



Arbury Primary School

Reading Newsletter Number 7

Autumn 1 2021



We've had a wonderful bookish start to the new school year and have already enjoyed some fantastic reading events. It has also been incredibly exciting to introduce the Reading Ambassador role to our school; each class has already elected representatives to help promote Reading for Pleasure at Arbury! A small selection of what we have been reading in each year group this half term...

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

Some reading news from this half term...

Reading Ambassadors

We have introduced a new responsibility for the children, Reading Ambassadors. Each class has two children who will help to promote reading for pleasure in their class and around the school. We have already had our first meeting and the new Reading Ambassadors received their badges. They have also written some fabulous book reviews for this issue of the reading newsletter. Enjoy!

National Poetry Day– Thursday 7th October

On Thursday 7th October, we celebrated National Poetry Day. The children listened to amazing poetry, performed poetry and also wrote poetry, including wonderful whole class strip poems and rainforest haikus. We also updated our poetry book collection in school with a lovely pile of newly published poetry anthologies for the children to share and enjoy in class.



Mrs Dowdall recommends: Three wonderful poetry books...

Poetry is such a wonderful text type to read aloud and share or read quietly by yourself. Different poems can make you feel different ways; they can make you laugh, think and even cry. Here are three recently published anthologies that I think you will enjoy and may resonate with you...

EYFS and Key Stage 1

'A Great Big Cuddle' by Michael Rosen

This is an absolutely wonderful collection of poems by Michael Rosen, perfect to share with young children. The poems are warm-hearted, funny and relatable. The illustrations by Chris Riddle are also a real treat!



Lower Key Stage 2

'Yapping Away' by Joseph Seigal

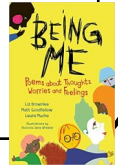
This lovely, newly published anthology is full of a wide range of poetry. From funny poems, to thoughtful poems, there is something for everyone in here. My personal favourite is 'The Reading Journey' which I shared with the Reading Ambassadors at our very first meeting!



Upper Key Stage 2

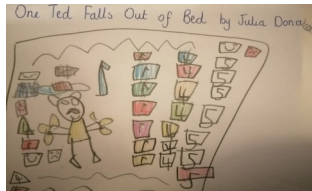
'Being Me' by Liz Brownlee

This gorgeous new anthology is packed full of poems which aim to support and encourage children. It is full of empathic, thoughtful poems which show understanding and sensitivity around the thoughts and worries that many children feel.



Reading Ambassador Book Recommendations

I have been really excited to meet the new Arbury Reading Ambassadors. There are two Reading Ambassadors for each class from Reception all the way to Year 6 and I can't wait for them to get stuck into supporting me to promote reading for pleasure across the school. This term I asked the Reading Ambassadors to write me reviews for some of their favourite books...

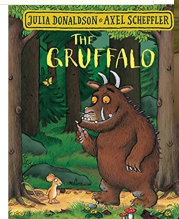
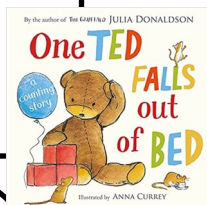


'One Ted Falls Out of Bed' by Julia Donaldson, recommended by a Year 1 Reading Ambassador.

I love this wonderful picture. Well done!

'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson, recommended by a Year 1 Reading Ambassador.

What a wonderful drawing of the front cover! Well done!



'The Night Bus Hero' by Onjali Q. Rauf reviewed by a Year 6 Reading Ambassador

One of my favourite books is *The Night Bus Hero* by Onjali Q. Rauf. This book is about a young, troublesome boy called Hector who bullies children at his school- he even bullies homeless people. Thankfully, another student called Mei-Li brings out the good in him. As he spends more time with Mei-Li, he becomes friends with the homeless people he had treated badly. The characters, including Hector, work together to find a thief who has been stealing the important landmarks of London. You should read the book to find out what happens next!



'Vi Spy: License to Chill' by Maz Evans, reviewed by a Year 5 Reading Ambassador

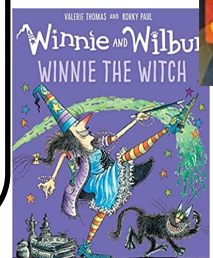
Vi Spy is an amazing adventure book about a young girl called Vi who wants to become a spy. It's a very fun adventure with puns galore! With a dad once a super villain and a mum once a super spy, will Vi manage to save the world and get everyone to 'chill'? Vi has an amazing ability; she can tell from someone's unconscious movement or habit that shows they're lying. She does not have many friends but she eventually finds a friend called Russel Sprout, her nearly-step-brother.

If you like adventure books and are eager for spy stories than this one is for you! (for ages 9 up).



'Winnie the Witch' by reviewed by a Reception Reading Ambassador

I like lots of different books but my favourites are *Winnie the Witch* and *Belle*. These are my favourites because Winnie is silly and I love her black cat. I like the silly food Winnie makes and eats. I love Belle because she lives in a castle with a beast. I also like Chip and his mummy!



This term we have two lovely interviews with our Year 3 teachers: Mr Taylor and Mrs Macdonald.

Mr Taylor...



What is your favourite book and why?

