unbearable, for she understands it won't be forever. A gentle story about separation anxiety (F2-Y2)

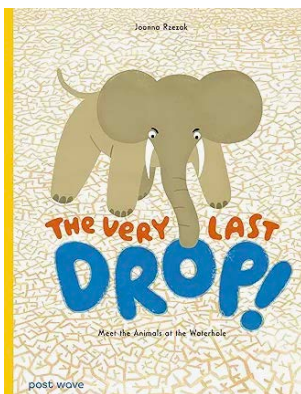
Information Book Recommendations



Cities Going Wild to Save the Planet by Catherine Barr
Bring nature to the big city! Cities across the world are doing it – making themselves friendlier places for plants and wildlife – and happier, healthier places for all of us. Find out about Sky Forests and Bird-Friendly Cities, Spongey Spaces and Rain Gardens, Insect Super-Highways, Living Walls, Urban Jungle Food and all the other ways in which cities worldwide are changing. Have fun spotting the birds, insects and other creatures that share our cities. And look out for lots of activities, so that YOU can make YOUR city green! (Y2+)



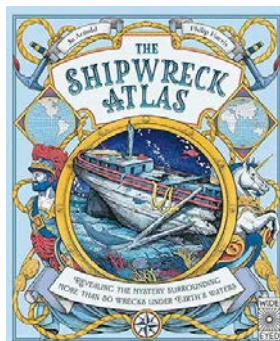
That's It, Said the Dandelion by Nicola Reddy
A dandelion seed fell on the soft grass. 'Tell me,' said she, 'just what can I be?' As a dandelion turns from seed to flower to fluffy puffball, she wonders what life is all about. Additional pages at the end give further interesting information about the life cycle of dandelions, their uses and the origins of their name. (F2-Y1)



The Very Last Drop by Joanna Rzezak
As dawn breaks over the African savanna, animals gather to enjoy a refreshing morning bath. Throughout the day, they parade around the waterhole as the sun climbs higher in the sky, the heat intensifies... and the lake gradually dries up. Will everyone get a drink before it's too late? But just when it seems hope is lost, a clever baby elephant steps in with a big idea to save the day. Perfect for introducing children to the wonders of African wildlife and the importance of precious water in sustaining life. (F2-Y2)



A First Book of Bugs by Simon Mole & Adam Ming
Discover a secret world thriving right underneath your feet. From beetles to butterflies, spiders to scorpions, meet the most bizarre and awe-inspiring bugs ever to walk the Earth! Here is the insect kingdom in all its glory as fascinating facts are turned into thirty poems full of humour and heart. Shortlisted for the 2026 CLIPPA Awards (F2-Y2)



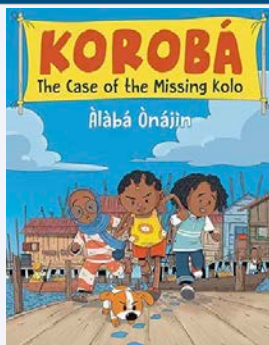
The Shipwreck Atlas by Jo Arnold & Philip Harris
Why do ships sink? What really happens when they go down? With more than 50 fascinating case studies uncovering the mysteries surrounding shipwrecks beneath the waves, The Shipwreck Atlas offers a captivating journey through maritime history and discovery. The Shipwreck Atlas combines adventure, history and science in a visually stunning package. (Y2+)

KOROBÁ

Graphic Novel Recommendations

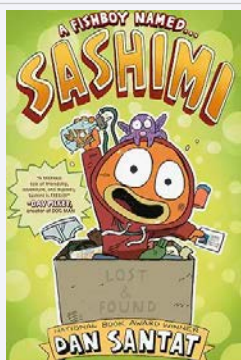
Emerging research shows that comics and graphic novels are motivating, support emerging readers and enrich the skills of accomplished readers. Find out more about the benefits of reading comics and graphic novels here:

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



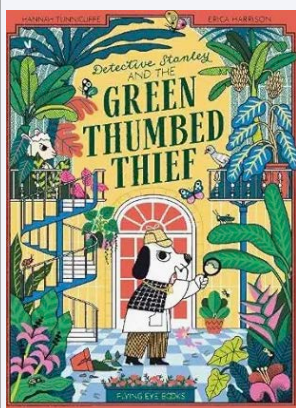
Koroba: The Case of the Missing Kolo by Àlàbá Ònájìṅ

