

Kennet Valley Reading Newsletter

Newsletter 2

Find out what we're reading in class this term, we have lots of amazing books to enjoy together.

We have more reviews from children and recommended reads for you to browse and hopefully find your next book.

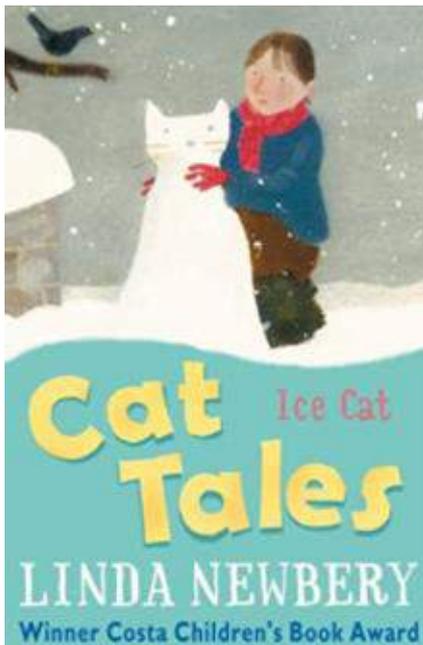


What were reading in class ...

Wrens

Wrens will be reading a selection of books from the Collins Big Cat range.

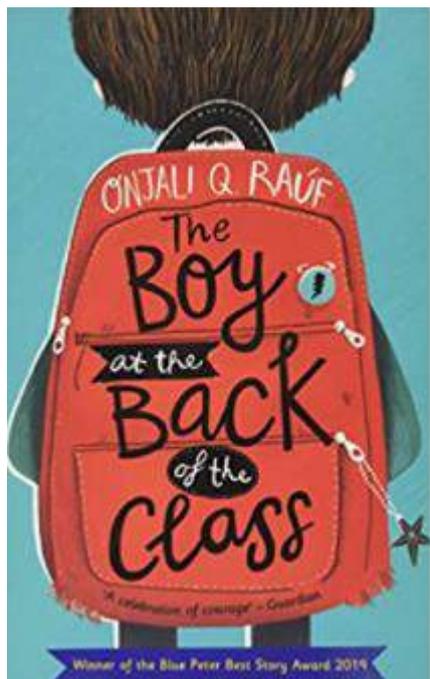
Kingfishers



When Tom makes a cat of ice and snow, it comes to life at night: roaming the streets, prowling his dreams. What can it be looking for? Curl up with *Cat Tales* from award-winning and enchanting storyteller, Linda Newbery.



Harriers



Told with heart and humour, *The Boy at the Back of the Class* is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.

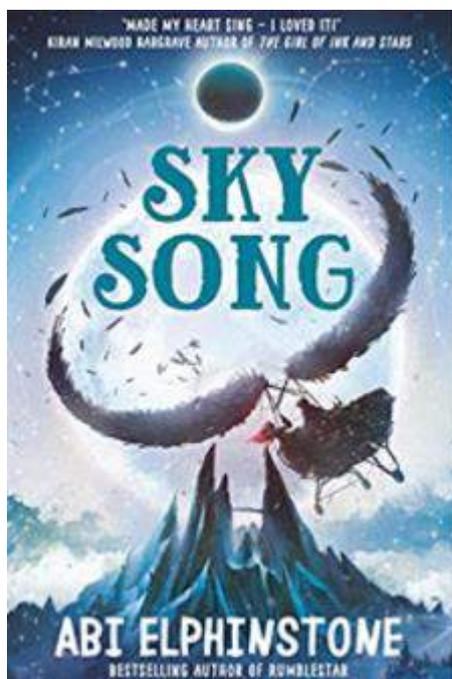
There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it.

He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite!

But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help.

That's where my best friends Josie, Michael and Tom come in. Because you see, together we've come up with a plan. . .

Kites



'Once an adventure digs its claws in, there is not an awful lot you can do about it. Especially when magic is involved . . .'

In the snowy kingdom of **Erkenwald**, whales glide between icebergs, wolves hunt on the tundra and polar bears roam the glaciers. But the people of this land aren't so easy to find - because Erkenwald is ruled by an evil Ice Queen and the tribes must stay hidden or risk becoming her prisoners at Winterfang Palace.

