

Pyrford Primary Reading Newsletter

'Growing Great Minds Together'

Spring Term 2023



Welcome to our Spring reading newsletter! As a school, we continue to work hard to share our passion for reading with the children and strive to create a whole school love of reading.

This newsletter edition shares recommended reads, important dates of events coming up, an author spotlight, phonics information and lots more!

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Goree

English co-ordinator

Reading for Pleasure

Reading is an essential skill and impacts all areas of the curriculum. We continue to promote a love of reading through exciting class texts, enticing book corners and our library areas full of a range of texts to suit all readers.

Each year group is immersed in a new text for each writing unit they do. We aim to start each unit with an exciting **'hook'** to engage the children and help them to enjoy the text. Please see some of the amazing hooks we have used with the children across the school on the next few pages!

NO ENTERTAINMENT IS SO
CHEAP AS READING,
NOR ANY PLEASURE SO
LASTING.

- MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU

Exciting 'hooks' in our English lessons

Nursery have been busy hunting for The Gingerbread Man's footprints and making porridge for Goldilocks and the 3 bears!



Reception played Pass the Parcel for their celebration topic and had a party for Elmer!



Year 1 designed their own Egg Box Dragons to immerse them in the text 'The Adventures of Egg Box Dragon.'
They had lots of fun!



Exciting 'hooks' in our English lessons

Learning all about the seaside in **Year 2** before reading 'The Snail and the Whale'!



Year 3 built their own Seawig when reading 'Oliver and the Seawigs.'
←
And learnt all about exciting mythical creatures!
→



The children in Year 4 were wondering what the egg in the classroom was, where it had come from, what might hatch from it later and what might happen in their story, 'The Wild Robot.'

Exciting 'hooks' in our English lessons

Year 5 had an exciting visit from Dick Turpin to hook them into 'The Highwayman'



They also loved their hook into 'Skellig' with an owl visit!



Whilst learning about 'Shackleton's Journey', **Year 6** had a visit from Al Sylvester who told them all about his time in Antarctica—the children were amazed!



Our Book Vending Machine!

The children have loved the addition of our book vending machine at school and we have seen a huge improvement with the engagement of reading in our school because of this.

Every single week I hear children excitedly discussing the books inside the machine when they walk past, which is lovely!

Thank you for all your continued support in helping your child to read at home weekly as this is helping to make a huge difference to their reading and confidence.



Isabella Pocock – Book review and thoughts about the Book Vending Machine

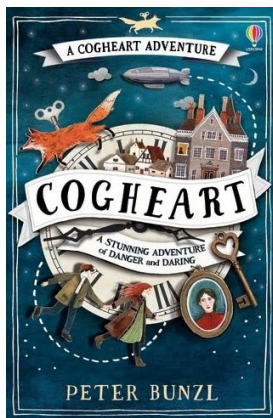
I was lucky enough to win a book from the exciting school vending machine – it was called Cogheart.

My review:

Cogheart is a page-turning adventure about time, danger, friendship and dancing. When I got this stunning book, my face couldn't have shown more shock and happiness. I was surprised to win to say the least! This heart-warming book is a recipe of brilliance, with a teaspoon of clever plots. It really did put me at the edge of my seat.

Everything about this book is inspiring and interesting – even the blurb is captivating! Trust me – once you dive into this mysterious book, you'll find it hard to venture out.

I really love the new vending machine at school because it inspires us to read and we love the anticipation of waiting to see who's won in assembly each week!

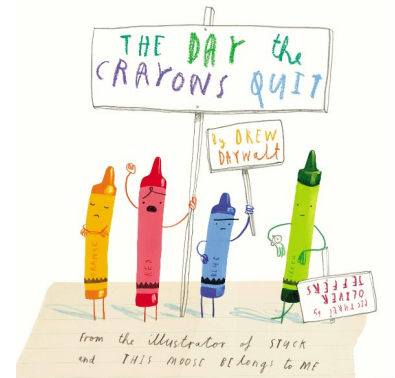


Miss Daly recommends... 'The Day the Crayons Quit'

Have you ever thought that your colouring pencils and crayons have voices of their own and that they could really assess your brilliant creations? Then, this is the book for you!

This hilarious story takes you on a journey which demonstrates how unhappy your colouring pencils can be and how they may dictate what you should draw next. Poor Duncan has received multiple letters from his beloved crayons, who are demanding change. The question is: what will Duncan create next?

Since I started teaching my very own class, I have always adored 'The Day the Crayons Quit' due to the humour this book has and the ability to bring these crayons to life. I hope you all enjoy reading this book as much as I do – I wonder how many different voices your crayons will have!



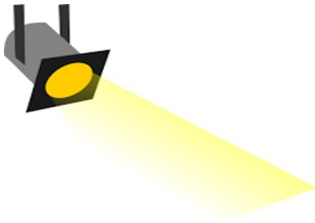
Literacy events coming up...

- **National Storytelling Week—30th January - 5th February.**

Please encourage your child to share their favourite story with you at home next week, or they are more than welcome to bring their favourite story into school if they would like to share it with their class.

- **World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March**
(More information about this event at school will be provided soon)
- **World story telling day - Monday 20th March**
- **World Poetry Day - Tuesday 21st March**





Author spotlight: Jenny Valentine



Last term, a few children in UKS2 were selected to attend an 'Aim High Writing Day'. They were lucky enough to work with the brilliant author, Jenny Valentine and all had a fabulous time.

I spoke to Jenny after the event who has kindly answered some questions about reading and writing stories which I'm sure will help to inspire some of our budding young authors!

