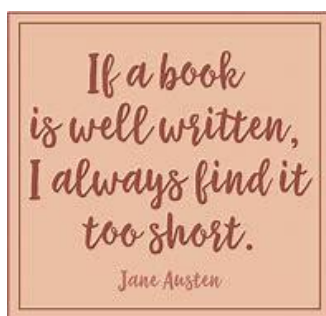




Annie Lennard Key Stage 2

Autumn Term Reading Newsletter

Read on to find out about new fiction and non-fiction releases, types of book genres and recommendations, signposts to reading resources, dates of note and much more...

Reading at Home

Top Tips for reading at home

- Practise reading at least 3x a week (it doesn't have to be the whole book!) This will increase children's speed and recognition of graphemes and words.
 - If your child has used their phonics to decode a word, get them to re-read the sentence fluently.
 - Ask children questions about what they have read – who, what, when, where and why questions help children to retrieve information about the book.
 - As children become more fluent, they can read at home on their own as well as filling in their own diaries.
- . We encourage children by Year 6 to become more independent with their reading in preparation for becoming life-long readers.

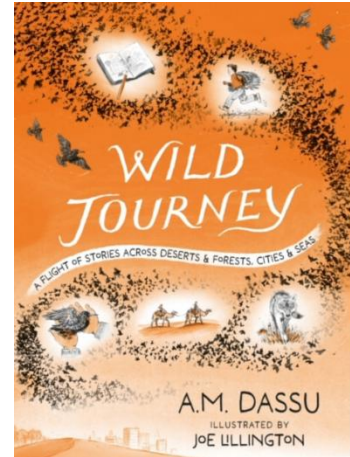
We Need You!

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.

Author of the Term



I'm A. M. Dassu and I write books for children: everything from picture books to novels. When I was young, I loved books – being around them and admiring the art or photos in them. Even though I was a fluent and confident reader, I felt overwhelmed by long, dense texts and couldn't start, let alone finish a novel, until I got to secondary school and read them with my class. I now write stories about ordinary people who do extraordinary things in exceptional circumstances, and I try to make them hopeful and empowering for my readers.



Recommended Reads & New Releases



December 2025 Book of the Month

Ten-year-old Blessing needs a friend. Her mum is suffering so badly from depression and SAD that she has stopped leaving the house, while Blessing herself has stopped going to school because classmates the Driplet Triplets bully her so much.

What's more, winter seems to be going on forever; it's March and the snow is still thick on the ground. Blessing finds a very good if unusual friend in Albert Framlington, one of the snowmen in her local park. Albert might not be as well-informed as he thinks, which is one cause of humour in the book, but he's a strict adherer to the Snowman Code, article two, 'a snowman always helps a child in need.' But Albert has a problem too it seems, and as the pair get closer, it turns out they can help each other.

Despite the wintry setting this comic but poignant story of friendship and the lasting power of love is as warm as can be and guaranteed to melt the iciest of hearts. Albert is a wonderful character, and the story will do for snowmen what Narnia did for wardrobes, ie you'll never be able to pass one again without hoping it's a little bit magic.

December 2025 Book of the Month



The Waters and the Wild is a striking and beautiful book in every sense. Eilish Fisher's verse novel stands out not only for its strong storytelling but also for its careful design. David Rooney's remarkable illustrations play a major part in the reading experience: sometimes full-page, sometimes small details, shifting from greyscale to green in ways that reflect the story's movement between the everyday and the otherworldly. The hardback edition, with its gold-embossed cover and luxuriously, considered layout, feels deliberately made to be enjoyed and kept.

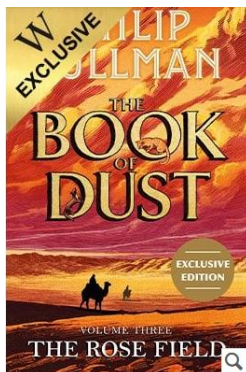
The story follows Rowan, who is dealing with the death of her dad and a move from the open landscapes of Arizona to a small, walled Irish village. She arrives feeling isolated and unsure of where she fits. The village itself carries tensions and old secrets, and Rowan soon realises that some of these reach beyond the human world. Missing her dad and the freedom she once had, she becomes drawn through the village wall to a mysterious horse and other creatures that hint at the presence of the Sidhe, the Faerie world. As she pieces together what is happening, she also starts to understand the stories she has inherited - and maybe a different way of interpreting them.

Fisher's use of free verse works well throughout. The form keeps the story moving at a good pace and the poetry carries the shifts between the real and the magical world naturally. It also gives space for clear, honest moments about grief, friendship and finding your place in a new environment.

The Waters and the Wild is a well-told blend of folklore, legend and contemporary life. It offers a sensitive look at loss and belonging while delivering a mystery that will keep young readers engaged. The combination of strong writing and striking illustration makes it a memorable read and one which readers will want to return to again and again.

Adult Favourites (for parents to read and enjoy!)

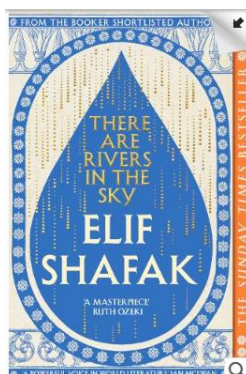
Here are some books that our teachers have enjoyed
over the
last few months!



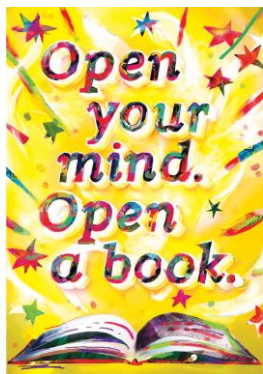
In *The Rose Field*, their quests converge in the most dangerous, breathtaking and world-changing ways. They must take help from spies and thieves, gryphons and witches, old friends and new, learning all the while the depth and surprising truths of the alethiometer. All around them, the world is aflame – made terrifying by fear, power and greed.

As they move East, towards the red building that will reunite them and give them answers – on Dust, on the special roses, on imagination – so too does the Magisterium, at war against all that Lyra holds dear.

Marking thirty years since the world was first introduced to Pullman's remarkable heroine Lyra Belacqua in *Northern Lights*, *The Rose Field* is the culmination of the cultural phenomenon of *The Book of Dust* and *His Dark Materials*.



There Are Rivers in the Sky is a rich, sweeping novel set between the 19th century and modern times, about love and loss, memory and erasure, hurt and healing, centred around three enchanting characters living on the banks of the River Thames and the River Tigris - their lives all curiously touched by the epic of Gilgamesh.



Happy reading,

Mrs Groves 😊