Join **Eska**, a girl who breaks free from a cursed music box, and **Flint**, a boy whose inventions could change the fate of Erkenwald forever, as they journey to the Never Cliffs and beyond in search of an ancient, almost forgotten, song with the power to force the Ice Queen back.

This is a story about an eagle huntress, an inventor and an organ made of icicles. But it is also a story about belonging, even at the very edges of our world . . .

Book Reviews

Wrens

A Dip by Fiona Tomlinson

I like it because the children are splashing in the water and I like swimming.

Bobby

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

I liked it because the oldest billy goat pushes the troll in the water. That's my favourite part because the troll wasn't very nice to the three billy goats.

Milo

Kingfishers

The Racehorse who Learned to Dance by Clare Balding

I read a book called The Racehorse who Learned to Dance. It is a good book for people who like horses. It's about a racehorse who went from racing to dressage and in the 2nd book the horse was kidnapped and it made the story really good. There are 3 books, they are all good books and they are also picture books.

Annie

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

I have been reading James and the Giant Peach and I like it because he writes it in a nice way. James and the Giant Peach is about a little boy finding a hole in a peach and discovering a huge grasshopper, ladybird, spider, centipede, worm and glow worm. I would give this book 5 stars.

Joseph

Harriers

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K Rowling

My favourite part of Harry Potter was when the troll gets hit with his own axe. When Harry and Ron play chess they all move like magic. One of my favourite parts was when Dumbledore makes an announcement and I wonder what he might say. When Voldemort reappears it is quite scary. My first time reading Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone I wondered which house Harry would be in: Slytherin, Hufflepuff, Gryffindor or Ravenclaw and

it was Gryffindor. When Fluffy the three-headed dog growls at Harry I thought Fluffy would eat Harry.

I would recommend it for 10 year olds.

Harry B

The Racehorse who wouldn't Gallop

I really enjoyed reading this book because I think I am a horse person and I would recommend it for people who like horses and adventures and people who would like to learn about horses. My favourite bit was when they accidentally brought the two horses and nobody wanted them, but while the girl was there she waved to her friend and she had a bidding number in her hand. I think this book was really good and that I really loved reading it. If you are learning about the tack of horses it describes it very well.

Erin L

Kites

Pokémon Encyclopaedia

Gotta catch 'em all

I recommend this for Pokémon fans. This book is for all ages. The main characters are: Ash (a Pokémon trainer), Pikachu (a Pokémon) Professor Oak.

This book tells you about Pokémon, it tells you how they join Ash's team to help him in the Pokémon championships. It also tells you about their powers.

Caleb

The Hobbit by J.R.R Tolkien

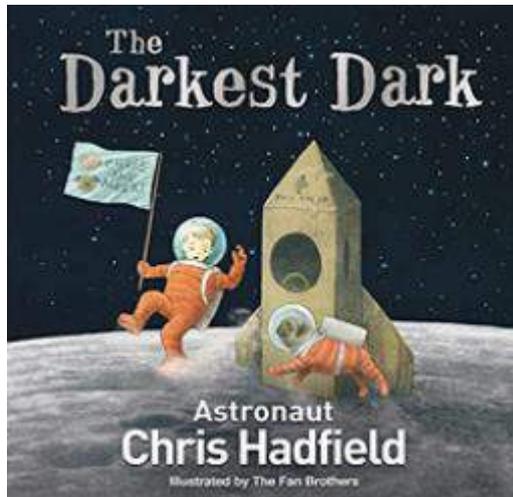
The Hobbit is a great fantasy book and the prelude to The Lord of The Rings (a series of three films) it is a thrilling, adventurous tale of a Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins who goes on an adventure far away from his lovely, comfortable Hobbit hole to a treasure hoard guarded by a magnificent dragon. He is accompanied by Gandalf, the wizard and a band of dwarfs.

