



Lydgate Infant School

Reading Newsletter

Winter 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

Caryl Hart



Caryl Hart is a local award-winning children's author who has published over 80 children's books. She spends a lot of time visiting schools, libraries and festivals all over the country. Her books have been translated into lots of different languages, some of which you can find in our school library!

Recently, Caryl's books *Meet the Weather*, *The Jellyfish Jiggle* and *The Safari Stomp* have been chosen by BookTrust to inspire young readers. Over 80,000 children will receive free copies, and the books will be featured by libraries in their Storytime packs. *The Jellyfish Jiggle* is also shortlisted for the BookTrust Storytime Prize.

Caryl has created four books with Bethan Woollvin (who painted the fabulous mural in our library!).

Hello children at LIS!

I'm Caryl Hart and I write books for my job! Being a children's author is great fun as I get to create new stories for people like you! I also love visiting schools to read and create new stories with children.

I'm here to tell you that reading gives you special powers! Yes, it's true! Because if you can read you can learn to do anything.

I know reading can feel tricky sometimes. There are a LOT of words to learn. But the good news is, the more you do it, the easier it gets. And it doesn't really matter WHAT you read - if train timetables or instruction manuals are your thing, go for it! If you love fact books, that's fantastic. If you prefer a good story or poetry that's brilliant! Just find something you enjoy and reading will be so much easier and much more fun.

I like reading in the bath, snuggled up at bedtime and on the train. Where's your favourite place to read?

If you don't have books at home, head down to your local library and have a good old explore. And be sure to ask for books by me. There are LOTS to choose from.

You can find out more about my books on my website. There are also LOADS of activities to print off and try at home. Here's where to find me:

www.carylhart.com

Lots of Love

Caryl
xxx



Seasonal Recommendations



Tiger, It's Snowing! by Daishu Ma

Mei's exuberant Tiger wants to play in the snow, but Mei isn't quite so sure. It's cold and it's wet! But Mei soon changes her mind when she tastes delicate snowflakes for the first time, makes fresh footprints in the pristine snow and they have a fun snowball fight. As the day draws to a close, the duo return to the warm embrace of home – a perfect conclusion to a day filled with wonder and delight. (F2)



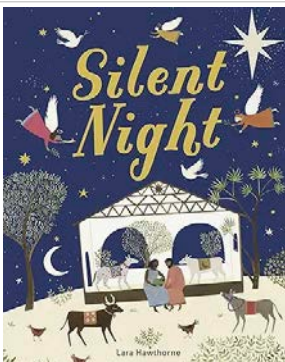
I Follow the Fox by Rob Biddulph

Little Fox has gone missing in the park. The family search high and low but the teddy can't be found. Then, one night, a beautiful fox calls at the window, and the young boy decides to follow her. They go on a magical winter adventure: moving through the city, past snowy meadows and icy rivers, until the boy realises the fox has led him to something special, and that she needs his help. Can the fox help him find his own beloved Little Fox? (F2-Y1)



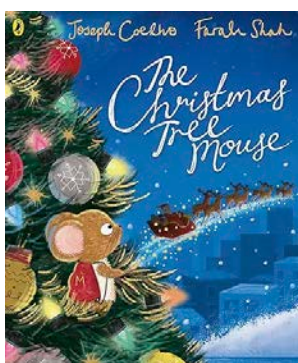
Meow Christmas! by Panos Christodoulou & Daniela Stamatiadi

One cat, one tree, one Christmas catastrophe... December morning, Tiddles the cat wakes to find an unexpected arrival towering over him. It's big, it's bushy, and it's draped in oh-so-tempting tinsel! The humans love their beautiful new Christmas tree, but one kitten is not so smitten. And when the tree's twinkly lights start to disrupt nap time, Tiddles must take matters into his own claws, once and for all.... (F2-Y2)



Silent Night by Lara Hawthorne

Celebrate the magic of Christmas with this beautifully illustrated book, based on the world's best-loved carol. Rediscover the Nativity Story in all its glory – from quaking shepherds to heaven-sent angels – as the song lyrics are brought to life on every spread. The world's diversity is reflected in a cast of characters with a range of skin tones. A gorgeous book for all the family to share during the festive season. (F2-Y2)



The Christmas Tree Mouse by Joseph Coelho & Farah Shah

A mouse is on an important mission. A mission to help Santa! Every Christmas Eve, this tiny mouse brushes away Santa's snowy footprints, nibbles up the mince pie crumbs, and – most importantly – checks on her Santa HQ tablet that all the correct presents are under the tree. But when Christmas Tree Mouse discovers that baby Ola has received the wrong present, it's a CATASTROPHE! Can she use all her special training and determination to save the day? And might Santa himself make a special appearance? (F2-Y1)

Our favourite class reads!