A new graphic novel series reminiscent of Tintin, set in a vibrant African community. Ten-year-old Korobá knows everyone in Makoko, the Nigerian fishing village where she lives. Between doing chores for her mother, she roams free with her best friends, Saidat and Joba, and her adorable dog, Popi. The last thing Korobá would expect in Makoko is a thief. Yet Saidat's wooden piggy bank has been stolen! Buckle up, budding mystery fans... It's time to join Korobá and friends on their thrilling chase for the culprit. (Y2+)



A Fishboy named Sashimi by Dan Santat

In the town of Barnacle Bay, a creature lurks. He's come from the ocean, in search of others like him. He is... a fishboy named SASHIMI! To fit in with humans, Sashimi sneaks into an elementary school and pretends to be a student. But he's clearly a fish out of water! When Sashimi finds out the whole town is on the hunt for the Beast of Barnacle Bay - a creature who sounds a lot like Sashimi - hijinks ensue! Fortunately, with the help of a new friend and the class goldfish, Sashimi figures out a way to stay afloat. (Y2+)



Detective Stanley and the Green Thumbed Thief by Hannah Tunnicliffe & Erica Harrison

It's a botanical burglary! Who is swiping precious and priceless plants from the Narlybone Gardens? Barnaby Moss, Head of Horticulture is flummoxed. Somebody is thieving very rare specimens from the wintergarden and they are worth a lot of money. The latest Detective Stanley mystery is curlier than a vine and full of twisty secrets. Join Detective Stanley and his pal, Parker Pine, to catch the botanical bandit! A perfect comic for young readers moving on from picture books, children who love comics, or anyone who likes a good mystery! (Y1-Y2+)



Pizza and Taco 11: Scariest Sleepover Ever by Stephen Shaskan

Pizza and Taco's sleepover night is about to begin! They have their sleeping bags, their friends are arriving, and their Best Sleepover Ever playlist is on! Pizza, Taco, and their friends are not allowed to watch a scary movie, but you know what's just as awesome and shivery? GHOST STORIES! Pizza and Taco won't get too scared, right?! (Y1-Y2+)

"PAWSSIBLY THE SWEETEST BOOKS on the shelf!"

—BEN CLANTON, bestselling author of the NARWHAL AND JELLY series

Graphic Novel Recommendations

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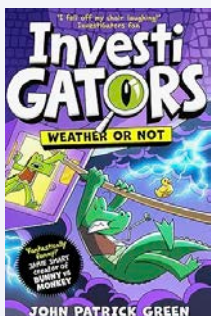
Cat and Cat Adventures 6: The Lair of the Owl King by Susie Yi

Into the belly of the beast! After recovering the orbs of the Past and Present, Squash, Ginny, and the rest of the crew head to the zoo to secure the Orb of the Future from their greatest enemy yet: the Owl King. Their best plan of attack: to have no plan at all! Armed with nothing but their wits (and some snacks, of course) the Spirit Squad must find a way to rescue the third orb and restore the Staff of Knowledge. If not, the Spirit Realm, Human World, and the future of snacking all hang in the balance! ever? (Y1-Y2+)

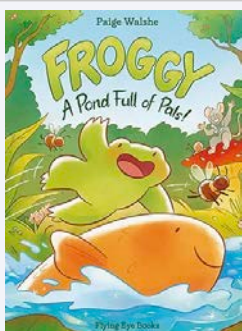


Pablo and Splash: Viking Voyage by Sheena Dempsey

When Pablo and Splash tell their cheeky friend Benji about the Vikings and their impressive longships, Benji is amazed. He's desperate to steal a time machine and go plundering for treasure with those ancient warriors. Our time-travelling heroes Pablo and Splash must get to Viking-era Ireland in time to warn the monks about the imminent invasion - and make their own mark on history. (Y1-Y2+)



InvestiGators 9: Weather or Not by John Patrick Green The InvestiGators' latest case is a dairy disaster! The city's water supply has been replaced with milk and the newest feline agents, the InvestiGatos, don't seem to be complaining. What's with the monkey-scientists and why is the rain green?! All will be revealed in this sticky volume of InvestiGators! (Y1-Y2+)



