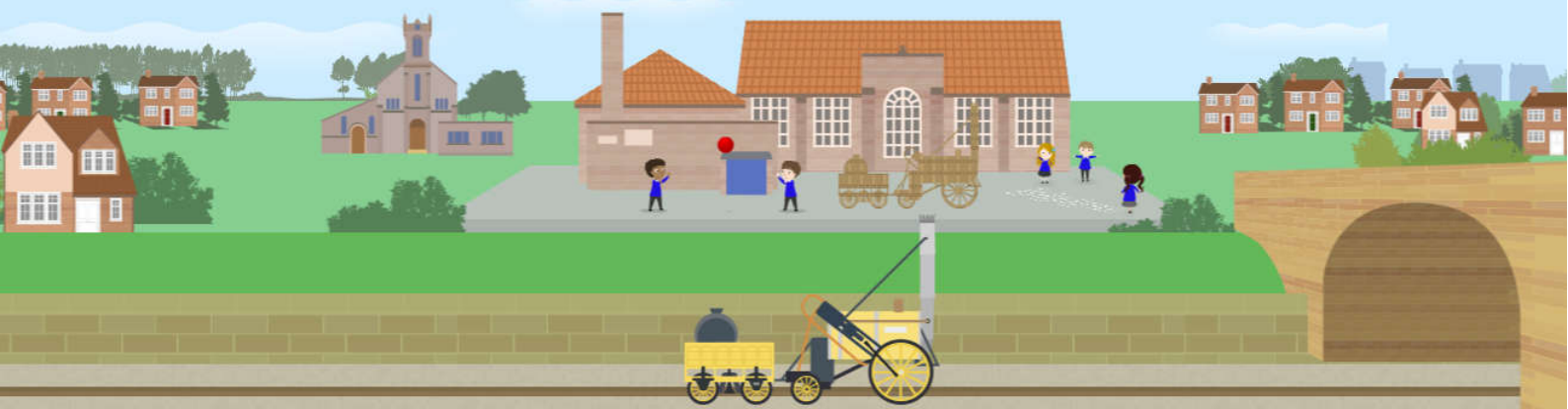




# ST ANN'S

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

### PART OF THE THREE SAINTS ACADEMY TRUST



## Reading Round-up

#6 Spring 2022

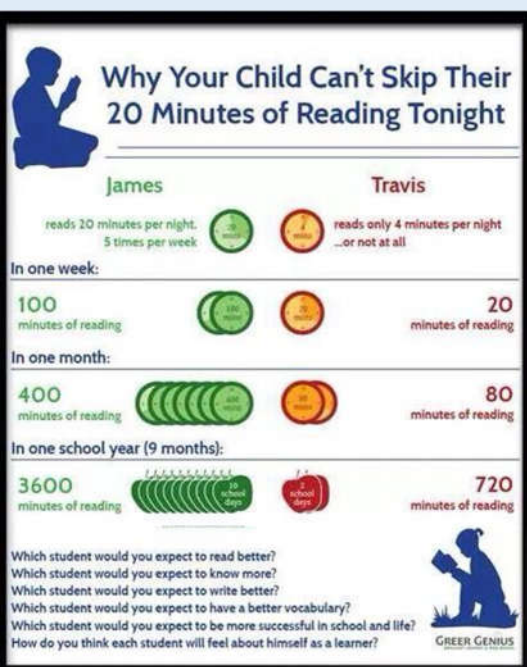
Welcome to the this term's issue of St Ann's 'Reading Round-up'. This edition focuses on author Christopher Edge and looks at the importance of reading bedtime stories with children of all ages. We also take a look at a variety of book recommendations for different age ranges and look ahead to what texts we will be reading as classes in the summer term.

We hope you find it helpful in supporting your child on their reading journey.

### The importance of daily reading

We would like to say a huge '**WELL DONE**' to all of the children who have managed to achieve their Silver Reading Certificate this term. It is an amazing achievement to have reached a full 20 weeks of reading 5 times per week!

For those of us who haven't achieved the full 20 weeks yet – keep trying! We would like to remind everyone of why reading every night for 20-30 minutes is absolutely essential. Reading for 20 minutes a day exposes children to a vast quantity of words (1.8 million in each school year, actually!). And this exposure makes children more likely to score in the 90th percentile on standardised tests. If you compare this to children who read just 5 minutes per day — and are therefore more likely to score in the 50th percentile — it's easy to see how reading time translates to academic success.



Obviously, there are enormous vocabulary benefits associated with reading 20 minutes a day but writing benefits are there for the taking too. Essentially, the more words your child reads, the wider their vocabulary is likely to be. And a wide vocabulary makes a child's writing more interesting and impressive. They'll discover new ways to convey meaning, articulate their thoughts, persuade people, use figurative language, and engage readers' emotions. This can help them become stronger writers, whether working on a short story age 6, an essay age 13, or a university application letter age 18. Children who rarely read are less likely to expand their linguistic know-how in the same way. And that could hold their writing back significantly.

