

St Peter's C.E.
Primary School



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Spring Term
2023

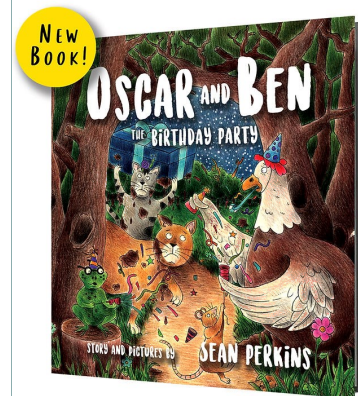
Reading Newsletter

Think before you speak. Read before you think. – Fran Lebowitz

“SO MANY BOOKS, SO LITTLE TIME”- FRANK ZAPPA

Sean Perkins returns with his brand new edition to the *Oscar and Ben* series.

This term, one of our favourite authors returned to school to share with us his new book. Sean first visited us last year, and we loved his visit so much we invited him back to celebrate the publication of *Oscar and Ben, the Birthday Party*. As ever, not content with reading us the book, Sean brought Oscar and Ben themselves, and led us song and actions. We loved having Sean at school and cannot recommend the book enough. You can order your own copy at www.seanperkinsauthor.com



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READING BUDDIES

- We now have some of our Y6 pupils reading weekly with some of our Year 3 children. This is a fantastic opportunity – not only are the older children great role models but they are helping to develop good reading habits for our younger readers.

AN INTERVIEW WITH AN AUTHOR

Where did you get the idea for a birthday party?

At the end of the first Oscar and Ben book there's a cake. I asked myself how could we get a cake to the woodland den? A birthday party! I wanted there to be consistency between the two books. The book is about getting lost. When I was younger, my Dad was always getting lost. He would never use a SatNav and we would forever be pulling over to ask strangers for directions to football pitches when I had a game. He was more polite than Oscar and Ben though.



“You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me.”

— C.S. Lewis



What was your career paths?

I was always interested by arty stuff in primary school. I only got attention if I did a drawing because that's what I was good at. I had to work really hard at English and Maths— I found those subjects really tricky. In Year 9, I got an early GCSE in graphic design, and then went to college and university, studying graphic design.

I was doing some work as a football coach, and that love of working with kids led to a job in a school. Once, in that school. I read *the Gruffalo* and the energy it had excited me. I had a little go and used my skills as an illustrator. It didn't work straight away— it took a lot of trial and error! It all came together though, and I found myself doing something that used my talents, and that I loved doing.

Have you ever self-published?

There is a book on Amazon that I wrote called *Mr Bread Head*. It's quite easy to self publish. There is a cost per sale (Amazon take a portion of the sales and I get the rest). My other books I have published through a publisher.

It would be a lot of fun to work together and create a school book or story that we could self-publish through Amazon.

Keep your eyes peeled, dear reader!



NOTHING GOLD CAN SAY

Nature's first green is
gold,
Her hardest hue to
hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to
leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to
day.
Nothing gold can stay.
Robert Frost

HAVE YOU GOT A BOOK YOU LOVE AND WANT TO RECOMMEND TO OUR WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR BOOK REVIEW TO SEE YOUR TOP PICKS LISTED HERE.

SCHOOL BOOK SWAP SHOP

Book Swap continues to be very popular – please send in any unwanted books (from Early Reads to Y6 novels) so that our avid readers can get their hands on them!

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

I know what you did last Wednesday

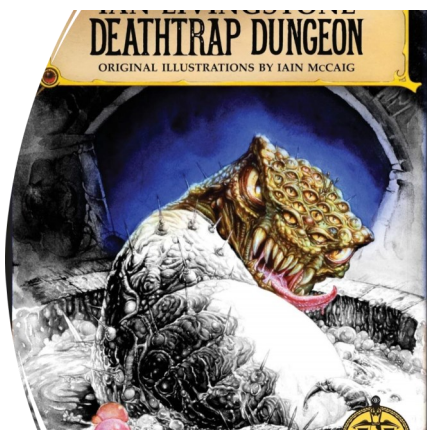
This book is about two brothers who go to an island to meet up with some old friends, only to find that the host has been killed. They need to find out who the killer is... and fast!

