

Pyrford Primary Reading Newsletter

'Growing Great Minds Together'

Summer term 2024



Welcome to our summer reading newsletter!

Read on to find out all of the wonderful things that have been happening at school to promote a love of reading at Pyrford. We've had some amazing World Book Day celebrations and an exciting author visit from Mel Taylor-Bessent! You'll also find some book lists to help with transition, whether your child is moving to a new class or moving on to secondary school and information about the Summer Reading Challenge.

Many thanks for your continued support,

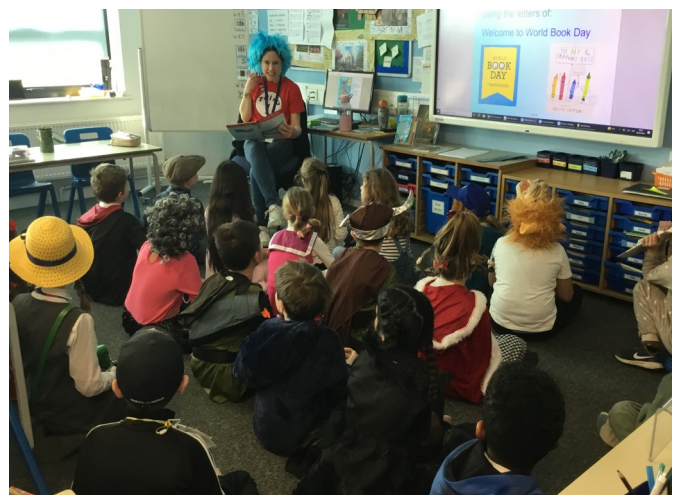
Mrs Goree

English co-ordinator

World Book Day 2024

The children and staff had a fabulous time celebrating World Book Day this year. The school was buzzing with excitement as each class had fun sharing their favourite books and engaging in lots of reading-based activities. The teachers also enjoyed swapping classrooms to read their favourite story to a different class.

A huge array of characters arrived at school that day including, Where's Wally, The Gingerbread Man, Harry Potter and Willy Wonka just to name a few!





Miss Adams recommends...



Recommendation for EYFS/KS1:

'Rapunzel' by Bethan Woollvin

Have you ever wondered what would happen if Rapunzel had found a way to escape the tower and experience the outside world? The re-imagining of the traditional tale shows exactly this! Find out what happens when Rapunzel sneaks out of the tower and visits the outside world...will the wicked witch find out? Will she go back to the tower? You'll have to read it to find out!

This story is part of a series of stories which flip fairy tales on their head. She has also written a version of Hanzel and Gretel and a version of Little Red Riding Hood. Year 1 use 'Little Red' by Beth in their English lessons, so don't ruin the surprise for them; keep what happens a secret!

Parent Helpers

A huge thank you to our parent helper volunteers who have been coming into school to support children with their reading.

This really does make such a difference to the children and they look forward to their reading sessions. If you are interested in joining our parent team, please email Miss Adams

s.adams@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk

Success For All Phonics - Parent Portal

Just a reminder that if your child is in Reception or KS1, you have access to a Parent Portal where you will find all the resources to help you support your child's phonics and early reading. There are helpful videos modelling correct pronunciation for the phonemes.

Click [here](#) to access the portal.

Click [here](#) to access the helpful videos on the portal.



FFT Success for All Phonics - ...

FFT Education

This video includes pronunciation guidance for the following GPCs: ay ou ie ea oy ir ue aw ew



FFT Success for All Phonics - ...

FFT Education

This video includes pronunciation guidance for the following GPCs: or ur ow oi ear air ure er



Author Spotlight: Mel Taylor-Bessent



This term, KS2 took part in an engaging assembly with the brilliant author Mel Taylor-Bessent.

Mel has answered some questions about reading and writing stories which I'm sure will help to inspire some of our budding young authors!

What inspired you to become an author?

