



WE LOVE BOOKS



Welcome to another school year, and a special welcome to all the new parents and children. This newsletter is filled with book suggestions that will hopefully encourage and excite your child to read and, most importantly, make them want to keep on reading. Have a look at the extra page at the end for children with dyslexia and reluctant readers.



Introducing your child to a wide variety of books will help them find the ones they enjoy. The library is the perfect place for this as they have a large range of different types and genres, and they're all free to borrow. Show your child the fiction section and point out different genres, as well as the non-fiction, the graphic novels and the picture books. Any of these are wonderful for all ages. Let them pick the books they like the look of, as they are more likely to enjoy a book they have chosen themselves. You may not always agree on their choice, but with the 20 books you are able to borrow at a time, you can add a few of your own choices, to see what they think. Remember, it doesn't matter what they read, as long as they enjoy it.

Talking about books is a great way to build enthusiasm for reading. This doesn't need to be done at a particular time. You can chat about books in the car or whilst watching a sibling swim or walking to the supermarket. Giving emotional responses can help your child understand their own feelings, and maybe you can link the character or settings to a real life situation, or a previous book. Let them know what you're reading, too, and why you like it, whether this is a book or a magazine.

Blue Peter has just announced a new book badge, designed by the amazing Sir Quentin Blake. The badge is for children aged 5-15 and can be earned by sharing thoughts and drawings about a book they have enjoyed. More information is on the CBBC website, along with a link to the Blue Peter book club, with great book suggestions.

PICTURE BOOKS

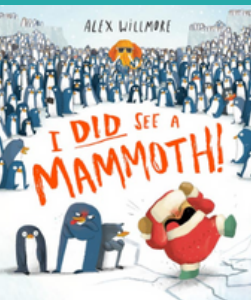
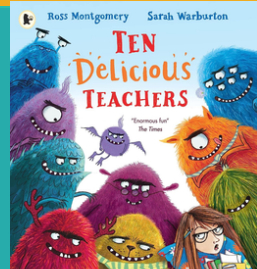


Greta and the Giants by Zoe Tucker & Zoe Persico

This is a beautifully illustrated book about a young girl trying to protect her forest from the greedy giants who are destroying it and wiping out the animals. A great introduction to climate change and the small things that can be done to make a difference.

Ten Delicious Teachers by Ross Montgomery & Sarah Warburton

A brilliantly funny book about ten teachers taking a shortcut through the woods to get home in time for tea. One by one they get picked off by monsters until just one teacher is left. Will she be eaten too? Lots of fun, and the illustrations are great for spotting all the monsters.

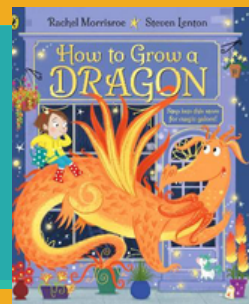


I Did See a Mammoth! by Alex Willmore

Most of the members of the expedition to the Antarctic are there to study "fabulous, cute and glorious penguins". Just one member is sure they are going to see a mammoth, but when he does see one, no one believes him - until they all see it for themselves. Great twist at the end.

How to grow a Dragon by Rachel Morrisroe & Steven Lennon

Growing dragons sounds like a wonderfully exciting idea, until Sarah and Mr Pottifer witness the chaos the dragons cause. A magical story about problem solving and kindness, told in rhyme.

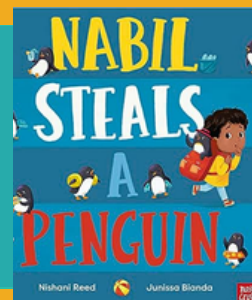


The Year we Learned to Fly by Jacqueline Woodson & Rafael Lopez

A beautiful book to show children the power of their imagination, linking this to past generations who arrived by boat "with their wrists and ankles cuffed in iron." A wonderful modern day story with an important historical connection.

