




Since Christmas, we have had a range of wonderful reading for pleasure events in school, including our Arbury World Book Day, when the children took part in lots of lovely bookish activities over the day, including dressing up as their favourite book characters. Thank you to all the children and adults who sent in an 'Extreme Reading' photo. You can now see these brilliant photos on the school website. We really do read anywhere and everywhere at Arbury Primary School!

A small selection of what we have been reading in each year group over the Spring term:

Reception				Year 4			
Year 1				Year 5			
Year 2				Year 6			
Year 3							

Mrs Dowdall recommends: Three books about plants...

Spring is in the air and we have had a few sunny days after quite a cold and wet winter! It is so lovely to see all the beautiful Spring flowers blooming and trees starting to bud in our local area and in the play-ground. This term, I have chosen three wonderful books that celebrate plants and flowers!

EYFS and Key Stage 1

'Tree' by Britta Teckentrup

The beauty and wonder of the changing seasons is celebrated in this gorgeous, rhyming peek-through picture book. Follow the life-cycle of a tree through spring, summer, autumn and winter.



Lower Key Stage 2

'The Last Tree' by Emily Haworth-Booth

This beautifully illustrated book is about the wonder of trees and what life would be like without them. A story that makes you think but also has a message of hope at the end.



Upper Key Stage 2

'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett

This is a true classic children's book. It is the story of orphaned Mary, sent to live with her relatives back in England. She discovers a forgotten garden and manages to turn a whole household upside down, breathing new life into its inhabitants.



Children's Recommendations

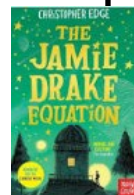
We always ask our children to share their favourite reading recommendations. Here are a few of the books they have read and enjoyed lately...

'The Jamie Drake Equation' by Christopher Edge. Reviewed by a Year 4 pupil

Jamie is a boy whose Dad is an astronaut, and is currently orbiting the Earth in the International Space Station. Jamie really misses his Dad. When he goes to Beacon Hill for some peace and quiet, he stumbles upon the abandoned observatory and meets Professor Forster, an astronomer who is looking for signs of alien life. Jamie then accidentally downloads an alien lifeform called 'Buzz' onto his phone and things snowball into an interstellar adventure.

I rate this book 10/10!

I recommend this books to readers who are 9 years old +



'The Boy in the Tower' by Polly Ho-Yen. Reviewed by a Year 6 pupil

This book is really intriguing once you get into it. At the beginning it is all a bit mysterious and then you find out there are alien plants taking over the city. It's about a boy living in a tower of the last building standing in the city. The boy's mum is sick and he goes on a mission to keep her alive and get them food. It is a very exciting story recommended for 9+.

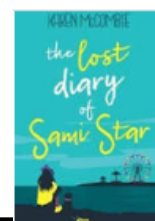


'The Lost Diary of Sami Star' by Karen McCombie. Reviewed by a Year 4 pupil

Hannah's sister, Vix, doesn't want to go to university. Vix is also always arguing with her parents and Hannah never gets noticed. One day Hannah went to the park and found a liost diary. The name of the owner was Sami Star. Inside the diary were loads of photographs and Sami Star seems lots like Hannah. Can Hannah find Sami Star and become friends with her?

For ages 9+

I give this lovely book a 10/10 rating



Have you read a brilliant book recently?

We would love to hear about the books you love and publish your recommendations in the next newsletter. Write your short review on a piece of paper. Remember to include the title of the book and the author, what makes the book good and a short synopsis (without giving the ending away!) and the age group it is appropriate for. You can also give it a score out of 5 stars. Give your completed review to your teacher or to Mrs Dowdall.

This term we have interviews from our two Year 2 teachers: Miss Pearson and Miss Aurelio. Read on to find out why reading is so important to them both!

Miss Pearson's Interview

What is your favourite book and why?

My favourite book is 'A Bear Called Paddington' by Michael Bond. I read it when I was a child and still enjoy reading about the mischievous adventures and mishaps he gets up to. They never fail to make me laugh, even now as an adult!

When and Where do you like to read?