### How is your class doing?

This table shows how many children in each class have achieved Reading Awards this year. Remember, you get a sweet shop voucher with your Silver Award and a £5 book token with your Gold Award! Well done to all of our award winners so far!

CLASS	BRONZE (10 weeks)	SILVER (20 weeks)	GOLD (30 weeks)
EYP	25	13	n/a
EYR	27	16	n/a
1S	26	19	n/a
1A	26	17	n/a
2H	25	18	n/a
2T	27	20	n/a
3H	23	14	n/a
3E	27	25	n/a
4B	27	13	n/a
4P	28	22	n/a
5D	23	20	n/a
5H	23	10	n/a
6O	26	17	n/a
6FM	28	16	n/a



# The Importance of Bedtime Stories

Whatever your child's age, reading together at bedtime is the perfect way to bring the day to a close. Many of us have fond memories of sharing a bedtime book with our own parents, and now do the same with our children. Yet in today's increasingly time-pressed world, the bedtime story often falls prey to our busy schedules and long working hours.

Below is a summary of 11 great reasons to make bedtime stories a priority whenever you can.

## **1. It's good bonding time**

Whatever your child's age, sharing a bedtime story gives them a time when they have you all to themselves – something that may not happen at any other point of the day.

Indeed, research shows that 60% of us feel that reading to our children brings us closer together.

## **2. It improves your child's reading skills**

Just because you're the one doing the reading, don't assume that your child isn't learning. You would be surprised by how much children grasp when you're reading a bedtime story, following the words and starting to recognise them on the page.



A bedtime story is also a good opportunity for shared reading, for example taking it in turns to read a page – or a paragraph, depending on your child's ability. This will give your child a daily opportunity to practise reading, while also benefiting from being read to.

## **3. It sparks imagination**

Unicorns, wizards, fairies and monsters... Books open up whole new worlds to children, both real and imagined, and sharing a bedtime story will take them to places they'd never have dreamed of.

Books can teach your child about the world while also opening their imagination. Reading fiction provides specific information gaps that your child can fill with their own imagination, and this guesswork and decision-making stimulates the mental patterns that are fundamental to creativity.

## **4. It creates conversation**

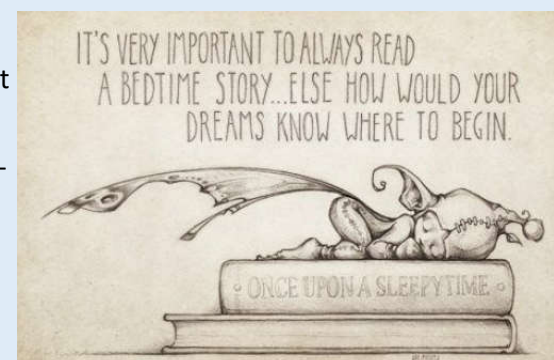
Any parent who's read a bedtime story will know that the words on the page are only part of the experience. You'll also be answering questions, explaining concepts and talking about what's happening on the page.

Reading together can trigger all sorts of wonderful questions and stimulate conversation, which can help children understand their own place in the world. So, while you might be in a rush to finish the book and get on with your evening, allow time in your bedtime routine to chat about what you're reading: you'll be helping your child's development and gaining a fascinating insight into how their mind works.

## **5. Making a routine means you won't forget**

We all know that certain tasks get overlooked in the hustle and bustle of daily life, but if you make reading a part of your child's bedtime routine – as important as brushing their teeth – it means you're less likely to forget.

Don't worry, though, if there are nights when you can't read. Why not ask a family member, whether that's a sibling or a grandparent, to read your child's bedtime story instead, or, if you've been kept late at work, share a story with them over Zoom or FaceTime?







# The Importance of Bedtime Stories

"The research suggests that the difference between children who get bedtime stories and those who don't — the difference in their life chances — is bigger than those who go to elite private schools and those who go to state or public schools."

Adam Swift  
University of Warwick

## **6. It expands your child's vocabulary**

Did you know that children need to hear a word up to 12 times before they can start to use it themselves? Reading a bedtime story will give your child this exposure to new words (especially if you're reading the same book, night after night!) and so build their vocabulary.

Reading aloud introduces children to new words and new ways of describing the world around them. Using a wide range of vocabulary can help improve theirs.

## **7. It improves their emotional intelligence**

Books can help little people deal with big feelings, and sharing a bedtime story can be a way into discuss-

ing difficult situations. Reading helps children recognise that they are not alone, and that others have faced the same problems and feelings as them. Sharing books also opens up opportunities to discuss difficult topics, like illness in a family member, and provides a structure to have these conversations.