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



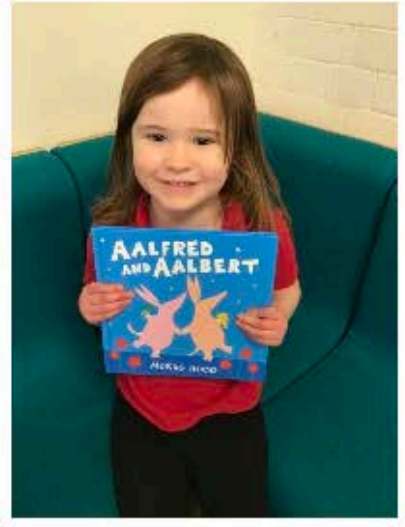
Class 1

A Best Friend for Bear
By Petr Horáček



Class 2

Spider Sandwiches
By Claire Freedman and
Sue Hendra



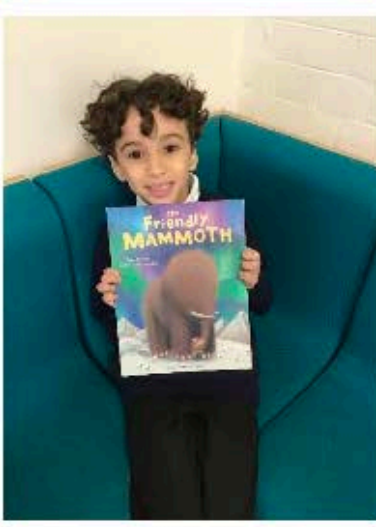
Class 3

Aalfred and Aalbert
By Morag Hood



Class 4

The Girl and the Dinosaur
By Hollie Hughes and
Sarah Massini



Class 5

The Friendly Mammoth
By Anna Terreros-Martin



Class 6

There's Nothing Faster
Than a Cheetah
By Tom Nicoll and Ross Collins

Our favourite class reads!

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



Class 7

That Rabbit Belongs to
Emily Brown

By Cressida Cowell and Neal Layton



Class 8

Koalas Eat Gum Leaves
By Laura and Philip
Bunting



Class 9

What Happened to You?
By James Catchpole and
Karen George



Class 10

Nibbles the Book Monster
By Emma Yarlett



Class 11

Brave and the Fox
By Nicola Davies and
Sebastien Braun



Class 12

Out of the Blue
By Robert Tregoney and
Stef Murphy

Class 2 Read the Rainbow!



Class 2 love reading and have found a beautiful way to display the front covers of books they have been enjoying together. We can't wait to see this again later in the year!

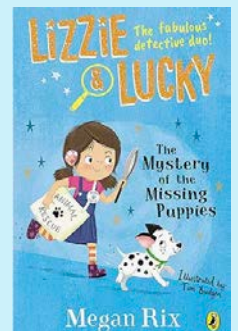
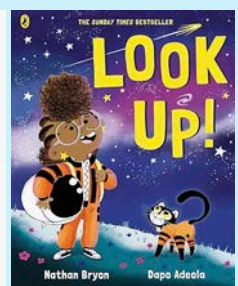
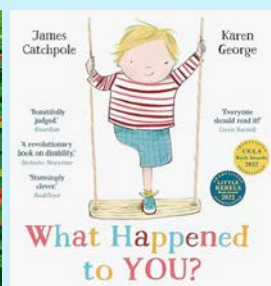
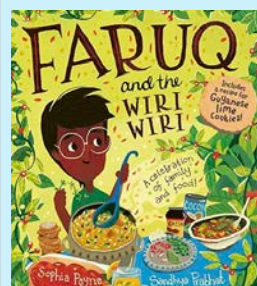
Perhaps you would like to make your own rainbow display at home. Please send us a photo if you do!



Class 9 take part in research around inclusive books

Mrs Varley and Class 9 have been taking part in a research project with the English Association and Inclusive Books for Children. By taking part in this project, our school will be helping to contribute more knowledge about how inclusive books are used in classrooms and what impact they have on pupils' engagement in reading for pleasure, empathy and sense of belonging.

The inclusive books (a mixture of picture books and early chapter books) are being read aloud to the children at story time and the children also have the opportunity to read them again during their daily independent reading time (relaxed reading) if they choose to. Here are a few of the books we have been reading...

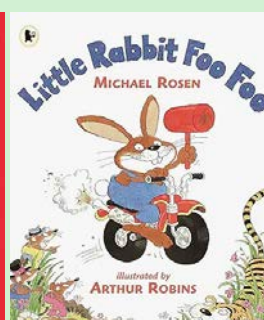
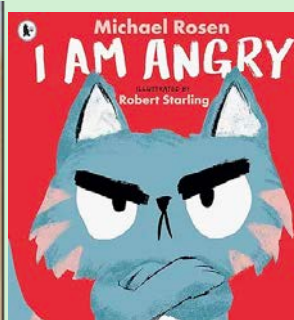
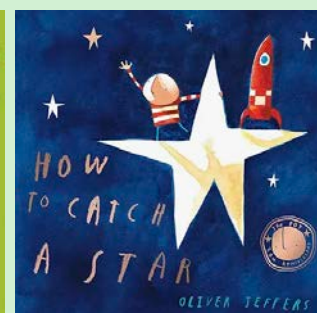
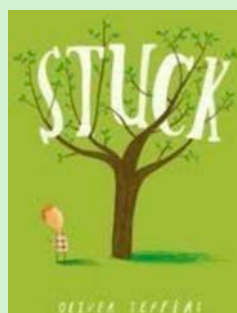
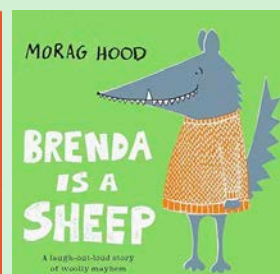
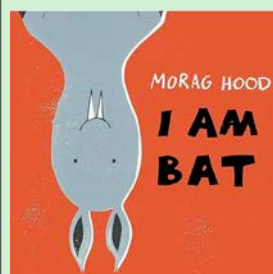


Class 3 are creating a Catalogue of Authors

Class 3 have been working with Miss Moon to create a catalogue of authors. The aim of the project is to introduce the children to a rich variety of authors. In addition to this, the children have been encouraged to be critical thinkers, giving their opinions on different books. So far, Class 3 have studied Morag Hood, Michael Rosen, Nathan Bryon and Oliver Jeffers.