Nabil Steals a Penguin by Nishani Reed & Junissa Bianda

Pierre the penguin decides he likes Nabil's biriyani rice so much that he decides to go home with him. Nabil tries to keep Pierre a secret, but is that going to be possible with a dancing, bouncing penguin making a lot of mess?



WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

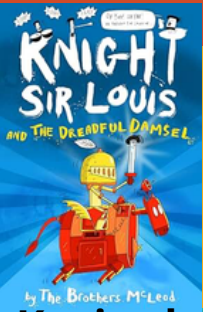


STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

Mrs Charlesworth recommends...

I love Where the Wild Things Are because it shows how children can express their feelings and allows them to be adventurous. Each animal can represent a different emotion and the book is a celebration of the imagination and of the freedom of being a child.

CHAPTER BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS



Knight Sir Louis and the Dreadful Damsel by The Brothers McLeod
A very funny adventure about a modest and brave knight, told with the humour of Monty Python. With the Damsel of Distresse stealing gold, silver and chocolate coins, our trusty hero must save the day with his mechanical horse, Clunkalot, and his magical sword, Dave.

Kevin the Vampire by Matt Brown

When the travelling carnival run by Kevin the Vampire's family accidentally lands in Lower Drudging they find, not only a town that does not like fun, but also a town scared of the You Know What. A funny story of friendship, acceptance and a monstrous secret.

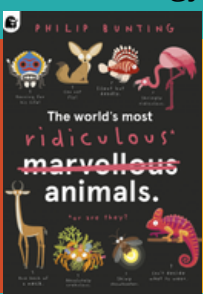


My Mum is a Spy by Andy McNab and Jess French

Lucia is determined to persuade Idris that his mum is a spy. Idris doesn't want to believe her until he spots some odd behaviour himself. It's time for the two children to team up and find out what is really going on with his mum and the animals that are going missing from the zoo.

Magic Keepers: Crystal Chaos by Linda Chapman

Ava and her mum move to a new town when they inherit an old house filled with curious objects. When Ava unwittingly wakes a mummified crocodile from ancient Egypt, magical fun and adventure ensues.

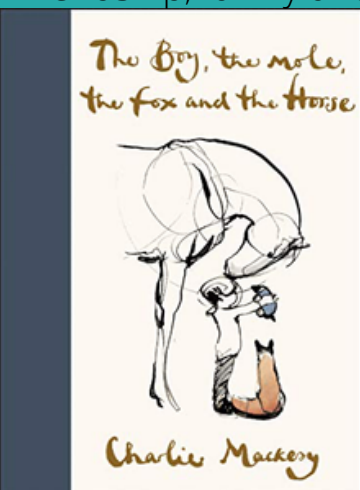


The World's Most Ridiculous Animals by Philip Bunting

This book is a mixture of facts and humour about all kinds of animals, along with amazing illustrations. The facts are cleverly annotated with quirky comments that will have everyone giggling. A great book to share with your child.

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

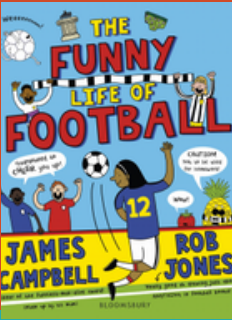
Robot Roz is washed up on an island filled with seemingly unfriendly wildlife who think she is a monster. Gradually Roz manages to befriend the animals, and they all band together when her past arrives to haunt her. A beautiful book about friendship, family and acceptance.



Miss Moss recommends...

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse is a great book for the start of the new school year because it teaches us about being kind, brave and enjoying life's sweet moments - like eating yummy chocolate cake! This story makes me smile and gives you lots of wise ideas to think about.

CHAPTER BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS



The Funny Life of Football by James Campbell

A hilarious mixture of fact and fiction that is not your usual football book. Here you will learn that bananas are not allowed to play football, but also about the kings that tried to ban the sport. You can read this from start to finish, or follow the signposts to skip between pages. A great, fun read.



