



Arbury Primary School

Reading Newsletter Number 3

Spring 1 2021



It has been a strange time for us all to start this year with most children learning from home. With less access to physical books from school, and with libraries less accessible and with reduced opening, we hope that the online resources the school is providing for reading at home have been useful.

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

Reception: 'Prince Cinders' by Babette Cole

Year 1: 'Violet the Pilot' by Steve Breen

Year 2: 'The Dragon Machine' by Helen Ward

Year 3: 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura

Year 4: 'The Egyptian Cinderella' by Shirley Climo.

Year 5: 'Hidden Figures' by Margo Lee-Shetterly

Year 6: 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan

Some reading news from this half term...

The Reading Rooms on eSchools

Have you visited the Reading Rooms on eSchools? These are areas dedicated to Reading for Pleasure and their aim is to support your children to access books and stories while the majority of us are having to learn from home. As well as recordings of books being read, you can find links to brilliant websites that will give you access to audio books and e-books.

In the Key Stage 1 room, a new picture book being read is posted every day. In the Key Stage 2 room, each day a new chapter of the novel 'Varjak Paw' by SF Said is being posted. Enjoy and happy reading Arbury!

Mrs Dowdall recommends: Three books that are the first in a series...

It is January, and a new year, so a great time to get stuck into a new series of books. There are loads of brilliant series to enjoy out there, including famous ones like the Harry Potter books and the Chronicles of Narnia books. However, here are three of my favourites that have been more recently published...

EYFS and Key Stage 1

'Izzy Gizmo' by Pip Jones



This is a very new publication and there are only two books in the series so far to read and enjoy, however they are a definite future classic. Izzy Gizmo is a girl who loves to invent. Vividly illustrated and with a strong rhyming story, these books are inspiring, fun and a great read aloud. Highly recommended!

Lower Key Stage 2

'Mr Penguin series' by Alex T Smith

Mr Penguin is a private investigator with a retinue of eccentric sidekicks. Full of adventure, mystery and slapstick humour these books are a great introduction to the mystery genre. There are three books already to enjoy in this new, funny series.



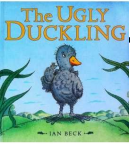
Upper key Stage 2

'Cogheart series' by Peter Bunzl

If you like adventure, then these books are perfect for you. Set in a slightly different (more Victorian steampunk) world to the one we recognise, where there are robots or 'mechanicals' to help with everyday life. The books follow Lily and her friends as they are plunged into a murky world of deceit and danger.



This term we have two interviews for you to enjoy from Ms Taylor and Ms Telfer, Arbury's Year 2 teachers. Have a read and find out about the books they love and why reading is so important to them...



An interview with Ms Taylor

What is your favourite children's book and why?

My favourite children's book is *The Ugly Duckling* because I think it has such an important message for readers and it gives us a really good opportunity to discuss the story in class and relate it to real life issues.

Where do you like to read?

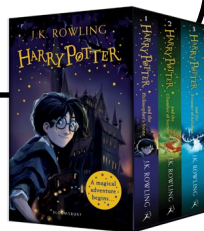
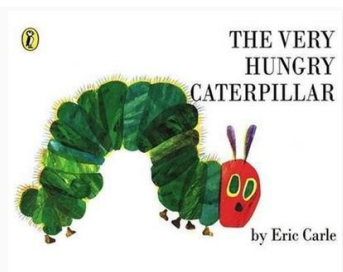
I particularly like to read on holiday when I am relaxing.

What are you currently reading?

I am currently reading Kelly Holmes' autobiography as I love learning about the lives of successful athletes. she was a runner who won two Olympic gold medals, I think she is inspiring because she had never won at the Olympics before but she kept working hard and finally achieved her dream twice in the same championship!

Why is reading important to you?

Reading is important to me as it gives me an opportunity to see the world through somebody else's eyes and it can also take you to magical places, particularly if you are reading Harry Potter!



An interview with Ms Telfer

What's your favourite children's book and why?

There are so many fantastic children's books and children's authors so it's very tricky to choose a favourite! As a child I was an avid reader and I particularly liked *The Faraway Tree* stories by Enid Blyton. It was always so exciting to discover which land would be next at the top of the tree! I also liked 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle because I liked the way the size of the pages changed as the caterpillar ate more and more in the story! Some of my favourite picture books to read with children are books which encourage everyone to join in, like 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen.

When and where do you like to read?

I like to read on the sofa but in the summer, when the weather is warm, I also enjoy reading outside. Reading is something I like to do as often as I can, but I read the most at weekends and in school holidays.

What are you currently reading?

I have just finished re-reading the Harry Potter series. I have read these books many times but still find that I notice something new each time as there are so many clever details within the text and the magical world it describes.

Why is reading important to you?

I absolutely love books and reading and have done ever since I was very young. We can learn so much through reading and it also allows me to use my imagination and experience new places. I find losing myself in a good book a great way to relax.

Your reviews...

'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' by Jeff Kinney, reviewed by a Year 5 pupil (Class 11)

I'd recommend *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

It's about a boy who wants to be famous, but for now he's just a normal boy that is in secondary school. I like this book because I can understand the book and because I like jokes and the book is very funny.

