



Lydgate Infant School

Reading Newsletter

Autumn 2021



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

Meet the Author: Sandra Dieckmann (by Mrs Hussey, Class 2)

Sandra Dieckmann <http://www.sandradieckmann.com/> is an acclaimed author and illustrator. Originally from Germany, she has resided in England since her late teens, and is now happily settled here in Sheffield with her partner and adorable toddler daughter Ronja, who loves books.

Sandra's first authored and illustrated book, *Leaf*, was published in 2017 and has been a huge success ever since- nominated for several awards including the prestigious Kate Greenaway medal. *Leaf* is a beautifully illustrated tale of inclusivity and the challenging situation of climate change on the natural world, throughout which Sandra's love of the natural world is abundantly clear. Her signature intricate illustrations and engaging text make this a must read for families everywhere!

Sandra has also written and illustrated two other picture books - *the Dog that ate the world* and *Waiting for Wolf*. Another picture book and an exciting non fiction book are Sandra's current projects and will be on our shelves in the near future. Sandra kindly agreed to answer some questions about *Leaf*, and Year 1 rose to the occasion in July with a series of thought provoking and interesting questions. We hope you enjoy reading them!



A message to LIS from Sandra Dieckmann

Thank you all so much! It's always fantastic to hear when people young and old enjoy *Leaf* and to know it's made you think about different things too. It's all I can wish for as an author and illustrator and makes me very happy indeed! Thank you for all the fantastic questions!

x Sandra x

Y1's Questions for Sandra Dieckmann

Is Leaf a fiction and a non-fiction book?

Leaf is totally a fiction book. It's entirely made up. It's actually the result of putting together elements from a few different stories that weren't quite working on their own. Writing can be a long process, even if children's books are usually very short. Having so little text means you have to get it just right in fewer than a thousand words.

Should the animals have been scared?

Good question! I'm sure Leaf was a lot more scared than all of the animals of the forest together. They had a strong community and all knew each other. Perhaps they should have remembered this and asked if they could help. Sadly we often fear what we do not know rather than being curious about it.

Should the animals trust someone they have never met before?

I guess trust always takes time to build when you don't know someone. You can observe and assume things about others, but it's only when you really meet them and talk to each other that you can begin to trust. Trust is very important in life. Being able to trust your parents, your siblings and your friends is vital for being able to be a strong person and for being able to express yourself freely.

Why did the polar bear collect leaves?

Leaf felt very lonely and bewildered in the forest, with no friends to help and no one to talk to. He desperately tried to make himself a flying costume with the leaves so that he could fly back home. I think he also wanted to hide behind them. Sometimes when we are not confident we hide behind clothes and behaviour that seems strange to others.

How did you learn to draw the animals?

I just drew a lot when I was young. I didn't study drawing, I just tried and tried until I was happy with what I was drawing. The cool thing about illustration is that you don't need much - just a pencil and paper and over the years you can teach yourself how to get more confident at it.

Why did you choose to have crows in the story? Why was there a crow on every page?

Classically, in storytelling, crows have a bad reputation. They often bring bad news or are an ominous dark presence in scary scenes. I think that is so wrong! They are clever, fantastic and fascinating creatures and really should be marveled at and for that I wanted them to be the ones in my story that make the intelligent decision to talk to Leaf and help him. I've added a crow on each page. Page one has one crow, page two has two and so on. I think in total there are 78 individual crow drawings!

Do you have a new book coming out soon?

Yes, I have two books coming out. The Secret Forest comes out in September and is a non-fiction Search and Find book. It follows forest animal families from dusk till dawn, looking at what parents teach their young, their habitat and food. It's written like a picture book and fun for the whole family.

I'm also just finishing off my next fiction picture book. It's going to be called 'The Magic Feather' and is a book about a young grizzly bear who has no confidence in himself. Little Bear never risks anything because he is afraid to do everything! A magical gift shows him the path to trust himself, opening up new experiences and adventures that eventually lead to knowing himself and finding his own special bear name.



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
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKFdKs_2wJY

Supporting Readers at Home



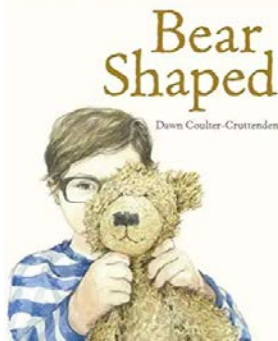
On the next few pages are some book recommendations. All these super books have been carefully chosen by Mrs Varley and Miss Whitehead. We had a fabulous time reading them. Enjoy browsing!

