



Arbury Primary School

Reading Newsletter Number 6

Summer 2 2021



What an amazing year of reading it has been! It has been wonderful to celebrate reading for pleasure in school this year and share the children's wonderful reviews. Welcome to the last reading newsletter of the year with some special book recommendations from our Year 6 leavers...

A small selection of what we have been reading in each year group this half term...

Reception: 'Aaargh Spider!' by Lydia Monk

Year 1: 'The Boy Baby' by Jeanne Willis

Year 2: 'Winnie at the Seaside' by Valerie Thomas

Year 3: 'The Minpins' by Roald Dahl

Year 4: 'i-Spy Nature' What can you spot?

Year 5: 'Odd and the Frost Giants' by Neil Gaiman

Year 6: 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare

Some reading news from this half term...

Empathy Day

On June 10th it was Empathy Day. As a school, we all read the beautiful book 'The Invisible' by Tom Percival. Classes took part in a range of different activities, thinking about empathy and we learnt about how reading books helps us all develop our empathy.

The Summer Reading Challenge

This year's Summer Reading Challenge is called 'Wild World Heroes' and The Reading Agency has teamed up with WWF. Make sure you take part by visiting your local library or using the link below to find out more. Remember, if you complete the challenge, let your teacher know in September so we can help you celebrate!

www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

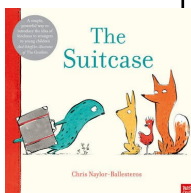
Mrs Dowdall recommends: Three books to help develop empathy...

Empathy is such an important and special skill to have. Research shows that reading books really helps us to develop empathy, helping us to understand how other people might feel. Here are some of my favourite books that help to build empathy...

EYFS and Key Stage 1

'The Suitcase' by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

This wonderful picture book helps us to understand the importance of kindness and friendship. A wonderful book to share, it is sure to spark lots of conversation with its powerful, yet simple, message.



Lower Key Stage 2

'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q. Rauf

This gem of a novel has won multiple awards for its sensitive way of dealing with the refugee crisis. A new boy, Ahmet, joins the class and some of his new classmates show him kindness and empathy. It is probably best suited for Year 4 upwards or more mature Year 3s.



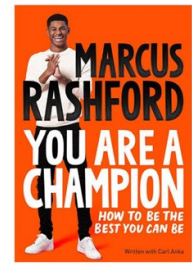
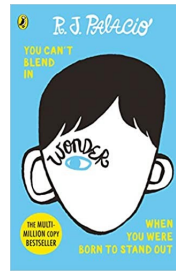
Upper Key Stage 2

'A Kind of Spark' by Ellie McNicoll

This beautiful story is told from the point of view of an 11 year old girl called Addie. She is determined to create a memorial for women in her town who were accused of witchcraft and in the process, changes the way other people view her too. Completely unput-downable!



It has been wonderful to find out about what books and reading mean to staff at Arbury Primary School. This term we have two lovely interviews to share with you from Miss Pope (Year 6, class 14) and Mrs Whiting (Assistant Head). Enjoy...



Miss Pope from Year 6

What is your favourite book and why?

My favourite children's book is the fairy tale, 'Rapunzel' because my Dad read this to me every night when I was around 7. I knew all the words! As an adult, I like to read things like 'Bounce' and 'The Talent Code' which are books about whether we are born with our gifts and talents or whether these can be developed through hard work and practise.

When and where do you like to read?

I read in bed every night and this helps me to fall asleep. I also like to read in the garden on sunny days. My favourite person to read with is my grandson!

What are you currently reading?

I recently reread the book 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio. I love this book because it deals with such important themes such as inclusion and that what counts is on the inside, not the outside. I think it is a beautiful book.

Why is reading important to you?

Reading to me is everything. It gives me great pleasure, it brings people together and it can change the way you think about things. If we didn't have reading, I think the world would be a less rich and less empathic place.

Mrs Whiting (Assistant head)

What is your favourite book and why?

My favourite book at the moment is Marcus Rashford's new book called 'You Are A Champion - How To Be The Best You Can Be'. Mrs Rawlins bought a copy for each class to read this term. I borrowed a copy too, and read it over a weekend. He is an inspiring person, and is a real 'change-maker'. He talks about racism and how damaging it is. He talks about over-coming difficulties and trying your best, working hard, and being kind. He talks about building people up, not knocking them down. I'd love for him to visit our school one day!

When and where do you like to read?

I love reading when I am on holiday. I also love reading in my garden, in a park, while having a coffee...pretty much anywhere.

What are you currently reading?

I have just started reading a book about cycle touring across France, and I am dreaming about trips I might make in the future.

Why is reading important to me?

Reading takes you to different places. It helps to open your mind and to expand your horizons. It makes me happy.