I recommend it for children aged 7 to 12 years old.



'Awful Auntie' by David Walliams, reviewed by a Year 4 pupil (Class 10)

I'd recommend *Awful Auntie*. The story takes place in Saxby Hall. It is about young lady Stella and her awful auntie who has a pet owl called Wagner. Her awful auntie wants to steal her home. It is a very funny book!

I would recommend this book for ages 7-12.

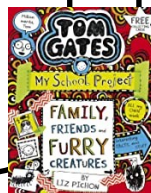


'Tom Gates; Family, Friends and Furry Creatures' by Liz Pichon, reviewed by a Year 6 pupil (Class 14)

This book is about a boy who's making a school project and he thinks his grandparents might be spies. In the story his shoes start to squeak and people think it's another sound! Tom has a grumpy sister and they're always fighting.

This book is funny and like a diary. I liked this book because it's funny and everything that happens in it could actually happen to anyone who thinks his grandparents might be spies!

It is for ages 7 and up.

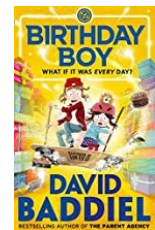


'Birthday Boy' by David Baddiel, reviewed by a Year 6 pupil (Class 14)

I recommend *"Birthday Boy"* by David Baddiel.

It's about a boy who loves his birthday and wishes for it to be everyday. However, things soon start to go wrong. It's adventurous near to the end and quite funny!

I would recommend it for ages 7 upwards.



'Mortal Engines' by Philip Reeve reviewed by a Year 6 pupil (Class 14)

I really recommend *Mortal Engines*, which is set in a dangerous future with huge motorised cities which hunt, attack and fight each other for survival.

As London pursues a small town, young apprentice Tom is flung out into the wastelands, where a terrifying cyborg begins to hunt him down. It's full of adventure and action and I loved the book—it's amazing and I couldn't put it down..

It is suitable for ages 10, 11 and upwards.



'The Ship of Shadows' by Maria Kuzniar, reviewed by a year 2 pupil (class 6)

In this book there is a girl called Aleja and she gets on a pirate ship that only girls are allowed on. It's the *Ship of Shadows* because it is full of magical shadows. It's an exciting story but some bits are a bit scary, like the bit with a sand monster and the skeletons that chased them. The pirates were looking for a magical map which showed secret places that no-one knew of, to find treasure. I liked it because I like exciting stuff, and I'm strong like the girls on the ship.

Children will enjoy this book if they like exciting stories, like *Harry Potter*. My mum read it to me and it is for ages 6 and upwards.



'Billionaire Boy' by David Walliams reviewed by a Year 3 pupil (Class 8)

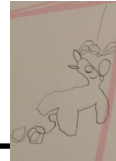
This is about a boy who's dad is really rich and for his birthday he got 1 million pounds! His dad's rich because he has a company that makes toilet tissue that makes people's bottoms go purple even the Queen's!

I would recommend it for ages 8 upwards.



Charlotte's Web by E B White reviewed by a Reception pupil (class 2)

I am reviewing Charlotte's Web by E B white. I like this book because it is about friendship and is so sweet!



'Shelby Holmes The Great Girl Detective' reviewed by a Year 5 pupil (Class 12)

I like this book because it has a interesting setting and the characters' personalities are unique as well as their appearance. A young girl's dog goes missing and Shelby and her new friend go on a hunt to try find it but there's lots of suspicion about who it might be throughout the hunt - I would recommend it for ages 8 to 13.

I'd rate it a 5 out of 5 stars!



Dork Diaries: Once Upon a Dork by Rachel reviewed by a Year 3 pupil (Class 8)

This book is about a middle school student called Nikki Maxwell. She gets hit in the face by a ball and end up in Fairyland. It has some really random parts in it, like a bit where there is a sandwich. It's a really funny book.

I give this book 4 out of 5 stars.



'Over Sea and Under Stone (The Dark is Rising Book 1)', by Susan Cooper, reviewed by a Year 6 pupil (Class 13)

This is an excellent, must read mystery book about three children called Simon, Jane and Barney who are on holiday in Cornwall. Suddenly they discover a manuscript which everyone is looking for. Great Uncle Merry (the children call him Gummery) is also teaming up with the children to find a hidden grail and helps solve all the clues to find it. Unfortunately there are also other people looking for the grail so the children are in trouble when they go out without Great Uncle Merry. This is one of the best books I've read in a while and I loved the way it was set out! The ending, though, is a real twist and is really fun!

I would recommend this book for ages 9 and above.



Thank you to everyone who has sent in a book review this half term- I have tried my best to include them all. It is so wonderful to hear about what you are all reading and the books you enjoy the most. If you are inspired by these reviews and want to share your own in our next reading newsletter (Spring 2), just e-mail your review to Mrs Dowdall via eSchools.

Remember to tell Mrs Dowdall which class you are in!

Remember your review should be:

- Short and snappy (around 4 to 5 sentences only)
- Give a short synopsis (summary)
- Explain why others might enjoy the book
- The age range your book is suitable for
- And remember, don't give away the ending!