I would recommend this book to Year 5 and 6 (it might be too scary for anyone younger).

Scarlett Keegan– Year 6



DEATHTRAP DUNGEON



Deathtrap Dungeon is a fighting fantasy; the aim is to complete a challenge by escaping a dungeon filled with monsters and challenges. People who love 'choose-your-own adventure' stories, and mythically strange characters, will love this book.

Rhapsofdy Eckersley– Year 6

PIG-HEART BOY

You're thirteen. All you want is a normal life. You like a girl. That's normal. But what isn't is that you are a boy with a pig's heart.

Chloe-Marie Collins– Year 6



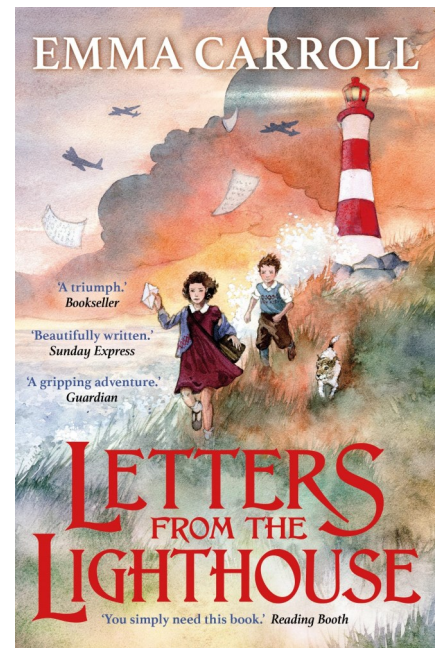
MRS AINSWORTH'S READING CLUB

Mrs Ainsworth, along with some of our older readers, come together regularly in the form of a reading club. They all have a book to read over a couple of weeks before convening to discuss the story, themes and overall style. The group have already read *The Secret Garden* by Francis Hodgson Burnett and are currently reading *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll.

Olivia— In the groups, we talk about the book and what we've read. If we have time, we sometimes do something crafty (like making book marks).

Letters from the Lighthouse is a wonderful book set in WWII era England. The children in the story are evacuated from London to the sea-side to live near a lighthouse. I like the book because it's very adventurous and I enjoy wondering what will happen next!

Emma— The 'letters' have been written by Ephraim (the lighthouse keeper) to Suki, who went missing, and we fear is dead, at the start of the story. One character, Esther, is a Jew who arrived in England on the Kinder transport. The main characters in the book work to help Austrian refugees get to England— one of them turns out to be Esther's dad!



“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go!”- Dr Seuss

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT— MS BURKE

What sorts of books do you like to read ?

I love reading fantasy stories, particularly the Firework Makers Daughter by Philip Pullman (an amazing story about a young girl who wants to make fireworks like her Dad). I also like reading biographies. I love to read books interest me, and align to my goals in life.

When do you read?

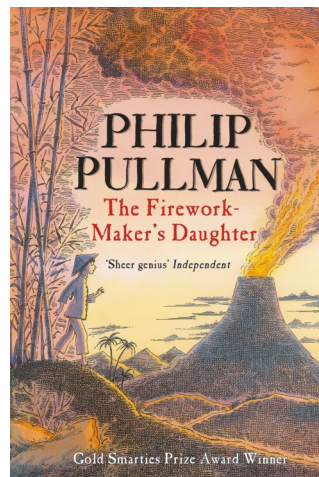
I tend to read most evenings. I find it helps me get comfy and ready to sleep if I read a little before bed.

Why is it important to read?

Reading is the heart of everything. It takes you on adventures and helps you truly relax. It opens doors to everything and anything you want to do with your life.

