

“If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books.” – Roald Dahl

What’s going on in school?

Author Lauren Hoffmeier visit

21st Nov 2024

We are having an in person author visit from Lauren Hoffmeier.



Image 18



In autumn term, we had an author visit from an author all the way from the U.S.A. She came to talk about her lovely book collection and share some stories with the children.

It was an amazing experience for them!

World Book Day 2025

Look out for information about how we are celebrating WBD in school this year over the next few weeks!

Some research has been undertaken by 'The Literacy Trust' into the impact of WBD. The link for the report is below, but here is a summary of they key findings:

[Exploring the impact of World Book Day on childrens reading 2019-21 final.pdf](#) interesting read on how WBD promotes a love of reading.

Children's comments suggested that World Book Day tokens supported or widened their reading experiences by making books financially accessible, allowing them to choose a book that matched their interests or to discover a new favourite author or series. This also opened up other benefits of being part of the world of book ownership for children, such as keeping, rereading or swapping their new books, extending these benefits beyond the event itself.

World Book Day tokens also increased children's sense of books being 'special' and their subsequent pride in being a book owner.

World Book Day was also a much-anticipated date in the calendar for children who described waiting for World Book Day to get a long-awaited book by a favourite author. However, it was also associated with venturing beyond usual reading choices for many children, supporting them in developing their reading identities. As one child said, "World Book Day made me want to move out of my comfort zone."

The research also found that World Book Day stimulated rich and varied discussions around favourite books and book characters, particularly among classmates and friends. These discussions deepened children's engagement with reading by encouraging them to reflect on their reading and giving them insights into peers' reading discoveries and preferences.

Children's comments also afforded insights into how World Book Day activities work alongside book ownership, book choice, and book talk to enhance children's engagement with reading. Activities such as dressing up encouraged children to reflect on their reading by considering book characters that inspired them. For example, many said they found reading inspiration from friends' costumes. Others enjoyed imagining themselves "in the shoes" of the character they had chosen.

World Book Day activities that made links with culturally relevant themes helped children to see books and reading as a fun and relevant part of the broader media ecosystem, allowing them to feel part of the world of reading and that reading is part of their world.

Findings from this research show how World Book Day forms a highly influential part of many children's reading lives. It plays a unique role in supporting children's developing identities as readers by supporting essential experiences such as choosing and owning books, and talking about books with friends.

The long-term value of these experiences for building a child's identity as a reader should not be underestimated.

(taken from [Exploring the impact of World Book Day on the reading lives of children in the UK 2019-2021 | National Literacy Trust](#))

At Annie Lennard, 'reading for pleasure' is something we will always promote and encourage, and events such as WBD support with this!

Reading at Home

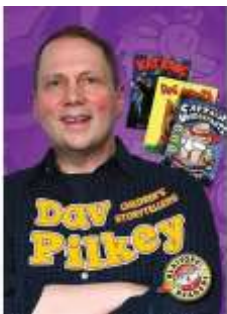
Top Tips for reading at home

- 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



Dav Pilkey

Howl with laughter with the FIRST book in the hilarious full-colour illustrated series, Dog Man, from the creator of Captain Underpants!

George and Harold (the co-stars of the enormously popular Captain Underpants series) are in big trouble again!

George and Harold have created a new breed of justice -- one that is part dog, part man, and ALL HERO!

With the head of a dog and the body of a human, this heroic hound digs into deception, claws after crooks, rolls over robbers, and scampers after squirrels.

Will he be able to resist the call of the wild to answer the call of duty?

Dav Pilkey's wildly popular Dog Man series appeals to readers of all ages and explores universally positive themes, including

- empathy,
- kindness,
- persistence,
- and the importance of being true to one's self.

Recommended Reads & New Releases

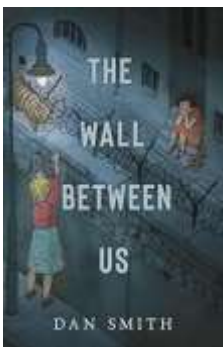


BEFORE THERE WERE PEOPLE, THERE WERE BEASTS . . .

The island of Ramoa was once luscious and populated with mighty beasts. Now though, it is home to barren and tamed cities, where nature is locked out and trouble is brewing.

When Kayla's beloved animal companion, a rare winged pangron, is stolen, she's determined to get him back. But to do so, she'll have to leave her city and journey into the wild and forbidden Beastlands.