Bilbo Baggins is a Hobbit who lives in his Hobbit Hole in The Shire, a little village full of Hobbits. He the cousin of Frodo Baggins who is introduced in the Lord of The Rings volume 1 and in The Fellowship of The Rings, The first film. It's a great story and very influential, adventurous and exiting, you will meet and learn about many different creatures from their world such as Hobbits, Dwarves, Elves, Orcs, Dragons, Wizards and many more.

By Susie

Recommended Reads

Reception

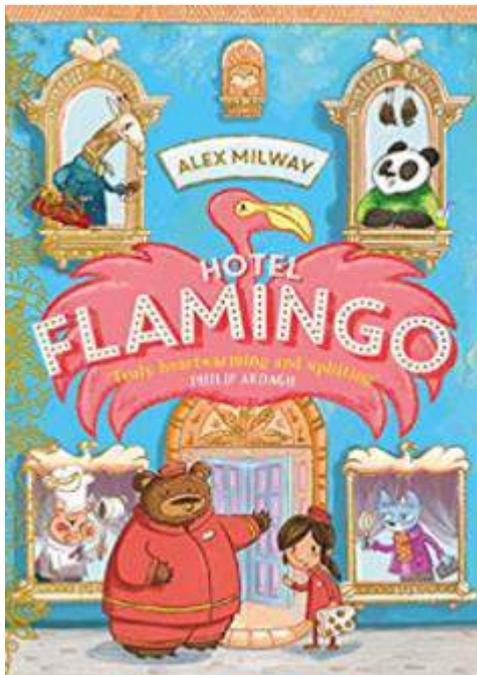


"While I was growing up, the Moon helped light the path to my dreams. But it was on a hot July night that my dreamy thoughts became real. The brave astronauts of Apollo 11 travelled to that distant place and stepped out onto its surface, their boots blazing a new trail in the ancient grey dust. Those footprints showed me that impossible things can happen." Chris Hadfield.

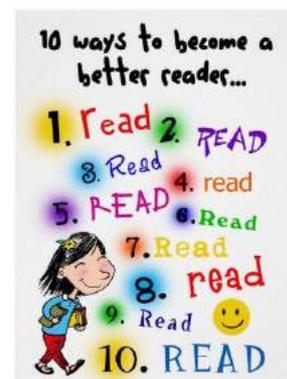
Young Chris is a very important astronaut. When Dad says it's time for bed – Sorry, no can do: An astronaut's work is never done. But in the dark lurk all kinds of scary aliens. So Chris doesn't like to sleep, but Mum and Dad do! When he watches in awe at the Apollo 11 Moon Landing, Chris realizes he must

overcome his fear of the dark. For in the darkest dark of space lies a power and a mystery that might just help Chris make his dreams come true.

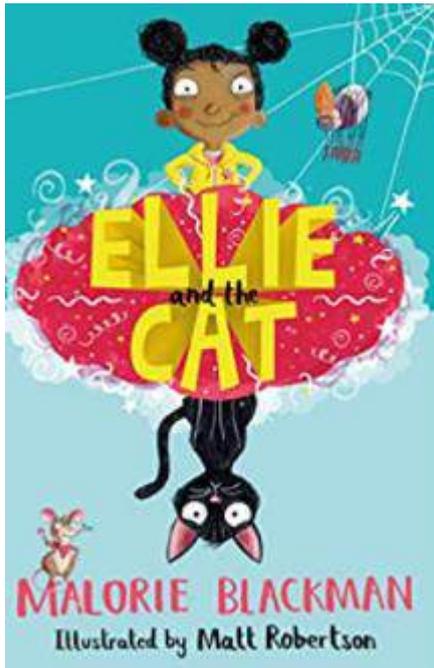
Year 1



When young Anna inherits a dilapidated once-grand hotel from her Great Aunt Mathilde, she's determined to restore it to its former glory. But this is no ordinary hotel - all of her staff and guests are *animals*! Anna soon rises to the challenge. Whether it's a flamingo, a penguin or a hippo knocking at the door, Anna is ready to welcome them all - with the help of her trusty sidekicks T Bear the doorman, Squeak the friendly elevator mouse, and Lemmy the lemur receptionist ... As she soon finds out, though, running an animal hotel is no easy task. Can Anna make Hotel Flamingo a success once more?