Picture books



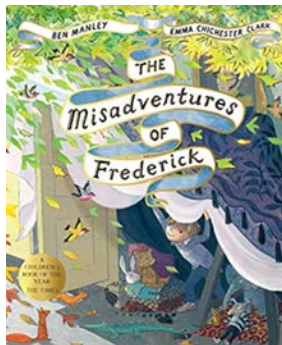
Super Happy Magic Forest - Slug of Doom by Matty Long
Ideal for F2, Y1, Y2

The Super Happy Magic Forest is a super happy, super magical place filled with picnics, dancing, and fun. That is until the super slimy SLUG OF DOOM threatens to drink a magical potion that will give him the size and strength to eat the entire forest. Five heroes — a fairy, a unicorn, a faun, a gnome, and a talking mushroom — must go on an epic quest to find the potion before the Slug of Doom can drink it!



Bear-Shaped by Dawn Coulter-Cruttenden
Ideal for F2, Y1, Y2

A beautiful story of love, loss and moving forward, inspired by the true story of Jack and his beloved Bear. Jack and Bear are the best of friends. But one day Bear disappears and Jack suddenly feels all alone with a big Bear-shaped hole in his heart. Word soon gets around that Bear is missing and Jack starts to receive kind messages from strangers all over the world. Then the toy bears start to arrive. Though the bears start to heal Jack's sadness, none of them are Jack's bear. Perhaps there is something Jack can do with them to help the other people with bear-shaped holes. . .



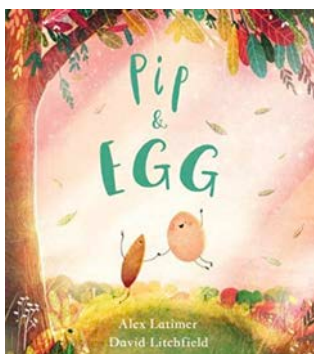
The Misadventures of Frederick by Ben Manley and Emma Chichester Clark
Ideal for Y2.

A funny, joyful story about friendship and the delights of outdoor adventures (even for the accident-prone). Emily is adventurous and has plenty of fun outdoors, but Frederick is made to stay indoors for fear he might hurt himself. A series of brilliantly funny letters between the two children tell their story. A great book for reading aloud.



Omar, The Bees and Me by Helen Mortimer and Katie Cottle
Ideal for F2, Y1, Y2

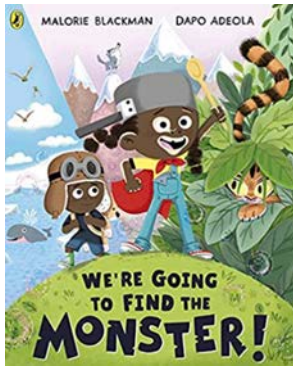
Omar arrives from far away, where apricot trees and jasmine bushes grow in sunny gardens. When he first joins Maisie's class, Omar is quiet and doesn't smile. But soon they discover that both Maisie's grandad and Omar's grandpa keep bees, and with this connection they have the seed of a new friendship. Maisie and Omar enlist the help of their community and begin to grow bee-friendly plants all the way from their school to the local park. A super story of friendship and sustainability.



Pip and Egg by Alex Latimer and David Litchfield
Ideal for F2, Y1, Y2

Pip is a seed from a glorious tree, and Egg is a bird's egg from a nearby nest. When Pip and Egg first meet, they are almost the same size and shape - like two peas in a pod. But as their friendship grows, so do they - for Pip this means growing roots, but for Egg? Well, Egg grows wings, and she can't wait to use them. Though Pip wishes he could follow Egg on her adventures, his roots are strong. So he watches his friend fly away. But true friends always find their way back to one another, and there are no truer friends than Pip and Egg.

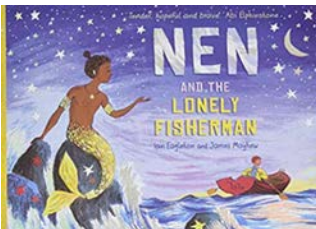
Picture books



We're Going to Find the Monster by Malorie Blackman and Dapo Adeola.