Class 3's current favourite author is Morag Hood because they think her books are really funny! However, they also love 'Stuck' by Oliver Jeffers.

When Class 3 have finished the catalogue of authors, they aim to display it in the library to share what they have learnt and enjoyed with other classes. This might help children to choose a book from the huge selection in our school library.





Lydgate Infant School are taking part in the SPARK book awards this year! Miss Whitehead is on the judging panel for the awards. Below are the 12 books of Christmas (the longlist) decided by the judges.

Later in the year, the judges will decide on a shortlist. This will include four of the following books. Which books would you choose if you were a judge?

It is then over to the children to decide on the winning book!



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

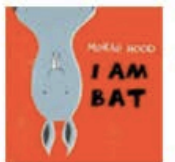
Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.



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.

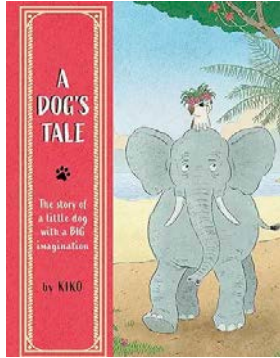
Join in with your thoughts too!

Book Chat develops language, comprehension and pleasure.



For more information visit:
bit.ly/RfPHome

Picturebook Recommendations



A Dog's Tale by Kiko

One-Eyed Patch, a brave pug with the spirit of Indiana Jones, lives a life full of extraordinary adventures on the sea. After a storm tosses him overboard, he's saved by Moby the sperm whale and finds himself on an island of friendly elephants. But a mysterious voice beckons him to New York, where a new adventure awaits. Who could it be calling him back? Perhaps One-Eyed Patch is in reality a much-loved little dog with a big imagination! (Y1-Y2)



The Tour at School by Katie Clapham & Nadia Shireen

Starting school can be scary. And being a New Kid in a new school can also be very scary. Luckily, this book will help soothe first-day nerves, make kids feel excited about the challenge and also show children how to be the PERFECT Tour Guide and make any New Kid feel right at home. And did we mention this book is very funny? Because it really is. (F2-Y2)



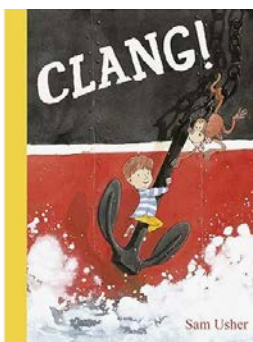
The Wild Robot on the Island by Peter Brown

This is a picture book adaptation for younger readers of the novel and film 'The Wild Robot'. Roz the robot wasn't designed to live in the wilderness. But when she washes up on an island, she must learn from the animal inhabitants and adapt to her new, natural surroundings, and before long, the island begins to feel like home (Y1-Y2)



The Great Green Island by Becky Colvin

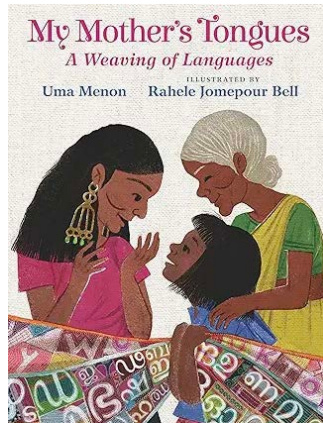
Ali lives with her dad on a beautiful island with a busy fishing village. So busy in fact that, no matter how hard she tries, Ali can never persuade anyone to stop what they are doing and come exploring with her. That is until the morning everyone wakes to find ALL the fish have disappeared. Every. Last. One. Who - or what - could have taken them? Great Green Island weaves mystery and adventure with the wonders of nature, reminding us all to stop and experience the world around us - and to do it together! (F2-Y2)



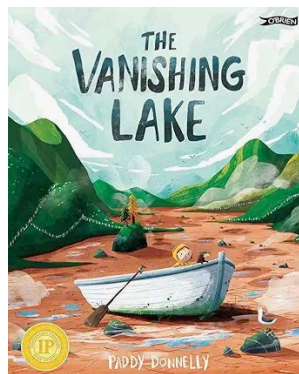
Clang! Adventures with Grandad by Sam Usher

Boy has lost his beloved toy penguin. He and grandad have looked all over the place but she's nowhere to be seen. Boy thinks he might know where she's gone, but if they're going to find her, they need to build a big boat! Boy and Grandad use their resourcefulness to turn an old bath into a seaworthy vessel, and navigate all the way to the South Pole. Along the way, they encounter a variety of ships, submarines and even pirates. A delightful read, exploring creativity and introducing subtle science facts (F2-Y1)