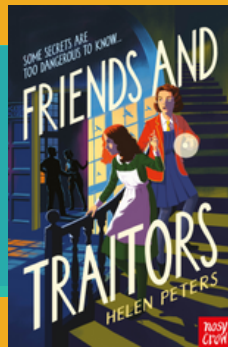
Greenwild: The World Behind the Door by Pari Thomson

Daisy's search for her missing mum leads her to a magical, botanical world where she finds danger, friendship and plenty of adventure. A timeless story and a plot filled with twists and turns.



Read, Scream, Repeat compiled by Jennifer Killick

A collection of 13 spooky stories from some amazing children's authors, featuring everything from zombies to ghosts, shadow beasts to talking dolls. These short stories are also great for reluctant readers, and are a good introduction to a range of authors.



Friends and Traitors by Helen Peters

Sidney's school has been evacuated to a stately home where she meets a housemaid, Nancy. With the earl acting suspiciously they discover a secret plan to collaborate with the Nazis. Can they stop the earl's plan before it's too late?



Crookhaven: The School for Thieves by J.J. Arcanjo

When Gabriel is caught pickpocketing, he expects to be arrested. Instead he is offered a place at Crookhaven: a school for thieves who are taught to use their skills to right the wrongs in the world. Boarding school, friendship and mystery make this a brilliant start to a new series, with book 2 just out.



Agent 9: flood-a-geddon! by James Burks

An action packed graphic novel about a hapless secret agent who is currently on probation for the chaotic side-effects of his missions. But when King Crab takes over their headquarters, Agent 9 is the only agent who can save the day.



Ms Lee recommends...

A magical set of 4 adventure stories and a must for Harry Potter fans and children who like to escape into a fantasy world. The Wizards of Once is set in an ancient land of wizards, sprites, warriors, mythical creatures and powerful magic. My daughter loves that the main character is a girl - she is strong and has special powers.

BOOKS ARE FOR EVERYONE

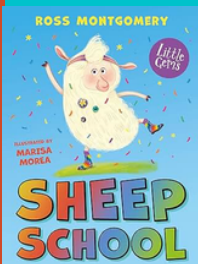
Not all children fall in love with reading immediately. This can be for a variety of reasons: some children get frustrated at the speed they read, some lack confidence in their ability, and for some it is as simple as not having found the right book yet. For children with dyslexia the fonts used in many books, along with the spacing, can make reading difficult.

This is where books published by **Barrington Stoke** come in. Barrington Stoke use a specially designed font along with a tinted paper that is easier on the eyes. The spacing is also better, between letters, words and lines. All of these things make the books easier to read for children with dyslexia, and are also a less “threatening” book for reluctant readers, as these are shorter and have less words on a page, but still look more like the books other children are reading. In addition, Barrington Stoke has a host of well known and admired children’s authors that write for them.

The books use a system of IA (interest age) running from 3 to teen, and RA (reading age) from 6 to 8+, so children can find books that interest them, but are also aimed at their reading ability. Some books say RA is “at level”, as not all children will be at a lower reading age. More information can be found on their website.

Barrington Stoke books can be found in all the usual bookshops and websites and Beaconsfield library has a good selection of them. You can also find used copies online, on websites like Abe Books, World of Books and eBay.

Don't forget to look at all sorts of different books to hook your reluctant reader. There are great graphic novels for children on the market, along with non-fiction, poetry, books written in verse and audiobooks (which can be borrowed free with a library card from the Libby app). Perhaps try an e-reader, too, which can offer a range of fonts and the ability to adjust the spacing.



IA / RA 5+
Read about how William the lamb, the “worst” sheep at sheep school, saves the day.

IA 7+ / RA 8
Zahra discovers there are good and bad things that can happen when your suitcase gets muddled with a witch’s.



IA 9+ / RA 8
Learn about who the Vikings were and what Viking life was really like.