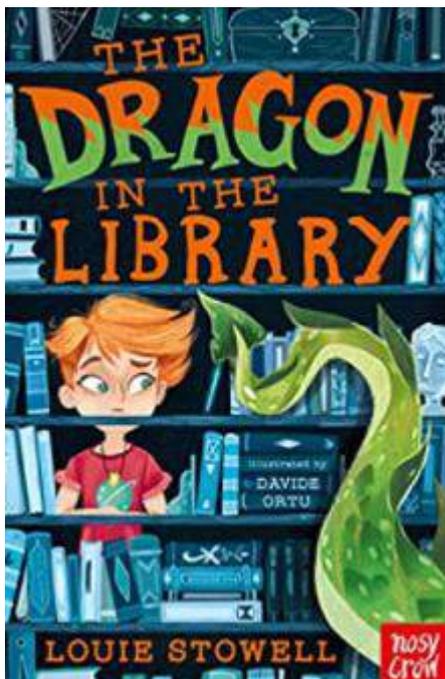


Year 2

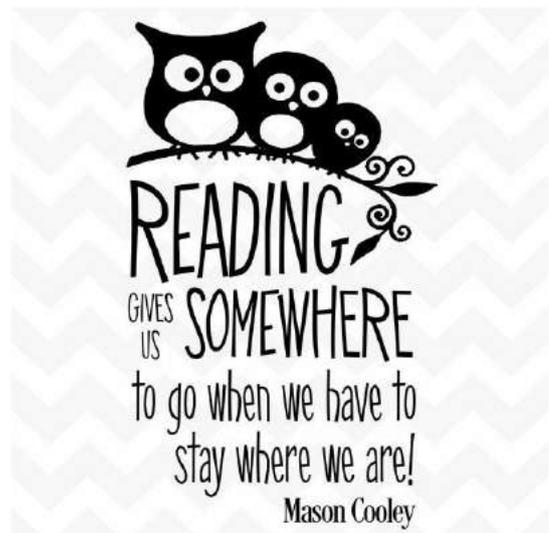


Ellie is the rudest, most spoiled child her grandma has ever met and it's time that she learnt a lesson! So with a little bit of magic and some help from Jolly the cat, Grandma's going to make sure that Ellie changes her ways. Can Ellie work hard to prove that she can be good? Or is she destined to spend the rest of her days trapped in the body of a mean old cat?

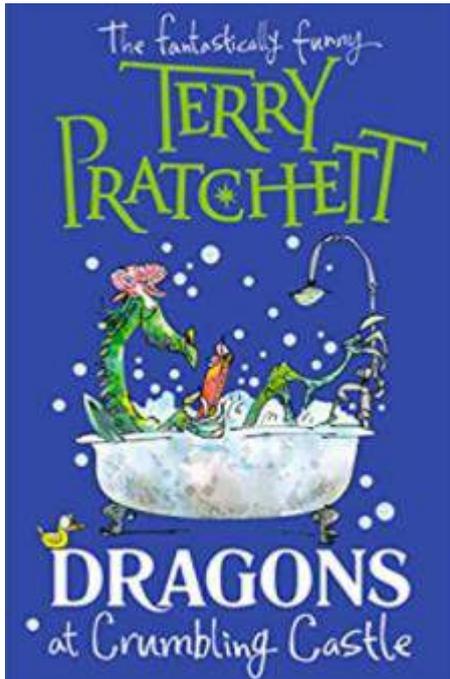
Year 3



Kit can't STAND reading. She'd MUCH rather be outside, playing games and getting muddy, than stuck inside with a book. But when she's dragged along to the library one day by her two best friends, she makes an incredible discovery - and soon it's up to Kit and her friends to save the library... and the world.



Year 4



Dragons have invaded Crumbling Castle, and all of King Arthur's knights are either on holiday or visiting their grannies. It's a disaster!

