EYFS & KS1 Reading Newsletter - Spring

"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book!" — Dr. Seuss.

What's going on in school?

Progress in reading has been happening all across school! Phonics is becoming embedded in the children's everyday routines. Children in Nursery can now hear many initial sounds, children in Reception are refining their blending skills and children in Year 1 know many alternative graphemes. The children in Year 2 are developing their fluency skills. All of the children are trying really hard regardless of the stage they are currently at. As a school, we have taken huge strides to improve reading and ensure we are giving children the best start.

Reading practice/fluency takes place 3x a week in school and helps the children to familiarise themselves with the graphemes they are learning, increase their speed and understand the text they are reading. This repeated reading helps children to embed the skills they have learnt. Any additional reading you can do at home will really help the children practise their fluency and speed.

If you need any further support with phonics and reading, please speak to your child's teacher. You can also access supporting information on the Little Wandle Website's parent page (QR Code) The videos are especially helpful to show you how we pronounce the sounds.

SCAN ME

Reading at Home

Books from school: **Reading Practice Books** and **Sharing Books**.

Sharing Books are books that children cannot yet read independently but are equally as important as Reading Practice books. These books are books you might borrow from the library or might already have around the home. Your child brings 'A Book to share' home weekly from our school library. Sharing books are the perfect book to snuggle up with just before bedtime. These are the books that encourage reading for pleasure and a love for stories!

Reading Practice Books are books that have been matched to your child's current assessment level. These are the books children will have read in their reading practice/fluency sessions in school. They will be developing their confidence with this book before moving onto another. Reading these books at home will reinforce their learning and develop their fluency skills.

Top Tips for reading at home

- Little and often – you don't need to read the whole book! Just a few minutes reading is a great way to support your child. Aim to do this 3x per week.
- Get children to spot the digraphs in words (two letters one sound) (Reception, Y1 and 2).
- If your child has used their phonics to decode a word, get them to re-read the sentence fluently.
- Book talk (especially Nursery & Reception) – discuss the pictures, the events of the story and what children can see. All this conversation is important for gaining an understanding of the book and developing vocabulary.

- Ask children questions about what they have read – who, what, when, where and why questions are a good place to start.

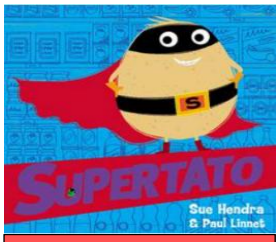
Author of the Term

Smriti Halls has been a published author since 2012. She has won several awards both nationally and internationally. She has worked with various companies such as The Book Trust and Save the children, to deliver important messages to children around the world. As well as writing books which challenge children to think about their actions and the world around them, she also writes books that encourage laughter and fun. Children in Reception and Year 2 will be familiar with her story – Bun on the Run. This book is about a mischievous bun called Bernard and many well-known stories are interwoven. It's great fun to read and listen to!
Some of her books are online on the CBeebies Story Page.

Recommended Reads

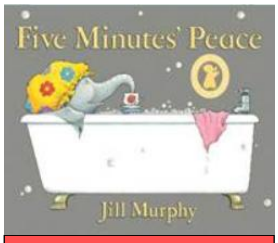
The books below are listed into school stages but can be read at any age if an adult is supporting and doing the reading. Hearing stories is just as important as reading them. It develops children's love for learning, understanding and most importantly language skills.

Early Years

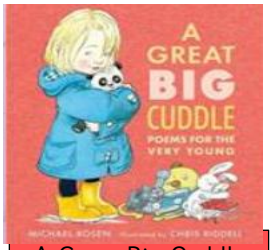


SuperTato
Sue Hendra and Paul Linnett.
Also televised.

MR BIG
By
Ed Vere

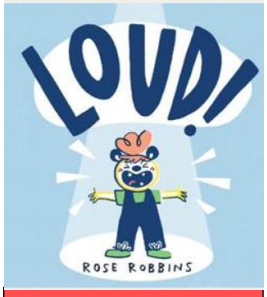


Five Minutes' Peace
By Jill Murphy
Also televised.