1. What inspired you to become an author?

I have always loved reading. And when I was 9 my mum gave me a notebook that looked like a published book on the outside and I thought *Oh I could write a book*. And then I just read and read and read for 25 years and wrote my first book when I was 34!

2. Why do you write the kind of books you do?

I write the stories I want to tell. With the JOY series, I wanted to write something about a girl who has the superpower of being positive. It's a power we can all have. I wrote them when we were all locked down for Covid. I thought we all needed cheering up.

3. How long does it take to complete one of your books?

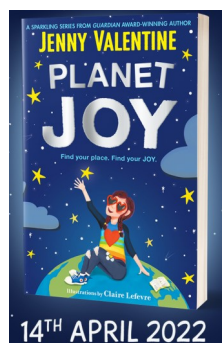
The quickest was 6 weeks and the longest was 3 years. I am not very good at routines.

4. Who are your books aimed at?

When I write the books I don't think about who will read them. I think about the people in the story. But I have written books for younger readers (IGGY AND ME series 6-8). KS2 (JOY series) and older/YA readers (FINDING VIOLET PARK, BROKEN SOUP, THE ANT COLONY, HE DOUBLE LIFE OF CASSIEL ROADNIGHT/FIRE COLOUR ONE and HELLO NOW

5. What is your favourite type of book to read?

I love a story that I can lose myself in. As long as I believe in what's happening and care about the characters it's happening to, then I'm happy.



Thank you very much if you attended our phonics and reading information evening for parents last term.

A reminder that the slides from the presentations are available on our school website for you to access.



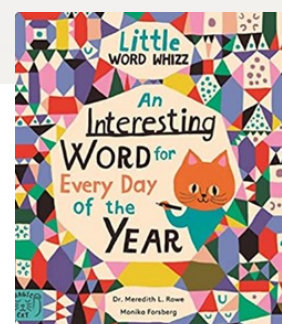
A big thank you also to our parent helper volunteers who will be coming into school to support children with their reading in Years 1 and 2.

Please do let us know if you would like to volunteer to join our parent team by emailing:

j.goree@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk or s.adams@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk

What else can I do to help my child at home?

- Talk to your child about the world around them – wide knowledge allows children to understand more about things they read.
- Take your child to a variety of places and give them broader experiences – when they read about them they will have a greater understanding.
- Discuss vocabulary and new words – don't assume children know what words mean, explain and discuss the meaning of words.
- Set aside time to read for pleasure. Establish good habits and make it a positive time of day.



Resource Spotlight



The Website '[Books for Topics](#)' is a fabulous website for finding books. Please see below for some of the amazing options available:

(Click on the underlined words to access that part of the website)

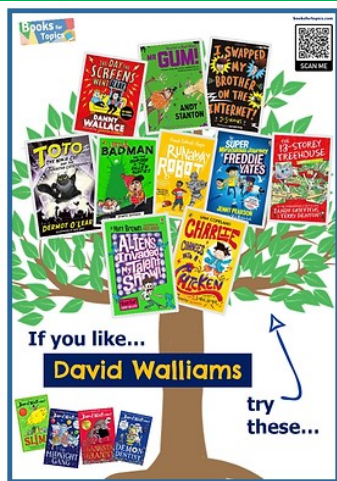
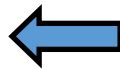
Recommended Reads

If you are unsure of the types of texts your child should be reading, the '[Recommended Books](#)' section for each year group are fantastic. You can click on the title of each book which will take you straight to Amazon if you like the look of it!



Branching Out Booklists

Looking for book recommendations for children who have been hooked in by a particular series or author and are ready to branch out? Then these '[Branching Out Booklists](#)' are excellent to give you different ideas to read!



Non-fiction

There is a great selection of recommended children's non-fiction books for readers that have a passion for information and knowledge. They are filled with interesting facts and strong visual elements to keep young readers engaged, informed and entertained. Please [click here](#) to access these.



Storytime Online

With access to libraries, classrooms and bookshops limited for many, Books for Topics have been busy finding some of the best online story times for children to access freely at home. The QR codes and links in the document link to story readings on YouTube and all of the books they've chosen are read aloud by their fabulous authors and illustrators. Each age group can be [found here](#).

Books for Topics Storytime Online!
Page 1 Recommended for ages 5-7

		Beegu Alex Deacon Storytime & draw-a-long Read by Alexis Deacon
		The Monkey with a Bright Blue Bottom Steve Smallman & Nick Schon Storytime Read by Steve Smallman
		Grandad's Island Benji Davies Storytime Read by Benji Davies
		Barry the Fish with Fingers Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet Storytime Read by Sue Hendra

For more book lists themed by age group or topic, visit booksoftopics.com

Books for Topics Storytime Online!
Page 2 Recommended for ages 5-7

		The Marvellous Moon Map By Teresa Heapy & David Jiskind Storytime & draw-a-long Read by Teresa Heapy
		Elmer David McKee Storytime Read by David McKee
		The Bumblebee Nadia Shireen Storytime Read by Nadia Shireen
		Once Upon a Wild Wood Chris Riddell Storytime (longer story) Read by Chris Riddell

For more book lists themed by age group or topic, visit booksoftopics.com

Diverse and Inclusive Books:

There are booklists featuring diverse books for children that offer a selection of the best diverse and inclusive texts for different primary school age groups. We may live in a golden age of children's books, but many young readers are still woefully under-represented in the stories they read. Making available a variety of diverse children's books is vitally important to every child. Authentically told stories featuring a diverse range of voices can help children to develop empathy and inclusion, as well as to build a more realistic view of the world around them. These books can be [found here](#).