Ideal for Reception

Over the shimmering ocean, up the huge, high mountain, through the deep dark jungle...we're going to find the monster! A fabulous read-aloud adventure about family and the magic of the imagination. Children will be reaching for cardboard boxes to make vehicles and drawing maps of the route to find a monster! One of the heroes has the skin condition vitiligo and there is information about this on the endpapers.

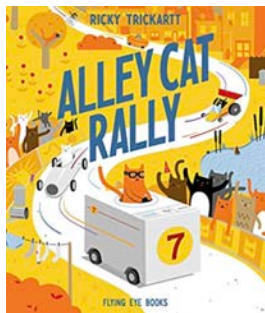


Nen and the Lonely Fisherman by Ian Eagleton & James Mayhew.

Ideal for Y2

A magical tale of a merman's search for true love.

As Nen sends a song of hope across the sea, a lonely fisherman (Ernest) longs to find warmth in his heart. One star-filled night, the two find each other. But their special connection is met with dismay by Nen's father, the mighty Pelagios, who creates a wild sea storm to protect his son and his oceans. Can Nen save Ernest?



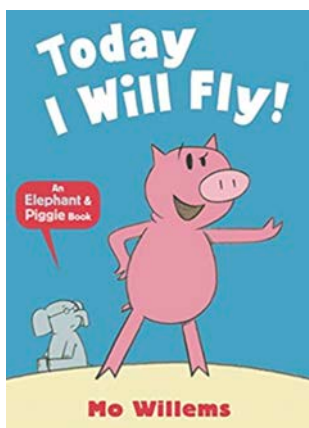
Alley Cat Rally by Ricky Trickart

Ideal for Reception, Y1 and Y2

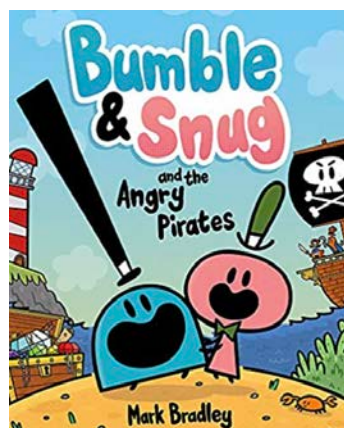
Asta is on a mission to be the greatest racer her town has ever seen. Using some ingenuity and a washing machine, Asta is ready to compete in the Kibble Hill Rally against Marvin's souped-up shopping basket and Anton's sleek sports car. Has she done enough to beat the other cats and win the race? This is a lively tale about getting stuck in, even when your dreams might feel out of reach.

Graphic Novels

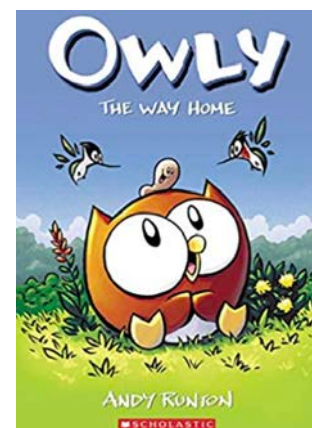
Today I will Fly! An Elephant & Piggie Book
by Mo Willems
Ideal for Reception, Y1 & Y2



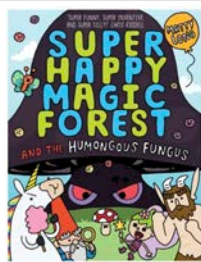
Bumble and Snug and the Angry Pirates
by Mark Bradley.
Ideal for Y1 & Y2.



Owly: The Way Home
by Andy Runton
Ideal for Y2



Chapter Books



Super Happy Magic Forest and the Humongous Fungus by Matty Long

Five Brave Heroes. One Epic Quest.

Deep in the Super Happy Magic Forest an evil force has been secretly growing: a HUMONGOUS FUNGUS with an appetite for chaos. All hopes rest on five brave heroes. Only they have the power to stop the evil FUNGELLUS before he and his toxic spores take over.



