

Kennet Valley Reading Newsletter

Welcome to the first Kennet Valley Reading Newsletter.

Here you will find what we are reading in our class reading sessions, as well as recommended reads for each year group and book reviews from the children.

We hope you find it useful in supporting your child on their reading journey.

TEN AMAZING BENEFITS OF READING BOOKS

- Strengthens your writing skills
- Improves your memory and focus
- Enhances your imagination
- Increases your vocabulary
- Expands your knowledge
- Stimulates your brain
- Boosts your mood
- Deepens empathy
- Helps you relax
- Lowers stress

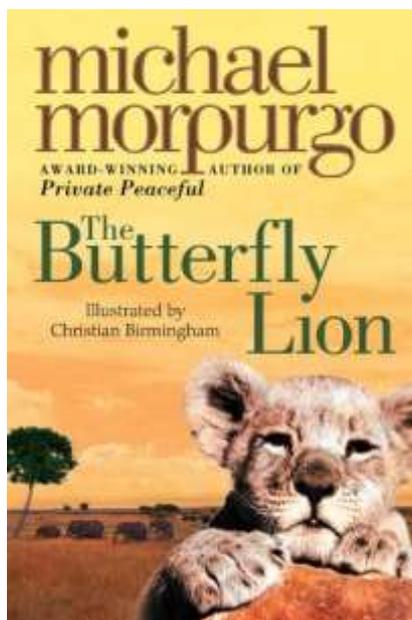


What we're reading in class ...

Wrens

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

Kingfishers

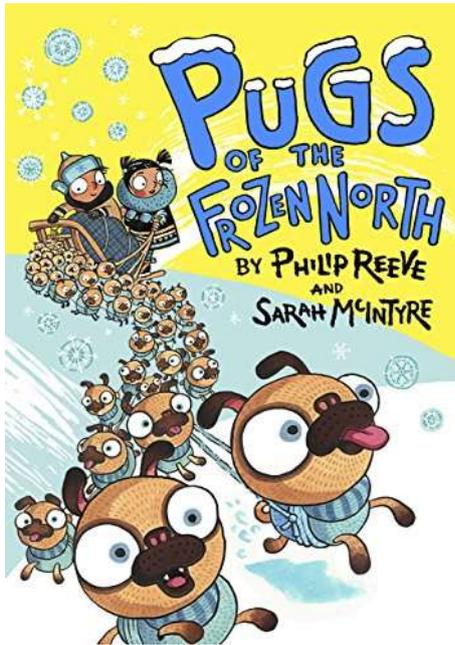


A lyrical and moving tale of a young boy growing up in Africa, and his lifelong friendship with a white lion.

"All my life I'll think of you, I promise I will. I won't ever forget you."

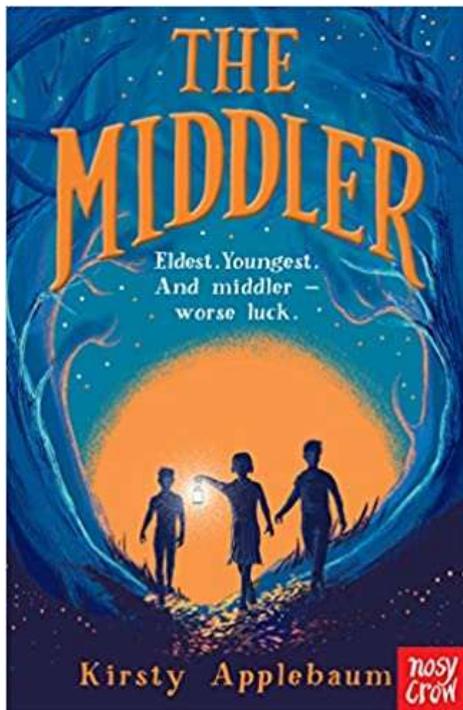
Bertie rescues an orphaned white lion cub from the African veld. They are inseparable until Bertie is sent to boarding school far away in England and the lion is sold to a circus. Bertie swears that one day they will see one another again, but it is the butterfly lion which ensures that their friendship will never be forgotten.