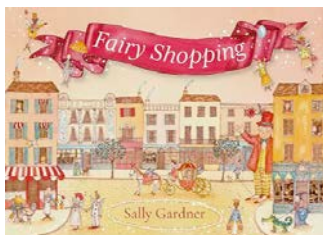
Picturebook Recommendations



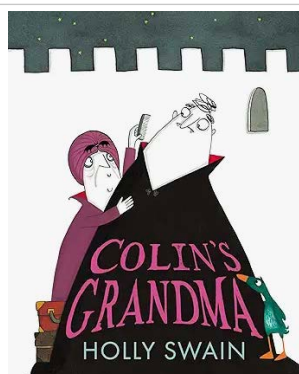
My Mother's Tongues by Uma Menon & Rahele Jomepour Bell
 Authored by a sixteen-year-old daughter of immigrants, this ode to the power of multilingualism gives voice to the lasting benefits of speaking with more than one tongue. Sumi's mother can speak two languages, Malayalam and English. She can switch between them at the speed of sound: one language when talking to Sumi's grandmother, another when she addresses the shopkeeper. Sometimes she speaks a combination of both. Could it be she possesses a superpower? With awe and curiosity, young Sumi recounts the story of her mother's migration from India and how she came to acquire two tongues, now woven together like fine cloth. (Y1-Y2)



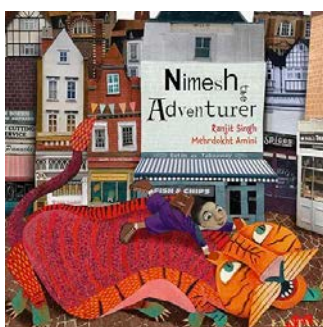
The Vanishing Lake by Paddy Donnelly
 Meara's Grandad lives by the mysterious lake of Loughareema. Some days it's full and shimmering, and some days it's completely empty! Grandad has plenty of stories about why it vanishes. Is it mermaids? Narwhals? Giants? Meara doesn't believe any of these stories, but with a little imagination she may eventually discover the 'real' reason ... A celebration of a young girl's determination, a granddad's wisdom, and the fantastical wonders of the natural world. (F2-Y2)



Fairy Shopping by Sally Gardner
 In Silverbell Street the shops are always open, if you believe in fairies. You can buy a cloak of invisibility or magic lamp, an umbrella that will transport you to the stars, eat flying fairy cakes at the Foxglove Restaurant, or join the fairies as they try on sparkly new dancing shoes and ball gowns and much much more. Familiar giants, fairies and witches will encourage children to find characters hidden in the illustrations. (F2-Y1)



Colin's Grandma by Holly Swain
 Colin and Duck are now friends. They're happily sharing their castle - and they're expecting a visitor ... Grandma! Grandma's brought lots of luggage - and her pet crocodile. Eek! Will she like Colin's unconventional castle? Will she like his vegetarian cooking? And will she like ... DUCK?! The highly anticipated sequel to Colin's Castle, with hilarious new characters and a brilliantly funny final twist. (F2-Y2)

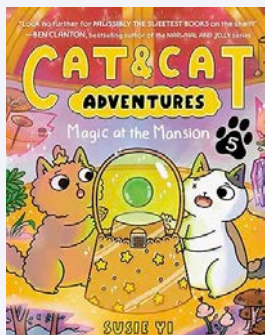


Nimesh the Adventurer by Ranjit Singh & Mehrdokht Amini
 Nimesh is walking home from school. Except...there happens to be a shark in the corridor. And a dragon in the library! And why would crossing the road lead to the North Pole? A fun-filled story about a little boy with a BIG imagination, Nimesh the Adventurer will surely make even the dullest journey a dazzling adventure. (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/>



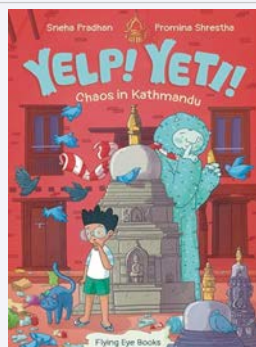
Cat and Cat Adventures:: Magic at the Mansion by Susie Yi

In the fifth instalment of the series, Squash and Ginny must locate the second orb of the Staff of Knowledge before the Spirit World leaks further into the Human World. Not only that, but their best friends Fern and Lotus are still missing! Thankfully, their wand tracks Fern, Lotus, and the orb to a mysterious mansion, where they're shocked to discover all three are about to be auctioned off. Can Squash and Ginny save their friends and the orb—or will they lose them to the highest bidder...forever? (Y1-Y2)



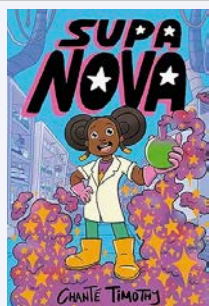
Bumble and Snug and the Worried Dragons by Mark Bradley

When Bumble and Snug accidentally bring home some dragon eggs, they have to teach the little dragons how to be dragons - with the help of books, costumes, sweets and treasure, of course! But the little dragons' parents are very worried about them and Bumble and Snug need to help their new friends home soon, otherwise they may end up as dragon dinner... (Y1-Y2+)