Froggy: A Pond Full of Pals by Paige Walshe

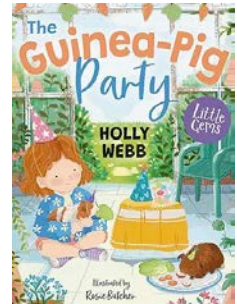
A small pond like any other lies in the forest, but dwelling in this pond is no ordinary Froggy. He's a little bit of a klutz, and making friends with local wizards, falling foul of picnicking humans, and befriending giant fish are all in a day's work for this slimy guy. Learning how to deal with big feelings, big magic spells, and big fish in the big world can be a lot for a little frog, but he's not giving up any time soon. new graphic novel (Y1-Y2+)

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Chapter Book Recommendations

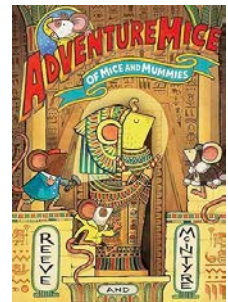
The Guinea Pig Party by Holly Webb

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)



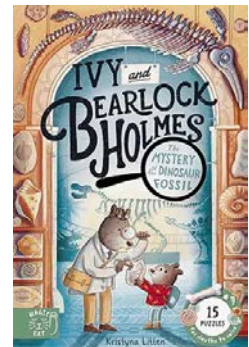
Adventuremice: Of Mice and Mummies by Reeve & McIntyre

In the latest addition to this much-loved series, the intrepid Adventuremice make a HUGE discovery! What follows is a race against time to reach a secret island, full of incredible mouse sphinxes, pyramids, palaces . . . and the tomb of Queen Neferteacake! (5-8yrs)



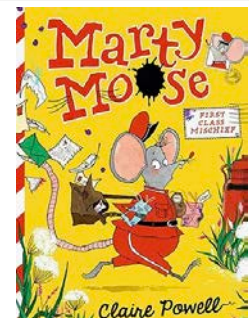
Ivy and Bearlock Holmes 2: The Mystery of the Dinosaur Fossil by Kristyna Listen

The second title in a cosy crime puzzle series following the adventures of super-sleuth Ivy and her grandpa, Bearlock Holmes. When a dinosaur fossil disappears from Bearona's remote Jurassic Ridge, Ivy and Bearlock face their trickiest case yet. With 15 interactive puzzles woven through the story, readers can join the duo as they unravel a mystery inspired by real-world fossils, evolution and conservation. (5-7yrs)



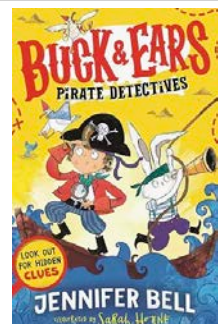
Marty Moose: First Class Mischief by Claire Powell

It's Marty Moose's first day on the job as Postmouse. He's ironed his uniform, polished his buttons and waxed his whiskers; he's ready to go! But things take a tricky turn when he gets lost in Whisker Warren and needs rescuing by a doolally rabbit named Nibbles, and then gets caught in the crossfire of two less-than-neighbourly toads. Who knew postage could be so perilous! (6-9yrs)



Buck & Ears, Pirate Detectives by Jennifer Bell

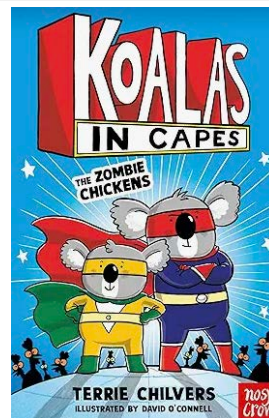
Buck and his loyal rabbit, Ears, are officially the WORSE PIRATES on the Seventy Seas! When they bump into the terrifying CAPTAIN BLOODFANG, she gives them an ultimatum: follow CLUES to find her missing chef, or else be turned into pirate stew! Along with their misfit crew, can Buck and Ears SOLVE THE CASE and save themselves from a horrible fate? (6-9yrs)