Harriers



Reeve and McIntyre bring you another rip-roaring read! The Race to the Top of the World! It comes around once in a lifetime, and the prize? Your heart's desire. Shen and Sika can't resist the chance to win, but competition is fierce. The path to victory is littered with snow trolls, sea monsters, and a gang of particularly hungry yetis. But Shen and Sika have something the other contestants don't have. Actually, they have 66 other things; pugs to be exact. That's a 264 paw-powered sled! Bursting with stunning illustration throughout, this is a book not to be missed!

Kites



"I was special. I was a hero. I lost the best friend I ever had." Eleven-year-old Maggie lives in Fennis Wick, enclosed and protected from the outside world by a boundary, beyond which the Quiet War rages and the dirty, dangerous wanderers roam. Her brother Jed is an eldest, revered and special. A hero. Her younger brother is Trig - everyone loves Trig. But Maggie's just a middler; invisible and left behind. Then, one hot September day, she meets Una, a hungry wanderer girl in need of help, and everything Maggie has ever known gets turned on its head. Narrated expertly and often hilariously by Maggie, we experience the trials and frustrations of being the forgotten middle child, the child with no voice, even in her own family. This gripping story of forbidden friendship, loyalty and betrayal is perfect for fans of Malorie Blackman, Meg Rosoff and Frances Hardinge.

Book Reviews

Wrens

Man on the Moon (a day in the life of Bob) by Simon Bartram

Bob goes to space. He is an astronaut. I want to go to space in a rocket. People visit the moon. Rockets go fast.

Alexander

The Owl who was afraid of the dark by Jill Tomlinson

I liked it because I want to have a bonfire in the dark like Plop. It has a good end because Plop goes hunting. He isn't afraid of the dark any more. Plop has lots of adventures in the dark.

Sonni

Kingfishers

The 13 Story Treehouse by Andy Griffiths

I like reading The 13 Storey Treehouse. I like it because it has lots of detail and it is funny.

Noah

Saddle and Secrets by Jane Smiley

Anna has a horse, Ned, at the riding school. Ned is a black horse and Anna has friends. Anna goes to horse riding camp. It's very cold and windy when they take the horses out. They're difficult to ride but they manage it. This is a very good book because it is very interesting.

Francesca

Harriers

Flood World by Tom Huddleston

I enjoyed this book because it is very descriptive and leaves mesmerising, intense cliff-hangers. It's set in the theatrical future when global warming has taken over and left London flooded. In this new precarious world, the Shanties, two children, are captured by an evil pirate-like gang, the Mariners. John Cortez, a highly respected captain, has created a

cunning, surreptitious plan to destroy the dry set of buildings inside an almost impenetrable wall. Kara and Joe, captured, hear this and narrowly escape, sending a warning to the Shanties Prime Minister. They set up troops to guard the wall. I would highly recommend this book for people 8 to 12 years.

Dominic

Voyage of the Sparrowhawk by Natasha Farrant

I loved the book 'The Sparrowhawk' by Natasha Farrant. It is about two children called Sam and Ben. They live in an orphanage. Ben hurts himself and Sam stayed to help him. Nathan, the owner of a barge, 'The Sparrowhawk', sees the two boys. He takes them and adopts them. War comes and Nathan and Sam are called to help. Ben is by himself and one day finds a girl called Lotti, who is on the run with a stolen chihuahua. Ben gets very worried about Nathan and Sam is France so decides to embark on a dangerous, exciting and joyful mission to get to France. And there is only one way. By boat.

India

Kites

Gangsta Granny by David Walliams

I recommend this book because it is a super funny book and it's also a movie. The granny and her grandson become best friends after the little boy, Ben, hated her. Granny had kept a secret for years and now Ben has found out she was a Gangsta Granny. What happens next is unbelievable. If you like a bit of comedy I would recommend this book for you. Read the book to find out more.