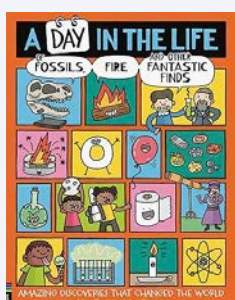
Yelp! Yeti! Chaos in Kathmandu by Sneha Pradhan & Promina Shrestha

Dev and his pet cat, Tuna, are ready for a summer of sleepovers, endless games of cricket and sweet mangos, until they discover a Yeti loose in Kathmandu. It ransacks the kitchen, creates messes around the house and eats all the snacks - but Dev gets the blame! With his parents threatening to send him away for the summer, will Dev and Tuna be able to prove his innocence... and catch a Yeti along the way? (Y1-Y2+)



Supa Nova by Chante Timothy

Meet Nova! She's a scientist. Some people say she's a genius. Some people even call her Supa Nova - get it? Like a supernova. Basically she's a huge star, exploding right at you with her adventures! When Nova invents a plastic-eating monster, she thinks she's solved the world's pollution problem. But she doesn't expect her monster to start rampaging through the city! Can Nova find a way to save the day? (Y2+)

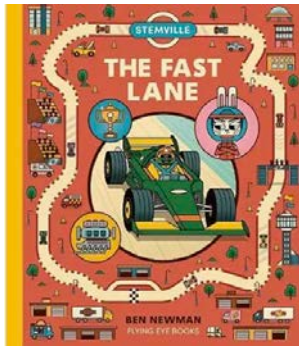


A Day in the Life of Fossils, Fire and Other Fantastic Finds by Mark Barfield & Jess Bradley

A factual comic. From the treasures found in Tutankhamun's tomb and Roald Amundsen's ground-breaking expedition to the South Pole to the uncovering of the first dinosaur, the accidental discovery of penicillin and the launch of the James Webb telescope, this is a laugh-out-loud guide to the world's most incredible and wonderful discoveries. (Y2+)

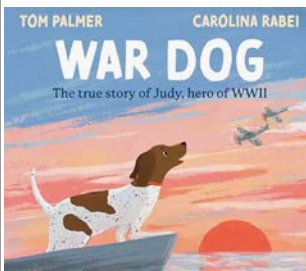
Mark Bradley

Information Book Recommendations



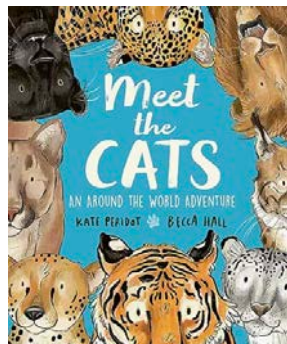
The Fast Lane by Kallie George & Sara Gillinham

Gather around the track to watch the town's contestants compete to become this year's champion. Frankie Thunderfoot comes from a family of confident trophy winners, while Wilbur Hardshell's race team are slow, steady and mathematical in their approach. When Frankie's need for speed causes her to crash, Wilbur must decide whether he should forfeit his position to help her or secure first place for himself. Learn all about how race cars are built and how they work, from acceleration to g-force and quick-fire pit stops. (Y2+)



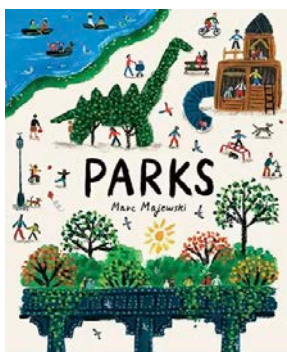
War Dog by Tom Palmer & Carolina Rabei

Based on a true story, Tom Palmer's debut picture book is a tribute to a remarkable hero of WWII - Judy the dog. Judy is a dog who lives on a ship called HMS Grasshopper. As the ship's mascot, Judy has many duties. She catches rats, watches out for soldiers who may fall overboard, and she listens out for danger. She knows that she brings comfort to the men, making her job very important during these hard times. But when her soldiers are taken prisoner and she is separated from her beloved Frank, she must find the strength to keep going. (Y2+)



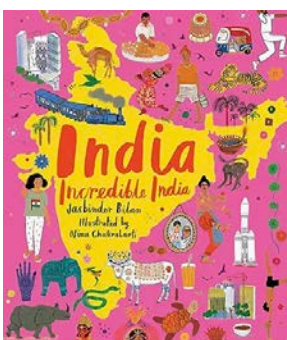
Meet the Cats by Kate Peridot & Becca Hall

Go on an around-the-world trip to meet eight of the world's most beloved big cats. Meet the cats that roar from the highest mountains, the hottest savannahs, and from the tallest trees in this illustrated guide to eight species of the big cats. Become an expert with fun feline fact files and a useful comparison chart - so you can see how the world's cats compare. Along the way, you'll even pick up tips on how to draw these clawsome carnivores (Y1-Y2)



Parks by Marc Majewski

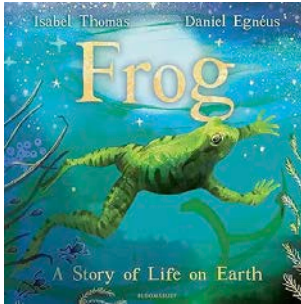
Parks can be big or small, quiet or loud, sunny or snowy. Parks protect the natural world, but they're also public spaces where anyone can explore, gather, and play. Whether they're wildlife reserves or your local dog park, wide open spaces or places of quiet in the city, deep in a canyon or just around the corner, parks can be a refuge. Both informational and awe-inspiring, this gorgeously illustrated nonfiction picture book shows how parks of all kinds bring people, animals, and nature together. (F2-Y2+)



