

**In this issue:**

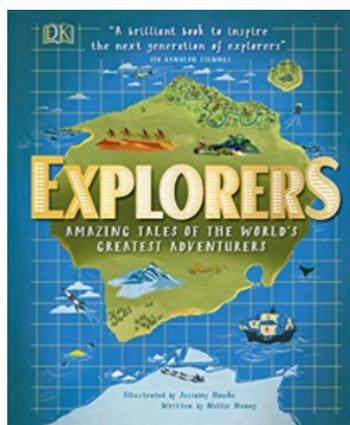
National Poetry Day

Recommended reads

Winter mini reading challenge

Bookshop.org

Reading for pleasure - top tips



It was a strange start to the Christmas term. However, the Library was quick to adapt in order to provide a library service to all classes in the School. We have gone mobile with trolleys, transporting books to classrooms, delivering sessions in class and providing a pop-up library for Y6 in the playground!

Pre Prep classes have been borrowing books and taking part in reading-for-pleasure activities such as a 'ghostly draw-a-long' with author and illustrator Taylor Dolan, and decorating characters from the Narwhal and Jelly series.

Year 3 have been developing their library skills in taught lessons and Year 4 have been taking part in the Readmoji Reading Challenge. Miss Cook and Mrs Anthony distributed lots of certificates to the completers and are looking forward to introducing the challenge to Year 3 next term. Year 5 enjoyed their first virtual author visit with the marvellous Catherine Bruton, organised by the Library with website Reading Zone and over 200 pupils in other schools!

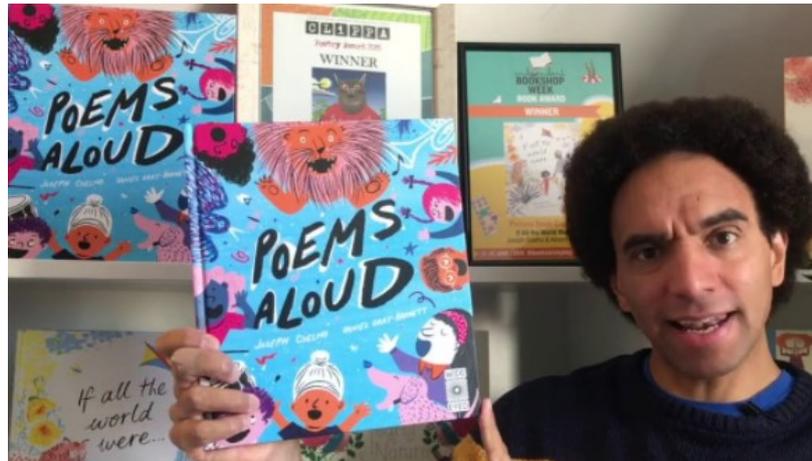
Year 7 worked on their critical thinking, discussing current affairs, while Year 8 explored the theme of American civil rights to support their English lessons.

National Poetry Day was celebrated with an exciting school-wide competition this year (p.2) and, to celebrate Non-fiction November, Years 4 and 5 were introduced to *Explorers: Amazing Tales of the World's Greatest Adventures* by Nellie Huang. Pre Prep were introduced to the early non-fiction section and encouraged to try an information book.

To engage children with reading over the Christmas holidays, we suggest taking part in the winter mini reading challenge (p.4) or investigating our recommended reads (p.3)!

Wishing you all a happy holiday!  
Miss Cook  
School Librarian

# National Poetry Day - Competition



It was National Poetry Day on Thursday, 1 October and pupils across the School watched clips from Joseph Coelho's excellent performance poetry video from the Edinburgh Book Festival.

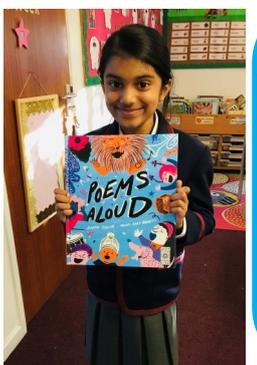
Then, we challenged Middle and Senior School to write and perform their own poems, and Pre Prep to create poetry art for a school-wide competition!

We had many excellent submissions which made judging very difficult indeed! Congratulations to our winners: Aadam and Ivy in Nursery, Evaani RKO, Grace 1CM, Sofia 2TH, Saanvi 3NL, Emilia 4HS, Yusuf and Harrison 4CP, James 5AM and Zita 6HP! Extra congratulations to Emilia for completing the reading challenge in the same week!