Freya

The Kid Who Came to Space by Ross Welford

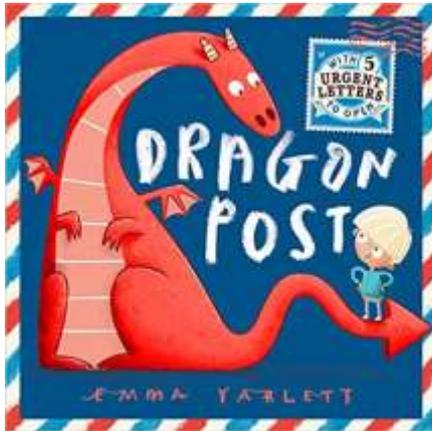
I recommend this book because it's very exciting and you will never know what will happen next. It's a big adventure and you meet lots of different characters. When you read on you will meet a character called Kelly Anne, who is from space.

It's about somebody who goes missing and only her brother knows where she is. But it's a secret.

Lola

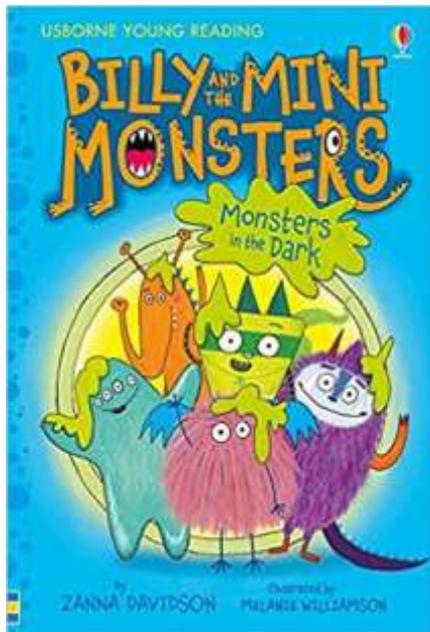
Recommended Reads

Reception



One day Alex finds a dragon living in the cupboard under the stairs. Luckily he knows just what to do. He writes letters to lots of different people – including the fire brigade and the butcher– to ask how he should take care of his surprise visitor. Children will love opening the five envelopes and reading the hilarious letters to Alex and then following his magical adventure with his new fiery friend.

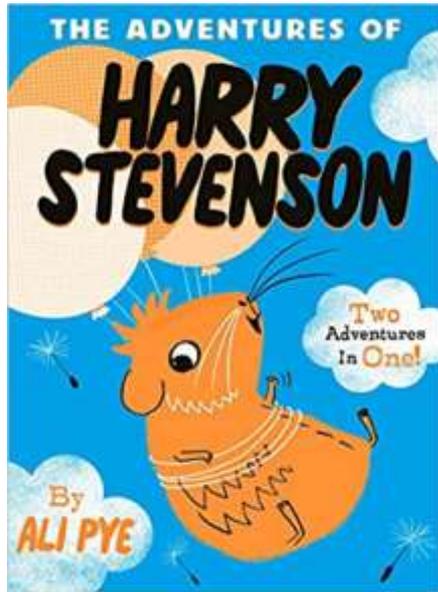
Year 1



Billy is trying to stay awake so the SCARY creatures of the dark won't come. But then he hears a squeaky little voice and notices some tiny purple footprints. Not only that, SOMETHING has ATTACKED his cheese sandwich. What could it be? An exciting addition to the Usborne Young Reading Programme, specially written for readers growing in confidence.



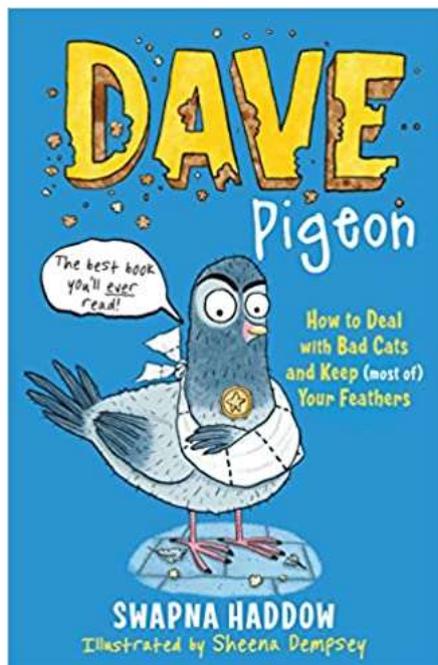
Year 2



Meet Harry Stevenson. He doesn't live in a castle, or a witch's cottage, or *anywhere* exciting like that. His home is in a flat with seven-year-old Billy and his mum and dad. And at first glance, Harry doesn't *seem* any different from your average guinea pig. He has ginger fur and sparkly black eyes and likes nothing more than snacking on a piece of broccoli.