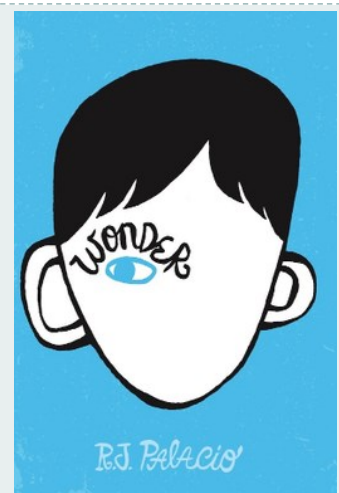
What books do you recommend?

Everyone should read *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio— it's such an inspiring story of acceptance and self-worth.



A thousand miles ago, in a country East of the jungle and south of the mountains, there lived a firework-maker named Lalchand and his daughter, Lila. Lila's learned from her father almost all there is to know about making fireworks. But he's held back the final secret, the most dangerous one, saying Lila's not ready to know. Not to be deterred, the headstrong girl enlists the help of her friend Chulak, and discovers that anyone who wants to be a true Firework-Maker must face down the Fire-Fiend of Mount Merapi, and bring back some of the Royal Sulphur. So Lila sets off fearlessly, ready to face pirates and demons and anything else that gets in her way.

(Interview by one of our reading ambassadors— Jack)



Born with facial differences that, up until now, have prevented him from going to a mainstream school, Auggie Pullman becomes the most unlikely of heroes when he enters the local fifth grade. As his family, his new classmates, and the larger community all struggle to discover their compassion and acceptance, Auggie's extraordinary journey will unite them and prove you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

ELS Essential Letters and Sounds

developed by Knowledge Schools Trust

Getting all children to read well, quickly.



READING IN THE EARLY YEARS AND KEY STAGE 1

Teaching children to read quickly and fluently is absolutely vital. The teachers and children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been working very hard on their phonics using our new approach from *Essential Letters and Sounds*. Parents have been invited to an MS Teams meeting with our phonics coordinator (Mrs Harrison) so that they can help at home, and all the teachers in school have been brushing up on their phonics so that they can help the children no matter where or when in school they might be needed.

We have also bought over £1,000 of extra books that the children can take home with them in order to practise. Ideally we would like children to read each book 3 times. The first for decoding, the second for enjoyment and the third for understanding.

Suggested Questions to ask Readers

Try to ask a range of questions about your child's chosen book as well as the text within. Where possible, encourage them to tell you in their own words what they have just read to help you assess their understanding. Here are some possible questions to ask children when discussing the text with them:

- Where can we find the blurb?
- Is there a contents page?
- What made you choose this book?
- What do you think this book is going to be about?
- What genre do you think this book is?
- Why do you think the text is organised like this?
- Who are the key characters in the book?
- Give me three adjectives to describe one of the characters
- Find a word in paragraph 2 which shows.....
- Can you think of a word that rhymes with?
- What sound does "....." start with? Can you think of any other words which start with the same sound?
- Can the word _____ have more than one meaning?
- What other word could the author have used instead of _____ which has the same meaning?
- What did do?
- What does mean?
- What happened in the beginning of the book?
- Has there been any surprises or twists in the storyline so far?
- When and where did the story take place?
- Which word tells you that.....?
- Give me the main events of the story so far
- Summarise what you have just read to me
- What do you think is going to happen next?

10 Easy Ways to Encourage Motivation to Read



Start early!

Reading with your babies and toddlers helps them connect books with love and comfort.



Head to the library.

Libraries are often filled with resources for children—summer reading programs, story times, craft classes, and of course, shelves and shelves of books!



Read it again.

Young children enjoy anticipating what comes next. Use this to your child's advantage. When stories contain predictable text or rhymes, your child may be able to finish the sentences.



Build your own library.

The more books you have at home, the more opportunities your child will have to pick one up and read. Try rummage sales, library book sales, resale shops, and bookstore clearance racks.



Go “on location.”

Reading becomes an adventure when you can connect a book to a real place. Reading about animals? Visit a farm or a zoo. Too far for a visit? Find pictures!



Make books accessible.

Keep books on a low bookshelf or in a basket on the floor, or allow your child to choose her own special spot just for her books.



Let them wiggle!