India, Incredible India by Jasbinder Bilan & Nina Chakrabarti

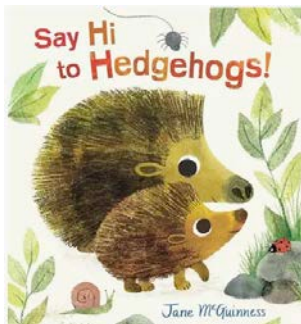
this is a joyful celebration of India and its incredible people, places and wildlife. Watch elephants bathing from a houseboat in Kerala, marvel at ancient cave paintings in Bhimbetka, wander through Delhi's bustling streets, and ride a train through the snow-capped peaks of the Himalaya. Uncover India's fascinating history and culture, and explore the unique mix of the traditional and modern that makes India the incredible country it is today. (Y2+)

Information Book Recommendations



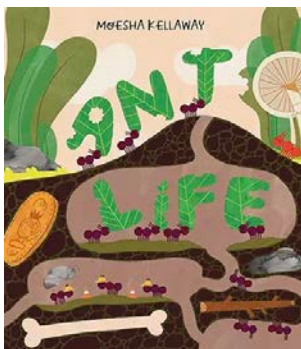
Frog: A Story of Life on Earth by Isabel Thomas & Daniel Egnéus

This is the incredible story of how frogs came to be. To find out, we go all the way back to the very beginning. Before frogs, dinosaurs, planet Earth – before even the stars existed . . . back 13.7 billion years to the moment just before the universe began. And from there, through Isabel Thomas's beautifully lyrical text and Daniel Egnéus's breathtaking illustrations, we are transported through time to the evolution of the very first frogs. (Y1-Y2+)



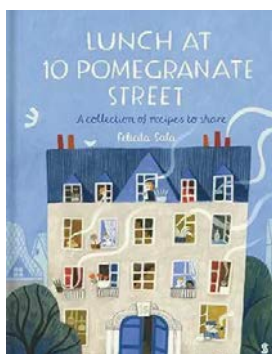
Say Hi to Hedgehogs! by Jane McGuinness

There's someone we'd like you to meet – someone small and spiky. Say hi to Hedgehog! Follow this lovely little creature through the year and learn what hedgehogs like to eat, how they hunt for their food, where they build their nests, the time it takes for them grow from tiny hoglets into healthy adults and, as the seasons turn, how they prepare for hibernation. (F2-Y2)



Ant Life by Moesha Kellaway

In the land of hard-workers, meet the world's laziest ant! From architecture to farming, explore how amazing ant-work can be. The other ants think Anita is lazy, but she just can't choose what job to do. At the colony job fair, she discovers all the types of work that go on inside and around the anthill, but that just gives her a taste for adventure. Reporting back on her travels – did you know ants were the world's first farmers, and can build their own boats? – Anita accidentally, finds her perfect role. (F2-Y2)

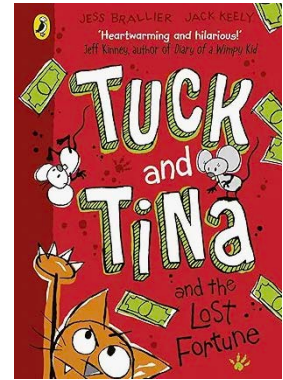


Lunch at 10 Pomegranate Street: A Collection of Recipes to Share by Felicita Sala

In each apartment, someone is preparing a special dish to share with their neighbours. Mr Singh is making coconut dahl with his daughter while Maria mashes some avocados for her guacamole. Will everything be ready on time? this glorious celebration of community is filled with recipes from all over the world and simple instructions perfect for young chefs. (F2-Y2+)

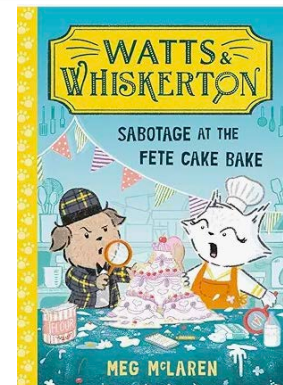
Chapter Book Recommendations

Tuck and Tina and the Lost Fortune by Jess Brallier & Jack Keely
Tina lives at Boone Elementary and LOVES listening to Ms Pigeon's lessons and seeing all the kids having fun with their friends. She just wishes she had a real friend of her own. Then Ms Pigeon announces that a new class pet is arriving and Tina wonders if her wish might come true. Tuck is a ball of energy with a knack for causing chaos. When the school is faced with closure, Tina and Tuck decide to work together to find an ancient treasure that's rumoured to be hidden somewhere in the school. Can these two unlikely allies save the school before it's too late?! (5-7yrs)