I have to be honest, I don't think I have a favourite! There are books that I have read/listened to throughout my lifetime that stand out, so I'll mention those! The first book I remember is an old Ladybird book called 'Tootles the Taxi'. It's a book of rhymes about different types of transport. The vehicles are characterised (a little bit like Thomas the Tank Engine) and each have their own rhyme. I remember my Dad reading it to me and changing the words of the rhymes to make me laugh! At primary school, I really liked 'Funny Bones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg and 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl. At secondary school, I remember studying 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee and really enjoying that. Although I don't have a favourite book, I do have a favourite author; Agatha Christie. She is known as 'The Queen of Crime' and rightly so! She's the best-selling novelist of all time and most of her novels have been adapted for film or TV. I own most of her novels and have enjoyed reading them all over the years.

When and where do you like to read?

I can only concentrate on a book if there is complete silence around me! I found it really difficult to read at school because there was always too much going on and I much preferred to read to someone at home. In fact, I think I read the same page of the same book from the library at school for months! So now, as an adult, I have to read in the evening when my children have gone to bed. I like to do this when I'm in bed, as it's a good way of 'switching off' before I go to sleep.

What are you currently reading?

I'm between books at the moment, but I read to my son every night. Our current favourites are 'The Bear and the Piano' by David Litchfield, 'Nipper and the Lunchbox' by Lucy Dillamore and 'Animalium' by Jenny Broom. I thoroughly recommend them all!

Why is reading important to me?

For me, because I have to read in the evening when it is quiet, reading is an avenue of relaxation. The daytime is always so busy, so when I get to my book, it's at the point where the day is done, jobs are done and I'm ready to switch off. A while back, I read a book called 'The Catcher in the Rye' by J.D Salinger. Now, I'm pretty certain that nothing of any significance happens in this book! Literally nothing! However, I read all of it, partly because I felt sure the next chapter would bring some excitement, but mainly because I was just glad to be reading – and that's what it's all about for me.



Mrs Macdonald...



What is your favourite book and why?

This is such a hard question as reading is my absolute favourite thing to do and always has been, ever since I was a child, but as an adult there are two books that I go back to and read over and over again. The first one is Behind the Scenes at the Museum by Kate Atkinson, which is a story about a family over many generations and has flashbacks to lots of different time periods. I love that it's told from the point of view of a child and I love making the connections between the characters as the story unfolds. The second book is Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys. It is the back story of a character from another novel (Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte) and in it, we find out about this mysterious woman and where she came from. As a child I loved the classics and my favourite books were Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Peter Pan and Swallows and Amazons. The children in these stories led very different lives to me and I loved escaping to their world for a little while. I used to have them on story tapes (ask your grownups what these are!) and would listen on my Walkman (again-ask your grownups) and read them at the same time.

When and where do you like to read?

All the time and everywhere! Mrs Ford and I were discussing this just last week (we talk about books a lot and recommend so many to each other) and we both said that we have an upstairs book and a downstairs book! The downstairs book is usually one that I have to concentrate on because the story is complex or the language is very rich and I read on the sofa, in the garden, at the kitchen table. Anywhere! The upstairs book is one that I read in bed to help me relax. These are usually easier to read and follow, and to find my place in if I fall asleep! Then, of course, there will be a Kindle book. My Kindle lives in my handbag so I can read when I'm waiting anywhere and on holiday!

What are you currently reading?

My upstairs book is The Humans by Matt Haig, which is about an alien who comes to Earth to take over the body of a Professor of Mathematics to stop him discovering a code. He has to learn how to behave like a human being and the book is about what makes humans human! It's funny and very touching and set in Cambridge which is a bonus. I have just started a new downstairs book called The Mirror and the Light by Hilary Mantel. It's the third book in a trilogy about Thomas Cromwell who was a minister in King Henry VIII's court. It's quite complex and almost like poetry in parts but I like a challenge!

My Kindle book is The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern. I'm rereading this and I love its originality and quirkiness.

Why is reading important to me?

Books have always been a huge part of my life and when I was a little girl I was lucky enough to live right across the road from my local library. It became like a second home to me (I wanted to be a librarian for years) and I spent so much time there, reading everything I could. I adored the characters that I found in the picture books and, as I grew older, in the books of Joan Aiken, Beverly Cleary, Judy Blume and Betsy Byers. 1970's children's fiction at its finest!

Reading Matters...

Research tells us that reading regularly for pleasure with your child has so many benefits. It helps to:

- Develop and increase vocabulary
- Develop comprehension skills
- Has a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing
- Develops empathy
- Increases general knowledge
- Has positive effects on sleep
- Impacts on attainment across the curriculum
- When we read aloud to our children, it is a bonding opportunity

Remember...

Children in Key Stage 1 should be reading to an adult at least 5 times a week. Please record each time they read aloud in their reading records. They should also have stories, poems, rhymes and books shared and read to them by adults at home every day.

Children in Key Stage 2 should be reading for a minimum of 20 minutes each night. This could be independent reading or reading their book to an adult aloud. Reading records should be filled in by an adult at home or the children themselves to indicate to their class teacher what they have read each night.

Keep reading, Arbury!