But don't be fooled! Harry may just want to sleep and eat (and then eat some more) but somehow he always manages to get swept up in adventures: whether it's surfing the Pacific on a picnic plate or accidentally attaching himself to a helium balloon.

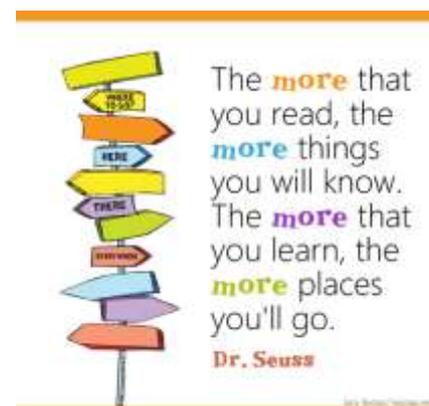
Year 3



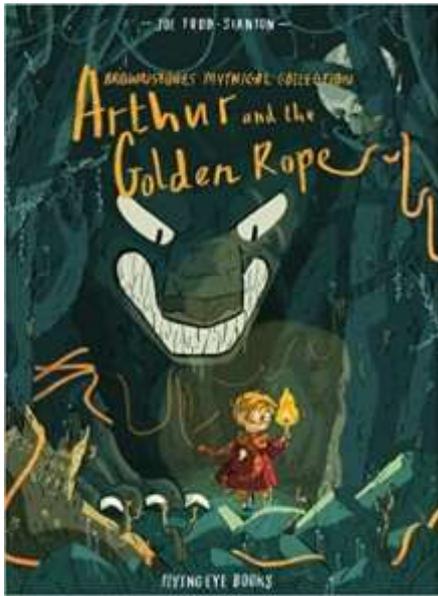
If you can read this, you obviously understand Pigeonese. You may read my book.

If you're a cat and you've learnt Pigeonese . . . (HA HA HA! As if a cat would be smart enough to learn Pigeonese). This must mean if you are a cat and you are able to read this, you have taken a pigeon hostage so that you can trick them into translating the Pigeonese words into Meow. I demand you release the hostage pigeon now. My book contains TOP SECRET ideas that are NONE of a cat's business.

Dave Pigeon is writing a book on how he defeated Mean Cat in order to help fellow pigeons everywhere. Cats beware!



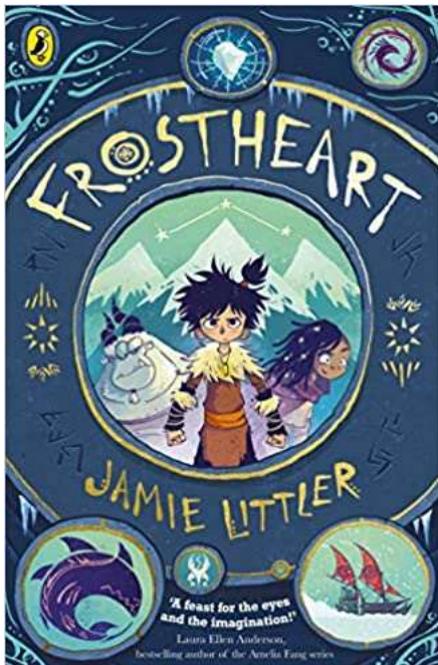
Year 4



Welcome to Professor Brownstone's vault - containing ancient relics from around the world, all collected by his famous ancestors!