I've wanted to become an author since I was 8 years-old. I grew up as an only child in a small flat without a garden, so writing stories was something I did to entertain myself. I soon discovered I could explore new worlds and meet new characters without leaving my bedroom or classroom!

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

I write about whatever I enjoy. I love Christmas and that magical, fizzy, 'anything can happen' feeling you get in the festive season, so I wrote 'The Christmas Carrolls' series. But I also love creating magical worlds where anything is possible, so I created 'Race to Imagination Island', which includes sixteen characters from around the world, an epic race across an island that comes to life, and a two-chapter rap battle with a ninja sloth, which is quite possibly the most fun I've had ever writing!

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

The whole process takes around 12-18 months. I love planning because there's no pressure to 'get it right' (I can swap and change ideas as much as I like) so that takes a few months. Then I write a first draft in a few weeks and send it to my editor. It then goes through three or four rounds of edits, copy-edits and proofreads and then it goes to print!

4. Who are your books aimed at?

Anyone that loves adventure, humour and magic!

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

Anything with magic. Recently I've read 'Magicalia' by Jennifer Bell, 'Ember Spark and the Thunder of Dragons' by Abi Elphinstone, and 'Betty Steady and the Toad Witch' by Nicky Smith-Dale, which is one of the funniest books I've ever read!



Summer Reading Challenge 2024

Starting from 6th July, the children will be able to join the Summer Reading Challenge, from The Reading Agency.

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the summer holidays, ensuring they are ready for a great start to the new term in the autumn.

Children set a reading goal and collect rewards for reading anything they enjoy. Children can sign up at their local library or online, and it's **FREE** to take part.

The children taking part in 'Marvellous Makers' can discover new stories, join in with free activities at the library, and explore their creativity – from junk modelling to music, dance to drawing and painting.

Participation encourages children to read for pleasure, with books providing knowledge and giving children the tools and confidence to think originally, play with concepts, and express their creativity in unique ways.

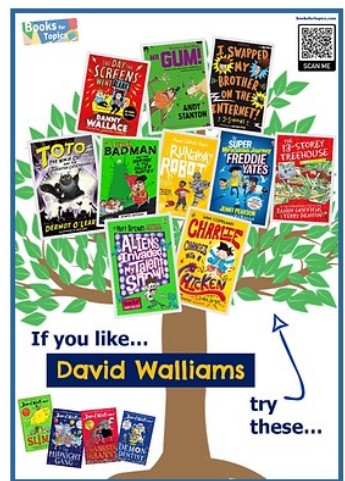
Please [click here](#) to access the website and sign up for free.





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

Recommended Reads



Branching Out Booklists

Year 6 Transition Books



Storytime Online

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](#).

**Storytime Online!**

Page 1  Recommended for **ages 5-7**

		Beegu Alexis Deacon Storytime & draw-a-long Read by Alexis Deacon https://bit.ly/2L5Kd0D
		The Monkey with a Bright Blue Bottom Steve Smallman & Nick Schon Storytime Read by Steve Smallman https://bit.ly/2L5Kd0D
		Grandad's Island Benji Davies Storytime Read by Benji Davies https://bit.ly/2L5Kd0D
		Barry the Fish with Fingers Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet Storytime Read by Sue Hendra https://bit.ly/2L5Kd0D

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

**Storytime Online!**

Page 2  Recommended for **ages 5-7**

		The Marvellous Moon Map By Teresa Heapy & David Litchfield Storytime & draw-a-long Read by Teresa Heapy https://bit.ly/2L5Kd0D
		Elmer David McKee Storytime Read by David McKee https://bit.ly/2L5Kd0D
		The Bumblebear Nadia Shireen Storytime Read by Nadia Shireen https://bit.ly/2L5Kd0D
		Once Upon a Wild Wood Chris Riddell Storytime (longer story) Read by Chris Riddell https://bit.ly/2L5Kd0D

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Starting School

Is your child about to start school? Books for Topics have created an area full of books which are excellent to read to your child before starting in September. [Click here](#) to access that area of the website.