Chapter Book Recommendations

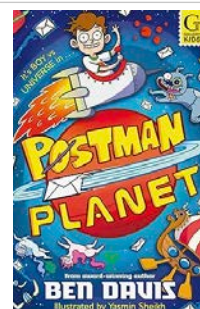
Koalas in Capes by Terrie Chilvers

Put on your super-suit and prepare for comic-book capers in Pawtonia, where the animals wear clothes, hot chocolate flows and evil is just an ostrich feather away! Meet Bob and Archie: two hapless, but enthusiastic, koalas who are just getting to grips with their superpowers when faced with their archenemy. Enter Dr Colossus, an evil giant ostrich, who has grand plans to take over Pawtonia by releasing a hoard of zombie chickens loose in the city! Our fluffy duo needs everything it takes to stop Dr Colossus and his robber duck minions. Can the Koalas in Capes master their powers in time to save the fate of Pawtonia? (7-9yrs)



Postman Planet by Ben Davis & Yasmin Sheikh

Postman Planet has a big secret. LOOK AWAY NOW IF YOU CAN'T KEEP SECRETS. Although he PRETENDS to be the best postman in the Universe, he's actually only nine. Anyway, he's on a mission to make an essential delivery to the Planet of Fluffy Unicorns: an inflatable planet that is, as we speak, deflating. It's up to Postman Planet and his ANNOYING new assistant Stamp, who is part-robot part-dog, to save the day. (6-8yrs)



Captain Sunshine by Alex Milway

It's Bella's first day onboard as Captain of the Sunshine but commanding a legendary cruise ship is no easy task. Especially when it's a ship bursting with animal passengers! From penguins to rhinos, giraffes to parrots, life is never dull on board the Sunshine. The first in a four-book series from the author of award-winning HOTEL FLAMINGO (6-8yrs)



Izzy the Inventor and the Princess Plot by Zanna Davidson & Elissa Elwick

It's time for the school cooking competition and Izzy and her sister are having an argument about the best way to build a cake tower, when Henry the Unicorn arrives with breaking news: the top five fairytale princesses have been kidnapped. Izzy and Henry must use their science skills to track down the princesses in Fairytale Land. Along the way, Izzy learns the secret to an excellent cake tower and, more importantly still, the power of sisterhood. (5-8yrs)



The Guinea Pig Rescue by Pamela Butchart & Becka Moor

When the school guinea pigs escape, it's CHAOS! Class 2R are determined to find all the hairy little runaways, but what if the guinea pigs actually don't want to be found...? (5-7yrs)



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

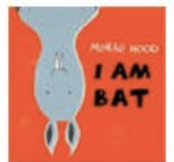
Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.



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

Get Ready for the Summer Reading Challenge

READ to the BEAT

The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge is Read to the Beat, delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by Universal Music Group UK. The theme inspires children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity. This year's Challenge is brought to life with illustrations by award-winning author and illustrator, Harry Woodgate, and will launch on 20 June in Scotland and 4 July in England and Wales.



How it works

Welcome to the Summer Reading Challenge! Take part online or at your local library.

Online

At your library



1. Sign up

Click 'Join now' to create your account.



2. Read books

Set your own goal and read anything you like. Add your books to your profile, with a review!



3. Earn digital rewards

Unlock special online badges and a certificate when you reach your Challenge goal!*

*Physical rewards like medals are only available when taking part at select libraries.



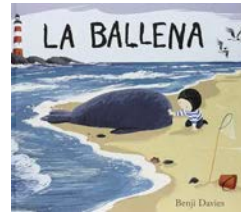
For younger readers (ages 4–7)



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. 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 10am – 4pm

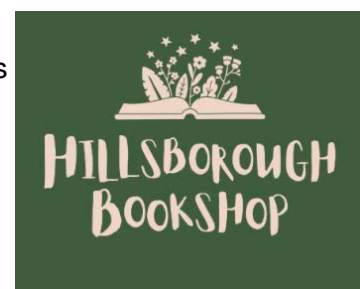
Rhyme & Reason Bookshop
681 Ecclesall Rd
Sheffield
S11 8TG
0114 2661950



Opening times

Wednesday – Saturday 10am-4pm
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.lovereadingleading4kids.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 2026

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



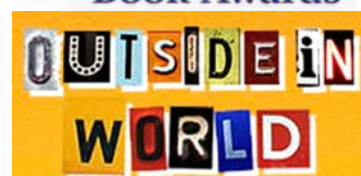
- UKLA Book Awards

<https://ukla.org/ukla-book-awards-longlist-2026/>



- 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