



Arbury Primary School

Reading Newsletter Number 4

Spring 2 2021



It has been great having the children back since March 8th and also wonderful to be able once again to lend our children physical books from school to read at home. It feels so great to get everyone back into their reading routines. A big thank you for all the support with reading at home over the last few weeks.

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

Reception: 'Poles Apart' by Jeanne Willis

Year 1: 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers

Year 2: 'Lila and the Secret of Rain' by John Conway

Year 3: 'The Orchard Book of Greek Myths' by Geraldine McCaughrean

Year 4: "The Lost Words" by Robert MacFarlane.

Year 5: 'The Lost Happy Endings' by Carol Anne Duffy

Year 6: 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes

Some reading news from this half term...

World Book Day 4th March

Despite remote learning, we still managed to celebrate World Book Day. It was great to see all your photos of reading for pleasure at home and all your creative potato characters. We hope that you enjoyed the extra story time Zoom hosted by teachers and the activities that teachers provided to help you enjoy the day. You can still access the World Book Day resources and see the photos on The English Group page on eSchools.

New Books

We have ordered lots and lots of lovely new books for each classroom. These were ready to be shared and enjoyed when the children returned on March 8th and include lots of recently published stories to ensure our book areas in class are up to date and contain books that appeal to everyone, including books that celebrate diversity and difference.

Mrs Dowdall recommends: Three books that involve adventuring in space...

I was really inspired by the Mars Rover 'Curiosity' that was launched into space a few weeks ago and is now sending us amazing photos of this far away planet. This term I'm sharing some brilliant stories set in space...

EYFS and Key Stage 1

'The Darkest Dark' by Commander Chris Hadfield



This wonderful picture book, illustrated spectacularly by the Fan Brothers, is a real delight. It tells the true story about the astronaut Chris Hadfield and how he pursued his dream to go into space despite his fears.

Lower Key Stage 2

'Cakes in Space' by Philip Reeve



A super early chapter book with illustrations by Sarah McIntyre. This is a funny and exciting adventure set in outer space. Weird cake aliens are causing problems in this slightly bonkers story from the wonderful Philip Reeve.

Upper Key Stage 2

'Orion Lost' by Alastair Chisholm



An utterly compelling read. A catastrophic event leaves 13 year old Beth and some other kids in charge of the spaceship Orion. Full of unexpected twists and turns, this futuristic novel set in deep space, will keep you on the edge of your seat.

This term we have a special interview with Mrs Morris who works with lots of different year groups across the school. Read on to find out more about why reading and books are such a special part of Mrs Morris' life...

What is your favourite book and why?

This is an easy question to answer because it is a book that I used to read with my first son when he was very young called *The Big Red Bus*. He used to ask for it over and over again at bedtime and we both ended up learning it off by heart - it kind of rhymed and was very clever in the way it was written because it had a rhythm that was like riding on a bus. The story involved a bus, a hole in the road and a traffic jam. The copy we had became so worn out that I don't think we have it anymore. I have tried since to buy a copy but haven't been able to find one - it's out of print. I would love to be able to share it with others in the future so from time to time I have a little look online to see if I can find a copy.

When and where do you like to read?

I love to read in bed before going to sleep. When I'm reading a book that I'm really into I have even been known to go to bed early to be able to carry on with the story. I find reading before going to sleep really helpful if I'm feeling anxious or struggling to sleep - I always feel sleepy after a few pages. Sometimes this is a good thing, other times it's a bit annoying if the story is exciting.

I also love reading by a swimming pool when I'm on holiday - only trouble is the books usually end up getting wet and covered in suntan lotion and then falls apart!!

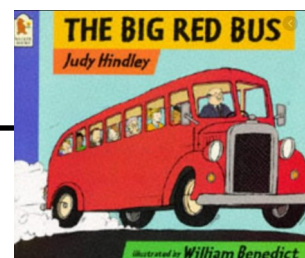
What am I currently reading?

I am currently reading a book called *Shuggie Bain* which won a big prize last year called the Booker Prize. This is a prize given for adult books. It's about a little boy growing up in a place called Glasgow in Scotland. It's quite sad in places but gives a really interesting insight to his life and the challenges he faces.

Why is reading important to me?