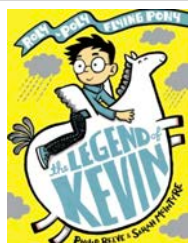
Kitty and the Tiger Treasure by Paula Hamilton

Kitty can't wait to visit the museum and see the priceless Golden Tiger statue. Legend says that those in possession of the statue can make their greatest wish come true. Whilst at the museum, the statue is stolen and Kitty is accused of the crime. Will Kitty clear her name, find the culprit and return the precious statue before sunrise?



Nikhil and Jay Save the Day by Chitra Soundar

Make friends with brothers Nikhil and Jay and go on four fun-filled family adventures in these interlinked stories: 'Me Do It!', Grandpa's Green Dragon, Pancake Day and Save Our Library. At the back is a recipe for Dosa (Indian pancakes made of rice and lentil batter) and chutney. Do let us know if you try it!



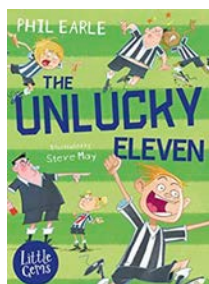
The Legend of Kevin by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre

This book is laugh-out-loud funny! Kevin the pony blows in on a magical storm and crashes into the balcony outside Max's flat. As the storm waters rise and the town is besieged by creatures (naughty sea monkeys), Max and Kevin set about putting things right. If you enjoy this adventure, there are several other books in the series.



Willow Wildthing and the Swamp Monster by Gill Lewis

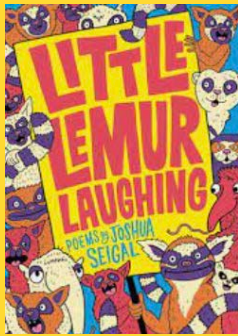
When Willow crosses the boundary to the patch of woodland behind her house, something amazing happens: she enters The Wilderness, where magic and nature collide. It holds more than you could possibly imagine: secrets, shadows, a witch. Even a monster! Here she meets the Wild Things, a group of children who have taken on the characteristics of the wild creatures they are named after. This book encourages children to explore, be curious, resilient and adventurous.



Unlucky Eleven by Philip Earle

Everything's going wrong for the Saints this season, and Stanley's team-mates believe they finally know why. Their football kit is cursed! But the team's attempts to break the curse take things from bad to worse. Soon, they're ready to give up football completely. Can Stanley save the team in time for the last game of the season?

Poetry



Little Lemur Laughing

By Joshua Seigal

Ideal for Y1 and Y2.

A collection of silly, funny poems with a few serious ones mixed in. It covers everything from spaghetti-eating dogs to conkers and from the joy of stickers to a stomping brontosaurus. Accessible and fun.

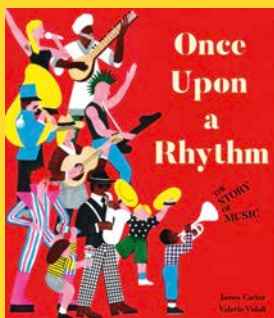


A Great Big Cuddle: Poems For The Very Young

By Michael Rosen and Chris Riddell

Ideal for Reception and Y1.

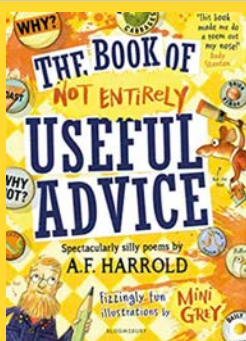
These poems fizz off the page with sound and rhythm, energy and laughter, as Rosen captures in the most remarkable way what it means to be very, very young. A child's world with all its details and feelings – toys and games, animals and made-up creatures, likes and dislikes – is vividly conjured up in the most memorable, playful language.



Once Upon a Rhythm by James Carter

Ideal for Y1 and Y2

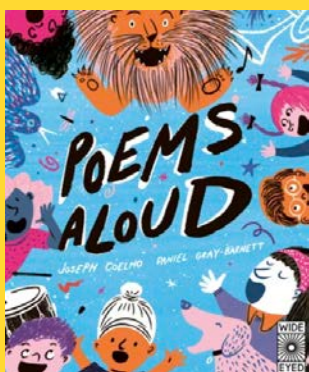
Follow the story of music back to the very beginning. Did it start with a stomp or a clap? This playful poem is an ode to the colourful world of music and rhythm. It hums and it thrums through day and night, the magical, mystical rhythm of life!