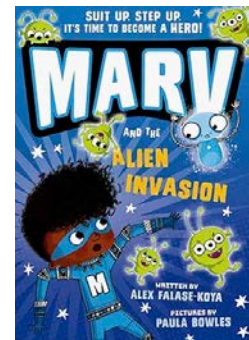


Watts & Whiskerton: Sabotage at the Fete Cake Bake
by Meg McLaren

Budding detective Watts is back in Little Gossip to visit the Whiskertons and attend the village fete bake off. He's looking forward to a fun weekend, but then disaster strikes when the ovens flood with batter and accusations of sabotage begin to fly! Who's responsible for the cake catastrophe? And why would they want to ruin the competition? It's up to Watts and Pearl to solve the curious case. But can this dog and cat detective duo find the proof in the pudding? (5-7yrs)

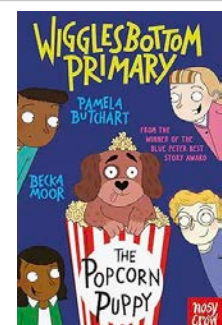


Marv and the Alien Invasion by Alex Falase-Koya & Paula Bowles
Marvin is on a school trip to the Space Centre when supervillain Cosmic and his mischievous alien sidekicks crash on to the scene. After causing complete chaos, Cosmic heads off to steal the Space Centre's rocket. Marvin and Pixel won't let them get away with this. It's time for Marvin to become MARV-unstoppable, invincible, and totally MARvellous! Only then can Marv put an end to Cosmic's scheme and rescue the rocket from his clutches. (5-7yrs)



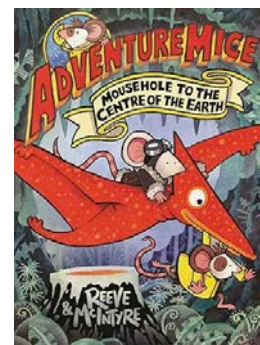
Wigglesbottom Primary: The Popcorn Puppy! by Becka Moor and Pamela Bucharth

When Lauren brings her puppy to school, Class 2R have a mission: hide the puppy from Miss Riley. But it's Movie Afternoon and the delicious smell of popcorn is too tempting for any puppy to resist... Perfect for newly-independent readers, these are more funny primary school stories with colour illustrations by. (5-7yrs)



Adventuremice: Mousehole to the Centre of the Earth by Reeve & McIntyre

When Uncle Bernie turns up with his incredible Mechanical Mole machine, the Adventuremice go on a mission! Pedro and the crew burrow to an underground cave world, unlike anything they've ever seen. There are tiny, twisty trees, and even tinier pterodactyls! But there's also a HAMSTERSAURUS REX on the loose. Can the team save the nervous local cavemice from this giant predator, or is there more to the creature than meets the eye? (5-7yrs)

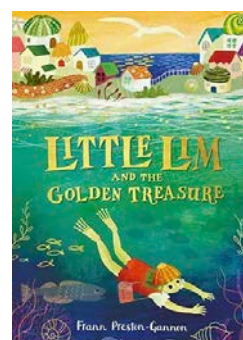


Chapter Book Recommendations

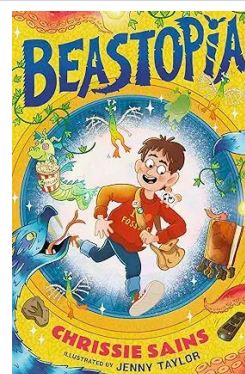
Murray and Bun: Murray the Ghosthunter by Adam Stower
SOMETIMES Murray's enchanted cat flap leads to the garden... but mostly it leads to ADVENTURE! When Murray and Bun travel through the cat flap and find that they've been turned into a pair a GHOSTHUNTERS, they're quickly thrown into their spookiest adventure yet! Perfect for fans of Bunny vs Monkey and Dog Man (5-7+ yrs)



Little Lim and the Golden Treasure by Frann Preston-Gannon
Limpet Pebble is a true explorer. So when Tidepool, her little town nestled within a rockpool, organises a Young Explorers competition, Little Lim knows she must win! She sets out to find the most unique shell and prove her worth as an explorer. But with only hours until sunset, Little Lim struggles to find the perfect one. That is until she reads the legend of a long-lost golden shell. Can Little Lim discover the truth behind the story in time to be crowned the best Young Explorer? (7+ yrs)



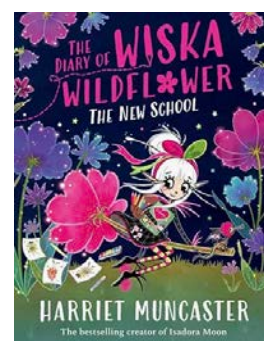
Beastopia by Chrissie Sains (author of An Alien in the Jam Factory)
Everybody knows one thing about Digby Griffin. Wherever you might find him, you'll also find his pet mouse, Cheddar. Unfortunately, The Curse of the Tenth Birthday is about to strike. Family pets ALWAYS disappear when their owners turn ten, and Digby is terrified of losing Cheddar. But where do all these lost animals go? Digby, along with his sister, Mog, and his best friend, Tai, are about to discover the magic of Beastopia (7+ yrs)