Some kids get uncomfortable when they have to sit still. But read-alouds are important for wigglers too, so let them wiggle! Coloring, kneading playdough, or building with LEGO bricks can keep hands busy while you read.



Bring stories to life.

Capture your child's attention and make reading fun by reading with expression. Try using different voices for different characters. Exaggerate the rhythm of the text. Let your face and your voice show what the characters are feeling



Set an example.

Let your child see that reading is important, whether it's reading a book for pleasure, reading to learn, or reading a recipe to make dinner!



Change it up!

If you normally read in the same place each day, don't hesitate to try out a new location from time to time. Try a front porch, park bench, or a cozy reading nook.

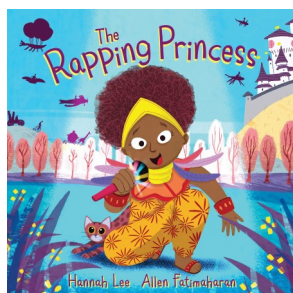
HAVE YOU READ ANY
OF OUR BOOK REC-
COMMENDATIONS?

If you have, we would
love to hear from you!
Write us a short book
review, and send it into
school. We'll publish it
in our next newsletter;
hopefully it'll inspire
others to pick up a new



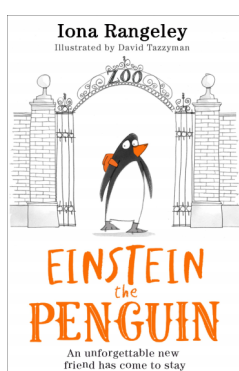
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BOOKS YOU SHOULD READ– AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOOKTRUST



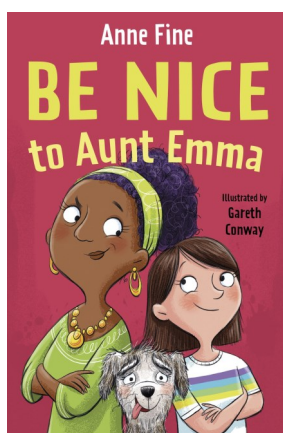
The Rapping Princess– Hannah Lee

Shiloh is a princess and has everything a princess could possibly want. But there's one thing she doesn't have: a singing voice. All the other princesses can sing. What Shiloh can do is rap. But she's a princess. She's supposed to sing, not rap. A hip--hopping fairy tale about uniqueness and standing out.



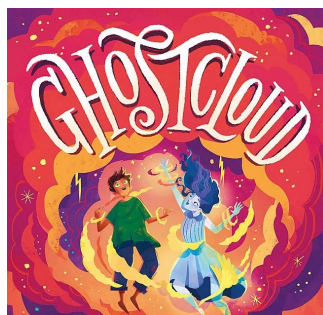
Einstein the Penguin– Iona Rangeley Age 6-7

When the Stewart family visit London Zoo, Imogen and Arthur are enthralled by a small, inquisitive penguin names Einstein. As they leave, Mrs Stewart jokingly tells him penguins are always welcome at their house. However, the family are astounded when Einstein turns up on their doorstep later that evening, clutching a small rucksack stuffed with silver herrings. Reads will laugh outloud at the families attempts to integrate the penguin into their household.



Be nice to Aunt Emma– Anne Fine Age 8-9

Aunt Emma is rude, prickly and seems to find fault with everything Tansy does. Thankfully, she only visits twice a year. This charming, light-hearted tale explores the complex dynamics which exist in many families, demonstrating that with patience, understanding and humour, difficult situations can be overcome.



Ghostcloud– Michael Mann Age 10-11

Deep under an alternative London, kidnapped children shovel coal in Battersea Power Station, working for the vicious Tabatha Margate. One of them is Luke, who longs for an Amber Ticket which will give him his freedom. As a half-ghost, it is up to Luke to discover Tabatha Margate's evil plan, and why ghosts as well as humans are being kidnapped.

This inventive adventure presents a unique world where ghosts bond with water to become clouds, lose themselves in rivers, and read your thoughts through rain. It's a satisfying and often surprising fantasy world that children will no doubt enjoy coming back to again and again.