The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice: Spectacularly silly poems by A.F. Harold and fizzingly fun illustrations by Mini Grey

Ideal for Y2+

A fabulous collection of poems that can be enjoyed equally by children and grown ups. A riotous celebration of words and cautionary tales featuring advice on parrots, gravy, maths, castles and the importance of removing ducks from soup!



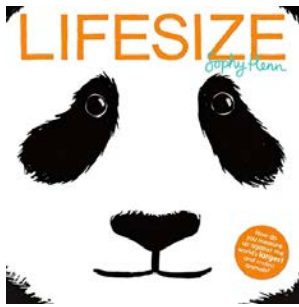
Poems Aloud by Joseph Coelho

Ideal for Y2+

POEMS ARE FOR READING ALOUD!

Perfect for confident children and shy readers alike, this book teaches all sorts of clever ways of performing poetry. Children will learn 20 techniques for reading aloud by trying out 20 funny and thoughtful original poems by the much-loved and award-winning performance poet, Joseph Coelho. There are tongue twisters, poems to project, poems to whisper, and poems to make you laugh.

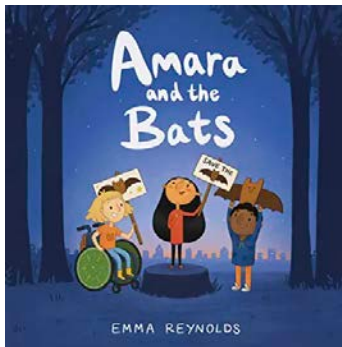
Information Books



Lifesize by Sophy Henn

Ideal for Reception, Y1 and Y2

This interactive adventure features LIFESIZE illustrations of some of the smallest and largest animals in the world and invites children to compare parts of their bodies with these amazing animals. High-five a polar bear to discover who has the biggest paw and peer through the die-cut to find out how you'd look with a giant squid eye.



Amara and the Bats by Emma Reynolds

Ideal for Y1 and Y2.

Amara loves bats! But when Amara moves to a new town, she learns that her beloved bats no longer roost nearby because they are losing their habitat. Amara is upset. What can she do to help? When she discovers that there are many young people making big changes all around the world she is inspired to take action, Amara gathers her new friends to help save the bats.



How to be a Vet and Other Animal Jobs by Dr Jess French and Sol Linero

Ideal for Y2+

Have you ever dreamed of working with animals? What about working with horses, cows, training guide dogs, or even becoming a bug wrangler? There are so many different animal jobs to choose. Find out about all these jobs, the history of vets and more!

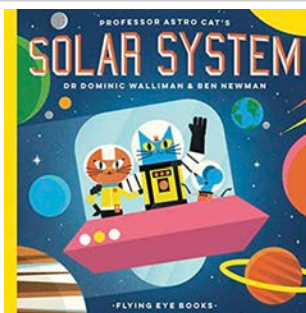


I'm Not Very Afraid of the Dark by Anna Milbourne

Ideal for F2, Y1 and Y2

When the sun goes down, the Dark stretches out. It gets bigger and bigger until it covers everything. The Dark can be scary, but it can be other things too - it all depends on how you see it! Here is short video to show you how super this book really is.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DLffiWEEiw>



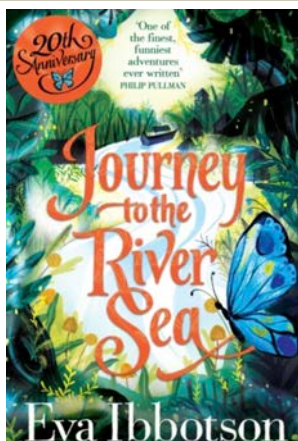
Professor Astro Cat's Solar System by Dr Dominic Walliman and Ben Newman

Ideal for F2, Y1 and Y2

Welcome, Planet Explorers! Did you know that Venus is covered in volcanoes? Have you ever wondered why Mars is red? Well, you're in luck! Professor Astro Cat and the gang are about to set off on a journey around our solar system- so buckle up, join the tour, and get your learn on!

One for the grown ups...

Research shows that children who see their parents/carers taking pleasure in reading are more likely to choose to read, and enjoy reading, themselves.



'Enchanting and inspiring. Any reader presented with this book will be enriched for life.'

Anne Fine, previous Children's Laureate

Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson

A children's book ideal for grown ups!