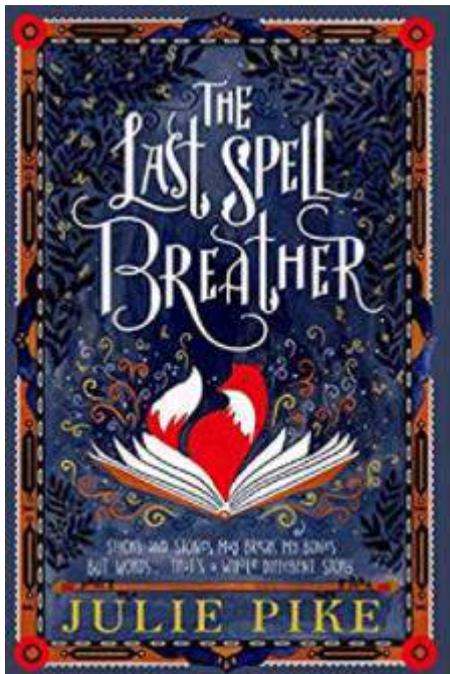
Luckily, there's a spare suit of armour and a very small boy called Ralph who's willing to fill it. Together with Fortnight the Friday knight and Fossfiddle the wizard, Ralph sets out to defeat the fearsome fire-breathers.

But there's a teeny weeny surprise in store . . .

Fourteen fantastically funny stories from master storyteller Sir Terry Pratchett, full of time travel and tortoises, monsters and mayhem!

'So funny I dropped my spoon laughing!' – King Arthur

Year 5



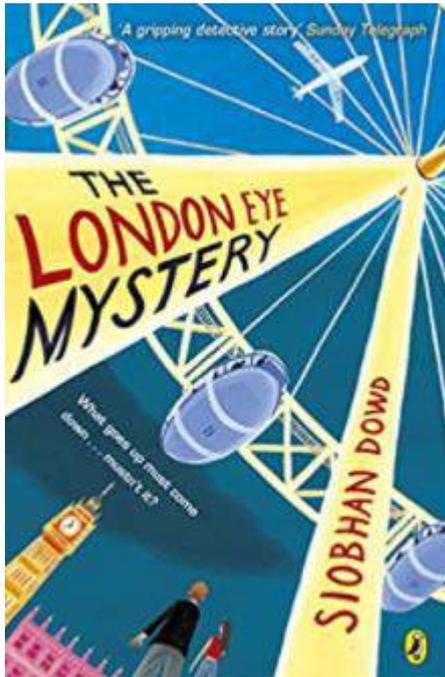
A stunning fantasy debut, enter the unique world of the Spell Breathers.

Spell Breathing does not come naturally to Rayne - she loathes the hours of practice, the stacks of scrolls, and the snapping mud devils that cover her mother's precious spell book.

But it is spell breathing that keeps her village safe from the dreaded monster curse that plagues their world. It is ancient powerful magic, but as Rayne learns to her horror . . . it is also fragile.

In one clumsy move, the magic that keeps them safe is broken, her village is plunged into danger, and an incredible adventure begins . . .

Year 6



A story about family, self-belief and bravery, *The London Eye Mystery* is a brilliantly inventive crime-caper perfect for fans of *Enola Holmes*, *High-Rise Mystery* and *A Kind of Spark*.

11.32 a.m. Ted and his sister Kat watch their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye. The pod rises from the ground, high above the city.

12.02 p.m. The pod lands and the doors open. Everyone exits - everyone but Salim.

Has he spontaneously combusted? (Ted's theory.)

Has he been kidnapped? (Aunt Gloria's theory.)

Is he even still alive? (The family's unspoken fear.)

Ted doesn't see the world like most people he knows and is sure that with his "unique operating system" of a brain he can uncover the truth about **Salim's disappearance**.

So, teaming up with **Kat**, Ted sets out to do just that - following a trail of clues across London. But with time ticking dangerously by, **can Ted solve the mystery**