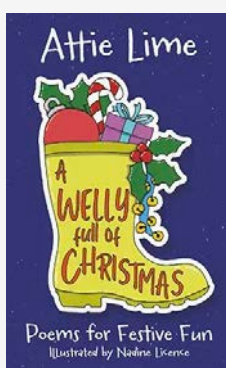
Cosmic Cadets by Ryan Crawford
Partnered up with Razz, a cat-like alien who is way too keen on following the rules, Gloria is desperate for real adventure. She decides they will ignore instructions and go off on their own mission... to find a uni-korn. Little does she know that uni-korns are some of the most dangerous and foul-tempered creatures in the universe... capable of swallowing galaxies whole. Gloria just might get her wish for adventure... if she doesn't accidentally destroy the universe first. (7+ yrs)



The Diary of Wiska Wildflower: The New School by Harriet Muncaster
Wiska Wildflower is relieved when she makes friends with Cleobelle and Primrose on her first day at Inkcap's Academy. They love Wiska's drawings and ask her to help them design matching outfits for a special fashion show in Spellbrooke City. But the more Wiska gets to know her new friends, the more she feels she must hide her true self and follow their rules. Can Wiska find the bravery she needs to get her creative spark back and discover true friendship? (7+ yrs)



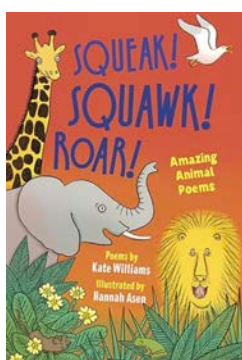
Poetry Recommendations



A Welly Full of Christmas: Poems for festive fun

by Attie Lime & Nadine Licence

A Welly Full of Christmas is a fantastic wordy festive feast, celebrating the Christmas season with a load of fun and a sprinkling of wonder. This collection of poems takes us from the first mince pie to the undecorating of the Christmas tree, along the way meeting characters such as an Elf named Jeremy, a very excitable musician and a snow-soft Christmas cat. (Y1-Y2+)



Squeak! Squawk! Roar! Amazing Animal Poems

by Kate Williams & Hannah Asen

Come on a nature adventure, in over 50 poems about all kinds of animals, from the albatross to the wombat. Find a coiling cobra, crossers rhinoceros, the chimpantease and sharky-lurky. Watch lazy lion lounging in the long grass and discover endangered creatures like the baby polar bear and the song thrush. Then guess the names of the mystery bird and the secret pet....Are you ready for your nature adventure? (Y2+)

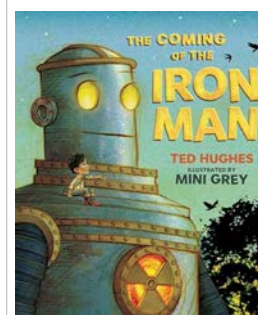
LIS Staff Book Club

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 Coming of the Iron Man (For ages 5+)

by Ted Hughes & illustrated by Mini Grey

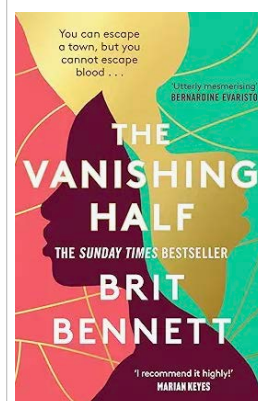
This abridged edition brings The Iron Man to a picture book audience for the very first time! The Iron Man isn't scary - he's just very hungry. It's not until he starts chomping on fence posts and tractors that he comes to the attention of the angry farmers - who trap him in a hole with the help of a little boy called Hogarth. Then Hogarth comes up with a new plan - it turns out that the scrap yard is the perfect home for a hungry Iron Man.



The Vanishing Half (Adult Fiction)

by Brit Bennett

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her husband knows nothing of her past. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' story lines intersect?



Get Ready for the Winter Mini Reading Challenge

THE
READING
AGENCY

Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adeola, illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2025

Winter Mini Challenge

Story Garden



Keep reading over the holiday with The Reading Agency Mini Reading Challenge. Why not challenge your friends and family to take part?

Register online for free

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

How it works

Welcome to the Winter Mini Challenge - an online reading challenge you can join from 1 December 2025 to 20 February 2026! Are you ready to take it on?



1. Sign up

Click 'join now' to create your account.



2. Read books

Read 3 books or more! When you finish a book, add it to your profile and leave a review



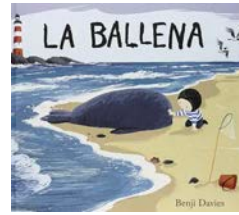
3. Earn digital rewards

Unlock rewards including a new online badge and a certificate when you complete the Challenge!

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 11am – 3pm

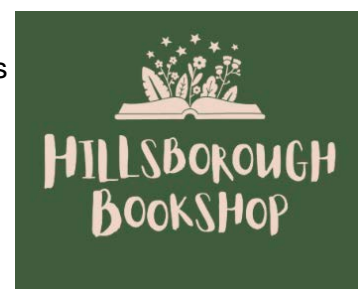
Rhyme & Reason Bookshop
681 Ecclesall Rd
Sheffield
S11 8TG
0114 2661950



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



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 2025

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



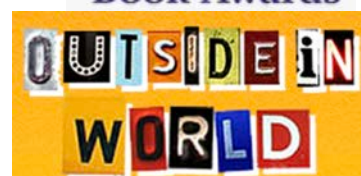
- UKLA Book Awards

<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