Reading is really important to me because first and foremost it helps me relax. When I was young, I actually didn't read much at all unless it was at school where I used to love reading out loud in class. I was always very happy when the teacher picked me - I very clearly remember reading *Emma* by Jane Austen and I have always had very fond memories of it as a result. Since becoming an adult, I have learnt to appreciate more and more the many benefits of reading; it teaches me a lot about all sorts of things. It gives me the chance to experience different situations and emotions but in a fictional way and I learn lots of new words along the way! So, it's a win win situation as far as I'm concerned.

Oh, and guess what! Since doing this interview, I've been online and have managed to find a second-hand copy of *The Big Red Bus*!!!! How about that - serendipity!! If you're lucky I'll bring it in to school one day and read it!



Your Brilliant Book Reviews...

'Adventure Time Comics' by Ryan North, reviewed by a Year 3 pupil (Class 7)

My book review is about Adventure Time Comics.

It's a series of comic books which I'm rereading (in fact it's the 3rd time I'm reading them)!

They're very funny, and in the one I just finished yesterday, Finn and Jake (the main characters) explored three different dungeons with the Ice King, another main character.

Every book in the series is quite different, but in every book they go on amazing adventures (of course).



'Ruby Redfort Series' by Lauren Child, reviewed by a Year 6 pupil (Class 13)

This is an absolutely AMAZING series and I really recommend this to anyone who is about 8 years old and over.

The first book in the series (Look into my eyes) is about Ruby and she is very good at detecting and finding and breaking codes. She finds a secret agency called spectrum and joins it then breaks lots of codes and helps the agency. This book has loads of twists and mystery but in the end Ruby is alright. The author (Lauren Child) got the idea from writing another book called Clarice Bean (another amazing book!) and in that book, Clarice loved a book called Ruby Redfort and that's how this series came about!



'Willow Wildthing and the Dragon's Egg' by Gill Lewis, reviewed by a Year R pupil (Class 2)

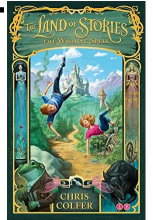
This is an exciting book and I love it! It's about a girl who goes from her garden into the Wilderness where she meets her friends (the Wildthings). There are some other people in the Wilderness too and two different dragons. I have read it three times because it is so good!



'The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell' by Chris Colfer, reviewed by a Year 6 student (Class 13)

I love this book and it is one of my favourites. It is about a brother and sister called Alex and Conner who lose their Dad. Their Grandma comes to be with them and gives them a book called 'The Land of Stories'. However, it's not just a normal book; it's magical and there is lots of excitement and danger waiting inside for the children.

This book is full of plot twists and imaginative ideas. I recommend it to people who want a thrill and enjoy reading fantasy books. I rate this book 5 stars.

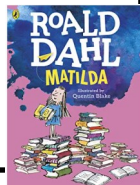


'Matilda' by Roald Dahl, reviewed by a Year 4 pupil (Class 9)

This book is about an extraordinary little girl called Matilda who has unappreciative and very much ordinary parents. When she meets Miss Trunchbull (who is the world's worst headmistress) her amazing brain comes up with an astonishing and also very special miracle.

I would recommend this book for ages 8 upwards

I give it 4 1/2 stars out of 5.



Thank you for all the brilliant book reviews, Arbury. I always need book reviews for the reading newsletter, so if you have read something recently please do send me a review to include in the Summer 1 issue.

Remember your review should be: short and snappy (around 4 to 5 sentences only); give a short synopsis (summary); explain what others may enjoy the book; describe the age range the book is suitable for and shouldn't give away the ending!

Reading at home and sharing books is such an important activity. Research shows that children who develop a love for reading, do better academically across all subjects. This simple poster from The Open University shares some great ways you can support your child's reading at home and help develop a life-long love for reading.

If you want more information, I have included a link below to the Open University Reading for Pleasure website. At this site you can find some excellent videos and further information. I hope that you find the resources useful.

Happy reading!

<https://researchrichpedagogies.org/research/supporting-rah/book-chat-reading-with-your-child>

Supporting Readers at Home

Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.

Read Aloud

Reading aloud to your children shows them reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.

Family Reading Time

Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.

Book Chat

Book Chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too!

Children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school.

I wonder if...why... what...who...

For more ideas see the OU website:
<https://www.researchrichpedagogies.org>