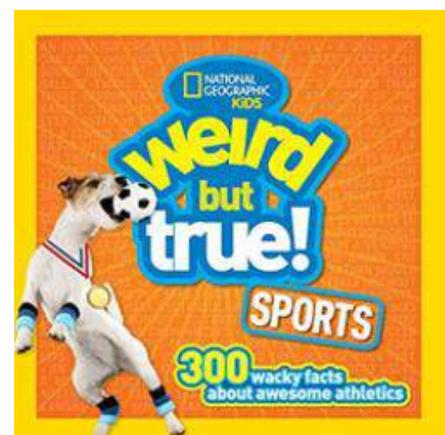
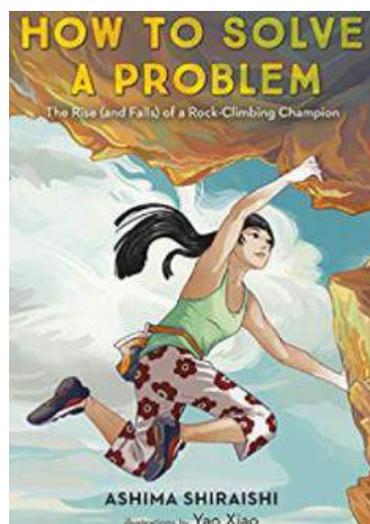
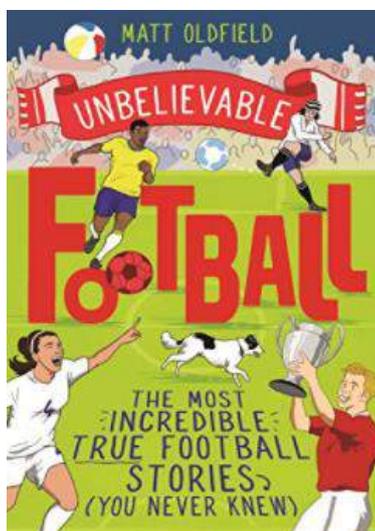
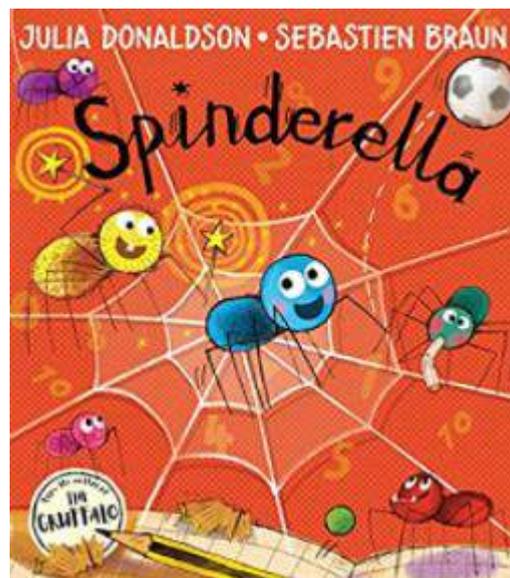
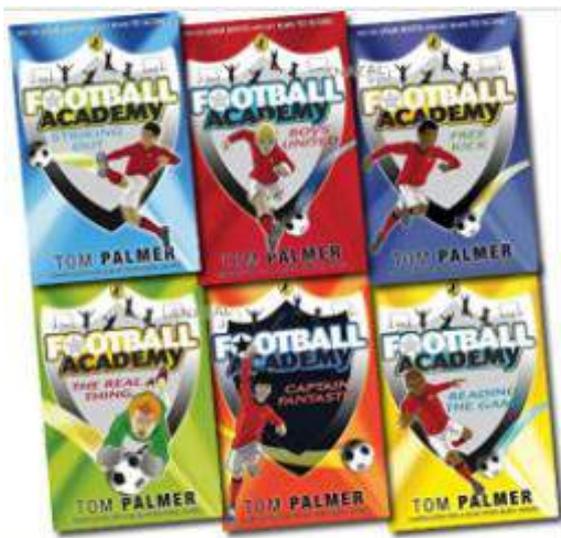
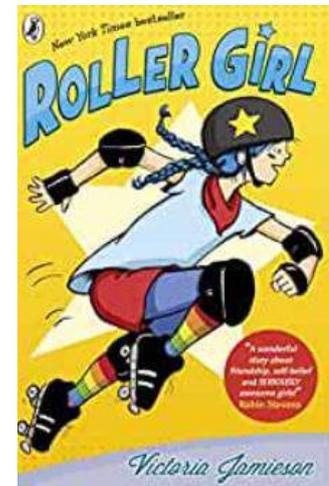
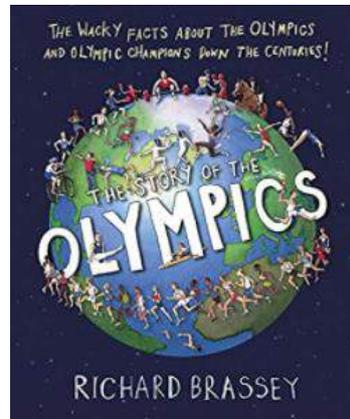
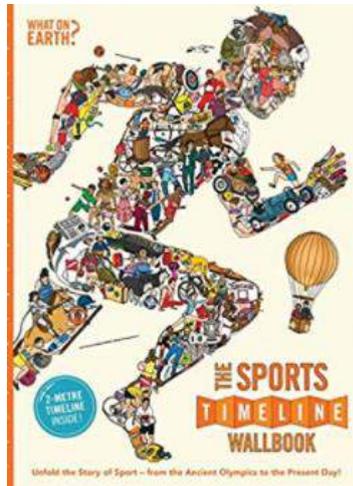
before it's too late?