Follow the epic journey of Brownstone's earliest ancestor, Arthur, and travel back to the age of the Vikings where this bookish young adventurer must find the courage to save his village and defeat the mighty beast Fenrir...

Year 5

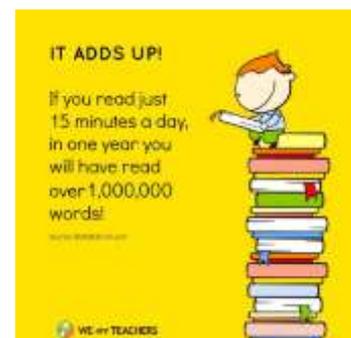


Way out in the furthest part of the known world, a tiny stronghold exists all on its own, cut off from the rest of human-kin by monsters that lurk beneath the Snow Sea.

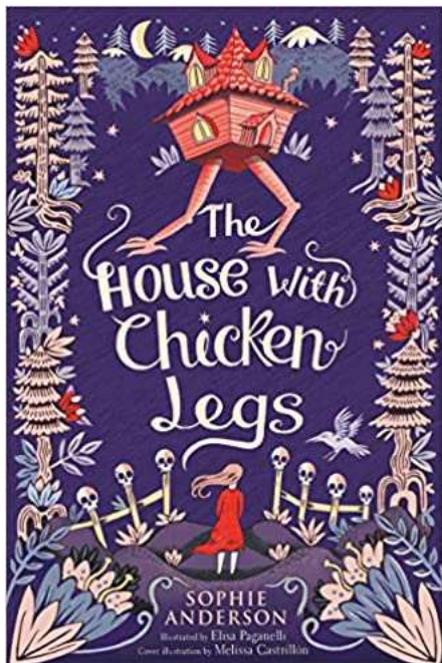
There, a boy called Ash waits for the return of his parents, singing a forbidden lullaby to remind him of them... and doing his best to avoid his very, VERY grumpy yeti guardian, Tobu.

But life is about to get a whole lot more crazy-adventurous for Ash.

When a brave rescue attempt reveals he has amazing magical powers, he's whisked aboard the *Frostheart*, a sleigh packed full of daring explorers who could use his help. But can they help him find his family . . . ?



Year 6



Marinka dreams of a normal life, where her house stays in one place long enough for her to make friends. But her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning.

For Marinka's grandmother is Baba Yaga, who guides spirits between this world and the next. Marinka longs to change her destiny and sets out to break free from her grandmother's footsteps, but her house has other ideas...

January Book Challenge

For every read you complete in January, you will be entered into a special 'Reading Prize Draw'. At the end of the month, two lucky winners from each class will win a book token.

In addition, the class with the highest amount of reads will win a prize.

Remember to log every read on the GoRead app, which will be checked every week. Reads already checked off for the start of the year have already been counted towards the final totals, so well done if you've already been logging your reads this term.

Congratulations to everyone who has already achieved their 30, 60, 90 and even 120 reads bragtags. Keep on reading for at least 4 nights a week and log them on the GoRead app.

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?

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who has already sponsored books for our school. If you can help with sponsorship please read the information below.

Kennet Valley C of E Primary School Book Sponsorship



Could you sponsor a book, story sack or set of class books?

We are hoping that many of you in our school community will be able to sponsor some books for the school.



Choose one of the three levels of sponsorship ...

Single Books

Sponsor a single book for **£7**



These books will come from a list of Wiltshire top 100 children's reads.

Story Sack

Sponsor a Story Sack for the children in Reception/Year 1 / Year 2 for **£40**

Story Sacks will include books, games and puzzles for children to read and play with at home.

Class Set of Books

Sponsor a Class Set of Guided Reading books for **£90**

These books will be added to our developing Reading Spine for class teachers to use each year.

If you would like to support the school in this way please drop a cheque or cash into Ruthie or Suzanne in the office or pay directly into the School Fund account

Sort Code: **30 92 63** Account Number: **38636960** Please use Reference **BOOKS + your child's initials**



When you sponsor a book, story sack or set of books we will ensure that there is a book plate in each copy, with your child's or family name on to thank you for your help and support.