Winners excitedly received their own copy of Poems Aloud by Joseph Coelho as their prize and are all featured on the library web app where you can view their artwork and performances:

<https://uk.accessit.online/sta23>

Joseph Coelho himself even tweeted us to congratulate the winners!



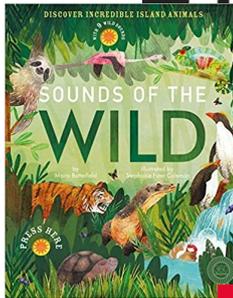
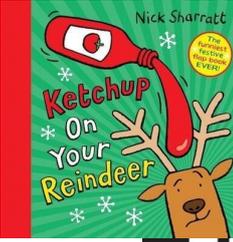
Joseph Coelho  
@JosephACoelho

Massive congratulations to the winners hope they have fun with Poems Aloud 😊



# RECOMMENDED READS

A new selection of entertaining books for pupils to enjoy.



**Nursery**  
Moon By Britta Teckentrup

**Reception**  
Ketchup On Your Reindeer  
By Nick Sharratt

**Year 1**  
Sounds Of The Wild By  
Moira Butterfield &  
Stephanie Fizer Coleman

**Year 2**  
Oi Aardvark! By Kes Gray &  
Jim Field

**Year 3**  
The Egyptians By Jonny  
Marx

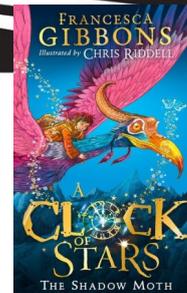
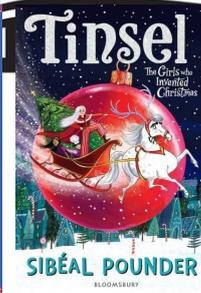
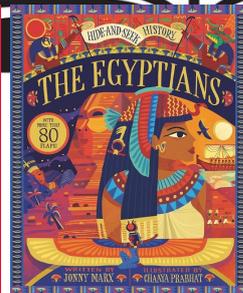
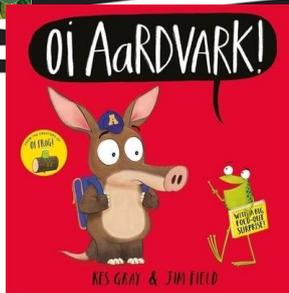
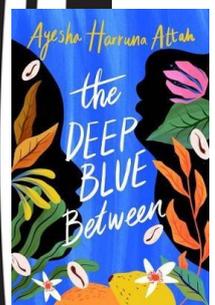
**Year 4**  
Tinsel - The Girls Who Invented  
Christmas By Sibéal Pounder

**Year 5**  
A Clock Of Stars: The Shadow  
Moth By Francesca Gibbons

**Year 6**  
When Life Gives You  
Mangoes By Keren Getten

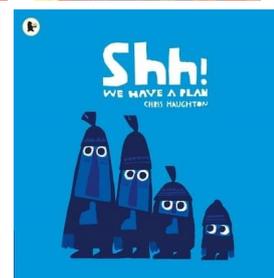
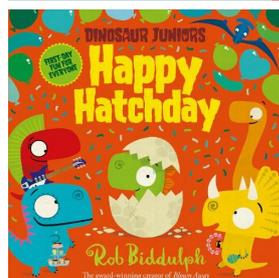
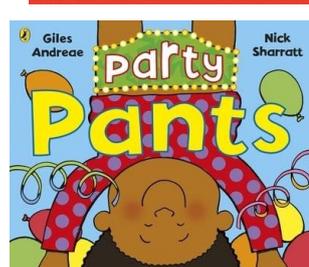
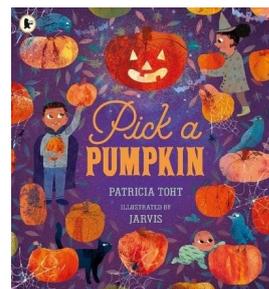
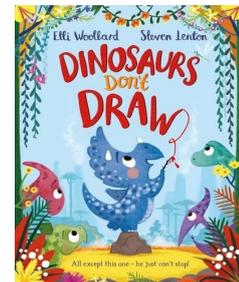
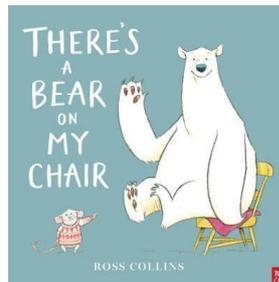
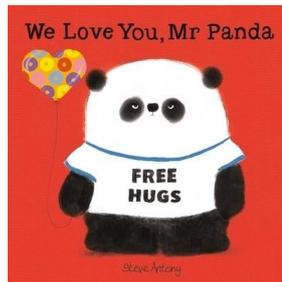
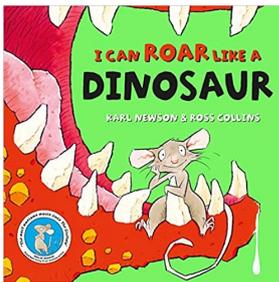
**Year 7**  
The Deep Blue Between By  
Ayesha Harruna Attah