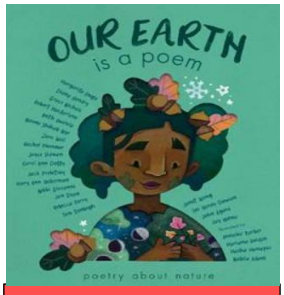


A Great Big Cuddle (poems)- By Micheal Rosen

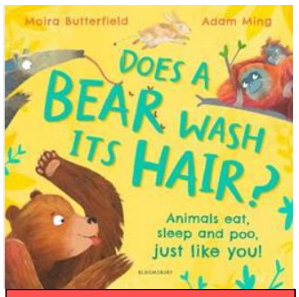
Year 1



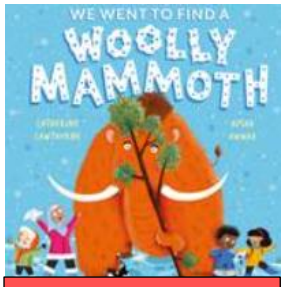
Loud!
By
Rose Robbins



Our Earth is a Poem
By
Various Authors

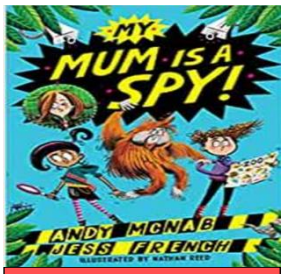


Does A Bear Wash Its Hair By
Moira Butterfield

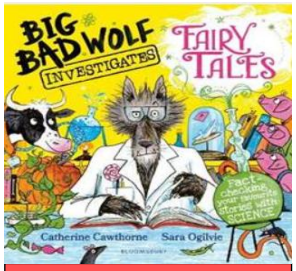


We Went to Find a Woolly Mammoth By Catherine Cawthorne

Year 2

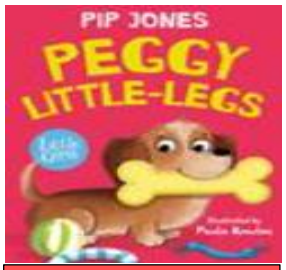


My Mum is a Spy!
By
Andy Mcnab



Big Bad Wolf
Investigates
By Catherine Cawthorne

Donut Feed the
Squirrels By
Mika Song

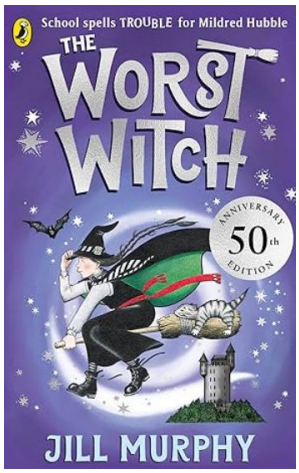


Peggy Little Legs
By
Pip Jones

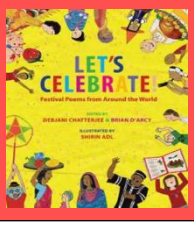
Booktastic Shout Out

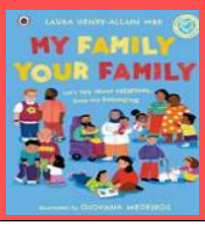
Jill Murphy The Worst Witch.

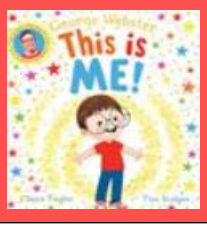
You may be familiar with Jilly Murphy and her range of fabulous stories for younger children (The Large Family, On the Way Home). She also writes stories for older children. Over the last couple of weeks, I have introduced The Worst Witch to Year 2. This was a firm favourite when I was a little girl, so it was only right I shared it with my Year 2s. They are loving it!!! We have even watched part of the series on Netflix during WetPlay. We are hoping to read the whole series as we've had so much fun discovering the mischief Mildred and her friends get into.



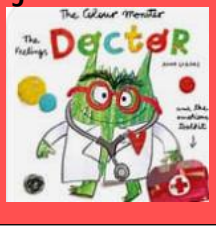
Books about individuals and differences

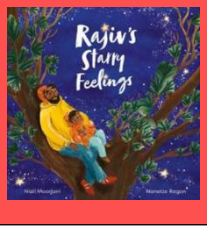




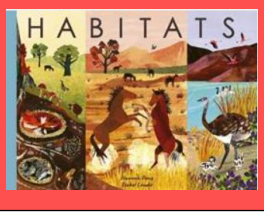


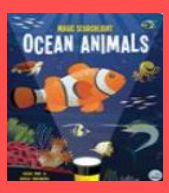
Books about emotions and well-being

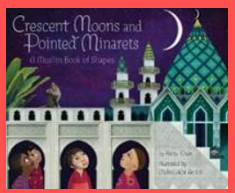




Non-Fiction books







Libraries

Thimbermill is our local library. Children can sign up for **free** and take books home to borrow. It's also a great place to get involved in storytelling and community events. Most libraries offer free events during half-term holidays. It's a great place for a few hours out and the benefit is that it doesn't usually cost. There are events most weekends and throughout the week for children who are not yet school age.

February half-term events are on the poster below:

Online Stories

If you don't have access to many books and can't get out and about, please look online and join your local library online. We also have our book trolley in the playground each morning (weather permitting) which you are welcome to help yourself to. We also have our wonderful library full of new, quality books and our book corners in classrooms. There are plenty of choices for your children to choose from!

Some good resources:

- Cbeebies Story App
- Sandwell Libraries Online
- YouTube – many authors read their books and upload to YouTube. Please verify the video before letting your children watch and ensure children are supervised.

We Need You!

We are looking for any parents who would like to volunteer to come in to school and read to their child's class over the course of the year. This could be a story, information text, comic, or poem. You can either bring in your own or we can provide one for you. The session would take place at 2:45-3:00pm and days are flexible. Whether you can commit to a regular slot or just come in as a one off, we need you! Maybe you can't commit yourself, but a grandparent or aunty can! If you are interested, please email your child's class teacher directly through the class email address. They will then work with you on a suitable date and time.

Hopefully this newsletter has provided you with information on how to support your child with reading. Please let the children have a look at the new releases/ recommended reads page, they might even recognise a few!

Happy reading,

Miss Tibbetts – Year 2 Class Teacher