This book is a joy. It will make you yearn to start your own adventure!

Maia, an orphan, can't wait to reach her distant relatives a thousand miles up the Amazon. She imagines a loving family with whom she will share great adventures. Instead she finds two spiteful cousins who see the jungle as the enemy and refuse to go outdoors. But the wonders of the rainforest more than make up for the hideous twins and their parents. And when Maia meets a mysterious boy who lives alone on the wild river shores, she begins a spectacular journey to the heart of an extraordinary and beautiful new world.

Upcoming Bookish Events

27th
Sept. - 1st
October

Reading is Magic Festival <https://www.readingismagicfestival.com/about>

This year's online programme includes Joseph Coelho, David Litchfield, Cressida Cowell, Michael Rosen, Laura Ellen Anderson, Rob Biddulph, M.G. Leonard and many more!



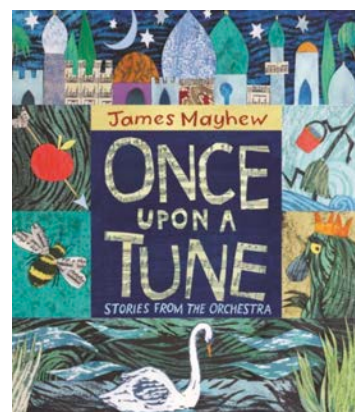
7th
October

National Poetry Day <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/>

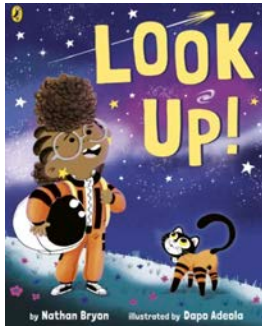
More information about what pupils will be doing in school coming soon!

6th
November

The Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra is launching its 76th concert season with a concert for children and families. They will be joined by acclaimed illustrator, author, concert presenter and storyteller, James Mayhew to present *Once Upon a Tune: Stories from the Orchestra*, live in Sheffield. The *Once Upon a Tune* story book is released on 9th September. For more information visit <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/events/2021/once-upon-a-tune>



Special Reading Event at Lydgate Infant School



In the week beginning 18th October, our whole school will be reading and undertaking activities around the sensational book, 'Look Up' by Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola.

When you dream big, anything can happen... Meet Rocket, stargazer extraordinaire! She's on a mission to show everyone a spectacular sight.... But will they look up in time to see it? A funny, uplifting story celebrating the wonder of every moment.

Broomhill Library

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

enquiries@broomhill-library.org.uk

Opening times:

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

Events

Visit the newly opened Percy Cane rock garden and pocket park.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/broomhill-community-library>

Children's Art Event 17.9.21.

Create your own masterpiece with

fruit and veg. [https://](https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/broomhill-community-library-creating-art-with-food)

www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/broomhill-community-library-creating-art-with-food

Book Donations

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



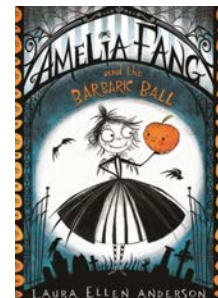
Rhyme and Reason - our local independent bookshop



Opening times

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

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



For this edition of our newsletter, Ro at Rhyme & Reason has recommended *Amelia Fang and the Barbaric Ball* by Laura Ellen Anderson (for age 5+).

Amelia Fang would much rather hang out with her pet pumpkin, Squashy and her friends Florence the yeti and Grimaldi the reaper than dance at her parents' annual Barbaric Ball. When the King's spoiled son Tangine captures Squashy, Amelia and her friends must escape the party to plan a daring rescue! In their race against time, they begin to realise things in Nocturnia may not be quite what they seem ...

We hope that some of the books suggested in this newsletter might spark your interest. If not, don't worry. There are so many more wonderful books out there to discover. Here are two websites to browse for other book ideas:

- BookTrust

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

- LoveReading4Kids

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

- EmpathyLab

<https://www.empathylab.uk/2021-read-for-empathy-collections>

If you 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 you reading the book! Do you have any great books that you would like to recommend to other children in our school? Email us with the name of the book. You could send a photo of you with the book too, or even write a short book review.

Please use this email address to contact us:

read@lydgate-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Happy reading,

Mrs Varley & Miss Whitehead