Year 6 Leavers' Recommendations

Our Year 6 children are brilliant, avid readers. We have worked out that between them this year they have read an astonishing 3000 books (in fact, probably many more!). They have been thinking about the books they have read since they started at school in Reception that have really resonated with them and have made a huge list of recommendations for the rest of the school. We wish our wonderful Year 6 pupils lots of luck for their next steps and hope that they continue to discover new books and authors at secondary school, fostering and continuing their lifelong love of reading. Happy Reading Year 6!

Our favourite funny books:

'The Tom Gates series' by Liz Pichon (8+)

'The Parent Agency' by David Baddiel (8+)

'There's a Werewolf in my Tent' by Pamela Butchart (7+) "I couldn't stop reading this; it was so funny!"

'The Vicar of Nibbleswick' by Roald Dahl (10+) "The vicar has an illness which means he says words backwards— it's the funniest book I have ever read."

'How to Train your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell (7+)

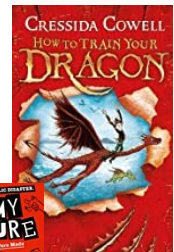
'Dark Lord: The Teenage Years' by Jamie Thompson (8+)

'The Nothing to See Here Hotel' by Steven Butler (7+)

'Sisters' by Raina Telgemeier (10+)

'The Timmy Failure series' by Stephan Pastis

'Planet Omar' by Zanib Mian (9+)



Our favourite picture books (suitable from birth upwards!):

'The Smartest Giant in Town' by Julia Donaldson

'The Weasels' by Elys Dolan

'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle

'The Book With No Pictures' by B.J. Novak

'Mog the Forgetful Cat' by Judith Kerr

'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson "This is the best picture book I have ever read."

'This Book is Out of Control' by Richard Byrne

'The Elephant and the Bad Baby' by Elfrida Vipont

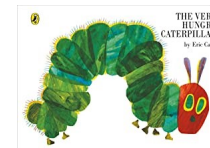
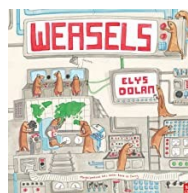
'The Colour of Home' by Mary Hoffman

'The Jolly Postman' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

'The Bear and the Piano' by David Litchfield

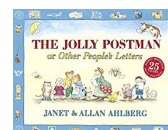
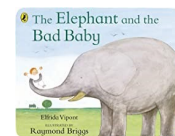
'Leon and the Place Between' by Angela Mcallister

'Duck gets a Job' by Sonny Ross "It's funny and it has a moral."



The Book With No Pictures

B.J. Novak



Books that help develop empathy:

'The Bubble Boy' by Stewart Foster (9+)

'No Ballet Shoes in Syria' by Catherine Brunton (10+) "It's about a Syrian refugee- no one wants help her and her family but she becomes an amazing dancer. It's amazing"

'Mr Stink' by David Walliams (8+)

'The Giant's Necklace' by Michael Morpurgo (9+)

'An Island of Our Own' by Sally Nicholls (10+)

'Born to Run' by Michael Morpurgo (9+) "I found this book really sad- it showed me how many lives a dog can have."

'Holes' by Louis Sachar

'The Shark Caller' by Zillah Bethell (9+) "An adventurous book which made me cry at the end!"

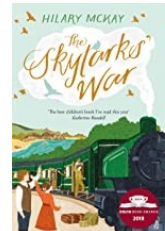
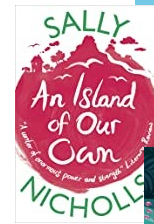
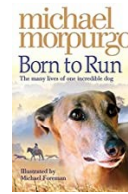
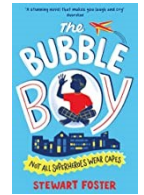
'Cloud Boy' by Marcia Williams (10+)

'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo (10+)

'The Skylarks' War' by Hilary McKay (10+)

'The Star of Kazan' by Eva Ibbotson (9+)

'The Boy in the Tower' by Polly Ho-Yen (9+)



Books set in amazing places around the world:

'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill (8+)

'The Nowhere Emporium' by Ross MacKenzie (9+)

'Asha and the Spirit Bird' by Jasbinder Bilan (9+)

'Hatchet' by Gary Paulsen (10+)

'North Child' by Edith Pattou (9+)

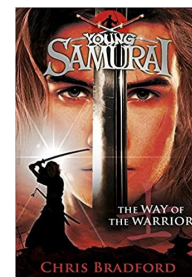
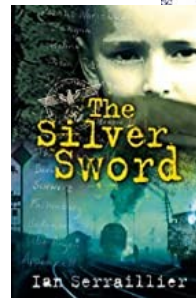
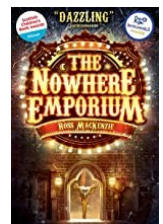
'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell (9+)

'The Silver Sword' by Ian Serraillier (10+)

'Young Samurai' by Chris Bradford (10+) "A boy is stranded in ancient Japan. These books are really exciting!"

'Darwin's Dragons' by Lindsay Galvin (9+) "This great story is partly in the Galapagos Islands."

'Kensuki's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo (9+)



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