**Year 8**  
A Kind Of Spark  
By Elle McNicoll



## What have we been reading? Nursery Sessions!

We've been having a lot of fun in our Nursery sessions, choosing books and listening to stories. Some of our stories were linked to the theme of the week and others were just for fun. Here's what we've been reading:



## Winter Mini Reading Challenge



The Reading Agency is teaming up with awesome children's publisher *Knights Of* to bring you the 'Everyone Is A Hero' reading challenge, where you'll meet characters from *Knights and Bikes*, *High-Rise Mystery*, and the *Run* series.

The challenge starts on Tuesday, 1 December 2020 and ends on Friday, 15 January 2021.

All you have to do to complete the Winter Mini Challenge is choose a reading goal (three books is the recommendation) and then read that many books before the end of the challenge.

Rate and review your books on the website:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

while the Challenge is on. You'll unlock a limited-edition virtual badge for your profile AND a special certificate that you can print out and keep.

If you don't have a profile yet, sign up here:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



## Support Independent Book Shops

 Bookshop

Bookshop.org is an ethical platform for buying books that aims to promote and support independent bookshops in the UK.

Books are offered to consumers at a small discount, delivered within two to three days and the site gives indie bookshops the full profit margin, 30% of the cover price, from each sale they generate on the platform. Customers will also be able to browse book recommendation lists created by authors, publishers, journalists and others, rather than algorithms.

In the current climate, it is more important than ever to support local bookshops within our communities. With this in mind, please consider Bookshop.org for your future book-purchasing needs at <https://uk.bookshop.org/>

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## Reading for Pleasure - Top Tips from the Library

At this moment in our society, reading for pleasure, sharing stories, and being able to escape our four walls through the pages of a book could be more important than ever. Reading can help with our mental health and well-being: in a study run by ReadFor-Good.org, it was shown that reading for just six minutes has been shown to reduce stress levels by 68%.

Here are some of our top tips that we hope will provide some inspiration for reading for fun at home.

**1) Read together** - Be comfortable. Whether at bedtime, snuggled up on a comfy chair or even listening to a CD on a car journey, sharing books and reading together is one of the most important experiences children can have. Limit distractions to a minimum if possible; create a special reading area (a den or pop-up tent work wonders); allocate ten minutes in the day when everyone in the house stops and reads. Leave a variety of books lying around and accessible so they can be picked up at any time.

When reading to your child, have fun (be brave) and use different voices for the characters. Use expressions and inflections in your voice to create suspense and excitement as you read. Vary the speed at which you read sentences and, if possible, always end on a cliff-hanger!

Talking and asking questions during and after reading is immensely valuable. Not only does discussion reveal a child's understanding and interpretation of the text but it gives an opportunity to explain reasons and form opinions.

Asking a child to describe what they see in illustrations offers them further opportunity to create meaning and make connections with their own experiences.

**2) Be a role model** - Whether a parent, carer, sibling or well-known personality, role models have the power to inspire children to read. If your child sees you (or other people they admire) enjoying a book, magazine or comic, laughing at the characters, hearing you enthuse about the story and valuing books, they will be inspired and more inclined to do the same themselves.

**3) All reading is good reading** - Choice of reading material is, of course, a personal matter. Many adults like to read something light and undemanding: entertaining as opposed to a heavy novel or 'classic' that requires concentration. Children deserve to be offered the same opportunities for choice when deciding what to read so, when selecting books, let your child choose as well. Studies have shown that children develop greater, intrinsic, motivation to read when they can choose their own reading matter. Whether from the school collection, your local library, a book shop, or a charity shop, take time together to look through, consider and choose books, or other materials, that they find inviting; and, most of all, interesting!

**4) Talk to library staff** - We are lucky enough to have an amazing library with two dedicated staff members who love nothing more than being enthusiastic about books with your children. We are here to support you too so don't be afraid to get in touch!