Congratulations

to Rupert S and Annie for being the first ones to get their 180 reads bragtag. This is a fantastic achievement both of you, really well done, keep up the good work.



A focus on ... Sporty Books!



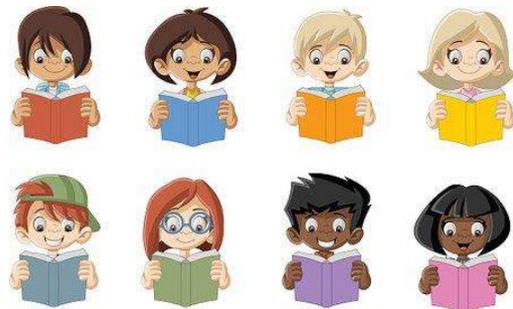
March Reading Challenge

Following on from the success of the January Reading Challenge, we are launching the March Reading Challenge, starting tomorrow 1st March and running right through the month.



Please log each day's read onto GoRead, so that it can be counted towards the class totals. Results will be calculated as percentages per class, based on the amount read by children out of the total reads available.

Please remember that only one read per day will be counted towards the overall totals.



The prize for the winning class will be to come in wearing non-school uniform, watch a film in the afternoon and have some popcorn.

Reads for brag tags will be calculated as usual alongside this competition.



HAPPY READING!

Reading VIPERS

In class reading sessions we use VIPERS to help us dig deeper into the books we read. This means we look carefully at Vocabulary, Inference, Predictions, Explanation, Retrieval and Summarising. To help support this strategy with your child at home, the following guide may be useful.

What are Reading Vipers?
These are the key reading skills for children to be able read and comprehend a wide range of literary texts.

VOCABULARY
Looking at the choice of words that an author uses in a text.

INFERENCE
Information that is suggested but not said in the text. The 'hidden' meaning.

PREDICT
Explaining what might happen next based on what has happened in the text.

EXPLAIN
Explain an aspect of the text. This may include why the author includes it or how the meaning is enhanced through choice of language.

RETRIEVE
Locate and retrieve information from the text to answer questions.

SUMMARISE
Sum up key points in the text or sequence events as a summary., make sure you keep it brief

How can I support my child with their reading comprehension at home?
You could try one or more of these questions at home with your child when you hear them read at home.

VOCABULARY

- Which word tells you that...?
- Which keyword tells you about the character/setting/mood?
- Find one word in the text which means.....

INFERENCE

- How do these words make the reader feel?
- How can you tell that...?
- What was ... thinking when...?
- Find and copy a group of words which show that...

PREDICT

- From the cover what do you think this text is about?
- What is happening now? what happened before?
- What does this paragraph suggest will happen next? what makes you think this?

EXPLAIN

- What effect does have on the audience?
- How does the author engage the reader here?
- Which section was the most interesting/exciting part?
- How are these sections linked?

RETRIEVE

- How would you describe this story/text?
- How did...?
- How often...?
- Who had...?

SUMMARISE

- Can you number these events 1-5 in the order that they happened?
- What happened after ...?
- Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story?