There, she meets Rustus, an exiled young warrior, and Alethea, a healer desperately seeking a cure for a mysterious disease. As their quests unite them, they'll adventure across the lands they know so little about, leading them to discoveries both great and terrifying. Not least that the beasts they've always been taught to fear might not be so terrifying after all...



BERLIN 1961

Anja and Monika live opposite each other. They play together every day, with Otto the cat.

One night they wake up to bangs and shouts. Soldiers are building a huge barbed wire fence between them. A terrible forever wall that gets longer and higher until it divides the whole city.

On the East side, Monika is scared – neighbours are becoming spies and there are secret police everywhere.

It's Anja who spots that Otto has found a way across. If he can visit Monika, then perhaps she can too.

But Anja gets trapped and there's no safe way back . . .

An emotional, atmospheric story from Carnegie Medal-nominated author Dan Smith

From the author of Nisha's War, My Friend the Enemy and She Wolf

A high-stakes adventure, set during the Cold War, centred on two cousins separated when the Berlin Wall is built

Perfect for readers aged 9 and up who may be studying the Cold War at school



The Thing sitting in the corner seemed to be interested. It got up and moved towards Barney, into the light. Barney was glad to see it was Somebody after all. Funny way to dress though, he thought, rabbit-skins round the middle and no shoes or socks.

Barney spends a lot of time by himself, and often goes wandering off alone. One day he is exploring by the edge of an old chalk-pit, when it gives way. Finding himself in some sort of cave, Barney is astonished to discover a 'somebody' living there: somebody with a lot of shaggy hair and two bright black eyes, wearing a rabbit skin and speaking in grunts.

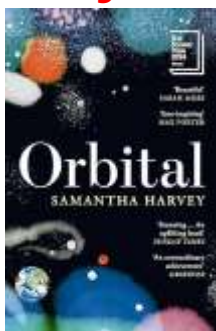
Barney names him Stig, and the two quickly become best friends. Of course nobody believes Barney when he tells his family all about Stig. But Barney doesn't care. He and Stig are far too busy having a brilliant series of unforgettable adventures.

Much-beloved by children for generations, *Stig of the Dump* is the ultimate story about the joyful freedom of mucking around outdoors, having fun away from the grown-ups . . . !

"This lovely story about the unlikely friendship between Barney and stone-age Stig has stood the test of time . . . contemporary children will love reading about the pair's lively adventures" – Booktrust

Adult Favourites (for parents to read and enjoy!)

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

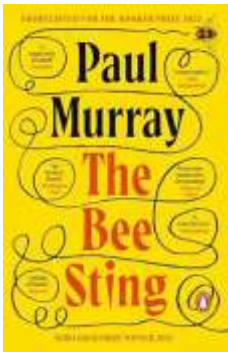


Life on our planet as you've never seen it before

A team of astronauts in the International Space Station collect meteorological data, conduct scientific experiments and test the limits of the human body. But mostly they observe. Together they watch their silent blue planet, circling it sixteen times, spinning past continents and cycling through seasons, taking in glaciers and deserts, the peaks of mountains and the swells of oceans. Endless shows of spectacular beauty witnessed in a single day.

Yet although separated from the world they cannot escape its constant pull. News reaches them of the death of a mother, and with it comes thoughts of returning home. They look on as a typhoon gathers over an island and people they love, in awe of its magnificence and fearful of its destruction.

The fragility of human life fills their conversations, their fears, their dreams. So far from earth, they have never felt more part - or protective - of it. They begin to ask, what is life without earth? What is earth without humanity?



The Barnes family are in trouble.

Until recently they ran the biggest business in town, now they're teetering on the brink of bankruptcy – and that's just the start of their problems. Dickie and Imelda's marriage is hanging by a thread; straight-A student Cass is careening off the rails; PJ is hopelessly in debt to the school bully.

Meanwhile the ghosts of old mistakes are rising out of the past to meet them, but everyone's too wrapped up in the present to see the danger looming . . .

Local Libraries

Our local library is Thimblemill Library. Here you can access a wide range of books for FREE! 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.

Online Stories

If you don't have access to many books or want to use technology to listen to stories, the Cbeebies story website has a great selection of stories usually read by celebrities. Another great resource is YouTube (although not recommended for young children unless content is supervised).

We hope this newsletter has provided you with some useful insight into reading at school and home. Keep an eye out for reading initiatives and workshops and please do speak to your child's teacher if you need any further support. Happy reading,

Mrs Groves- Year 6 Class Teacher