I read every night as it helps me to relax before I go to sleep but my favourite time to read is snuggled on the sofa with a cup of coffee on a Saturday morning when I have nowhere to be.

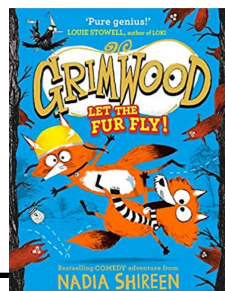
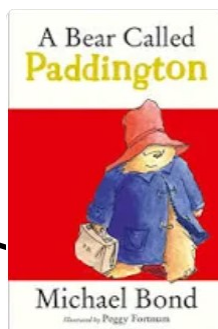
What are you currently reading?

I am currently listening to Mrs Wheeldon read our class book to Class 6, 'Grimwood: Let the Fur Fly' by Nadia Shireen. It's a hilarious book and makes us all chuckle before we go home at the end of the day.

At home, I recently started a book club with a couple of friends and each month we read a different book and then get together to share our thoughts. This month we're reading a book by Margaret Atwood and I am enjoying it so far, although I am needing to concentrate a lot.

Why is reading important to you?

Reading helps me to relax and unwind after a busy day and I don't think I would be able to get as much sleep if I didn't!



Miss Aurelio's Interview

What is your favourite book and why?

I enjoy any fairy tale or myth that has been retold in a different way or with a slight twist but one of my favourite children's books is 'Odd and the Frost Giants' by Neil Gaiman. The story is based on Norse mythology. It's about a young boy, named Odd, who leaves his village on an adventure. He soon meets three talking animals who turn out to be gods: Odin, Thor and Loki.

When and Where do you like to read?

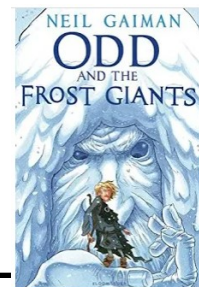
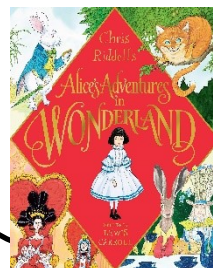
My favourite time to read is during the holidays when I have more free time to fully immerse myself in a story. If the sun is out, you'll often find me reading in the garden. I also love reading aloud to my class and talking about the stories that we've read together!

What are you currently reading?

I'm currently reading 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll. I never read this story as a child but I came across a beautiful version, illustrated by Chris Riddell, and I had to buy it! Not only am I enjoying reading about Alice's truly bizarre journey but the illustrations are breath-taking.

Why is reading important to you?

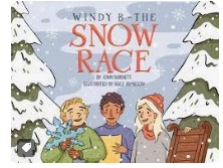
I love how reading can take you to a completely different world!



Some reading news from this half term...

Author John Barnett visits the Reading Ambassadors

We were really lucky that in January, the author John Barnett came to visit our Reading Ambassadors. He shared his newest book, 'Snow Race' and talked to the Reading Ambassadors about being an author. He even brought in his handwritten first draft of the book to have a look at!



Creative Writing Workshop for Year 6

Back in Spring Term 1, some Year 6 children visited Mayfield Primary School for the day. They worked with the author Anne Stairmand to develop their writing skills with a range of writing workshops. They had a great time and really impressed with the quality of their work.

World Book Day 2023

We had an action packed World Book Day. Children took part in brilliant 'Booknics' throughout the day with different classes coming together in the hall to read and share books. The hall was decorated and there were cushions, blankets and mats to help make it comfy and cosy. Additionally, we had a lovely whole school assembly, the children got dressed up as favourite book characters and every class had a mystery reader visit who shared a favourite book with them.

Remember, there are photos of all these events on our school website!

Author of the term...

This term's author is: Rob Biddulph

Rob Biddulph is the author and illustrator of a range of brilliant children's books. We enjoyed sharing his books on World Book Day and lots of the children particularly enjoyed listening to his story 'Dog Gone'. His books are usually very funny and he has won lots of prizes for his work. We have lots of Rob Biddulph's books in our school. Have you read any?