Reading to your child will also expand their emotional vocabulary, giving them words for what they're feeling. This can make them better able to express themselves, and less prone to the emotional meltdowns that can happen when they're wrestling with feelings that they don't know how to talk about.

## **8. It encourages independent reading**

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that reading to your child will make them 'lazy' and less likely to read by themselves.

A report by the Reading Agency found that children are more likely to read through free choice if reading is enjoyable in the first place, and reading to your child at bedtime is a great way to help them fall in love with books.

## **9. It improves mental wellbeing**

The current mental health crisis amongst children is well documented, with even primary school pupils suffering from anxiety and exam stress.

Recent research by the National Literacy Trust found a link between reading and mental wellbeing, so sharing a bedtime story with your child could help to improve their emotional health.

## **10. It helps you (both) relax and unwind**

Many of us introduce a bedtime story in the baby days as part of our little one's evening routine, and it can still help promote relaxation at bedtime even for older children.

At the end of a busy day, a bedtime story can be a way of leaving the day behind, helping the whole family switch off so that whatever stress and noise has happened throughout the day can be forgotten.

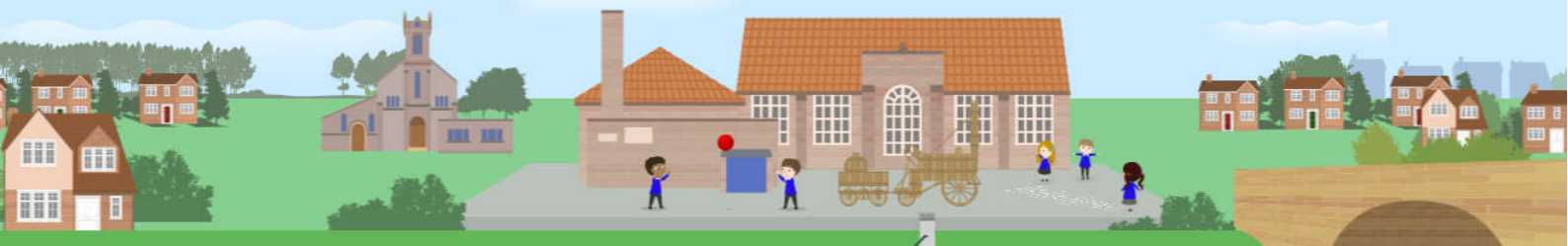
## **11. It's good even for children who can read by themselves**

Yes, it's tempting to ditch the bedtime story once your child is an independent reader, but there are many benefits in carrying it on, even though they can read by themselves. Once children learn to read, they need to stay engaged with books that interest them, and this can often be books that are slightly more advanced than their reading level.

Reading together at bedtime gives your child access to books that might otherwise be beyond them. Even if they're reading by themselves, you can sit with them to help them with tricky words, and encourage them to keep going when it gets hard by reading them the next page or chapter to hook them in.





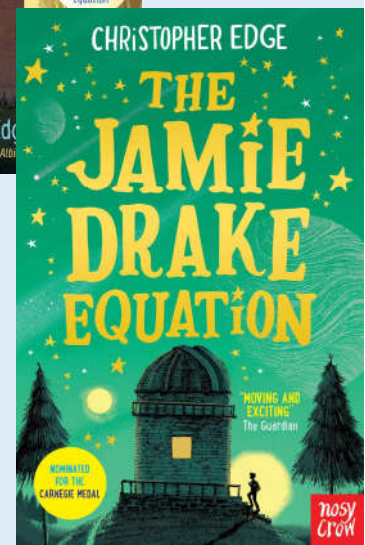
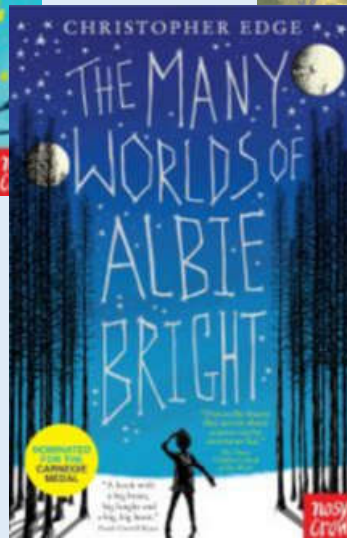
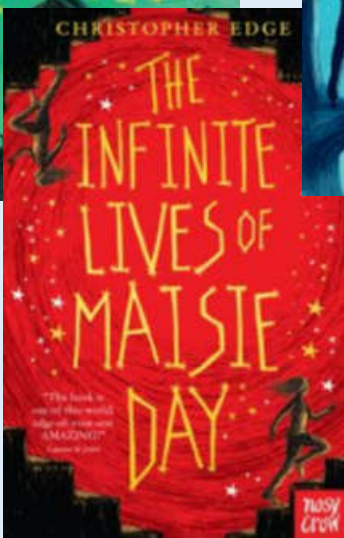
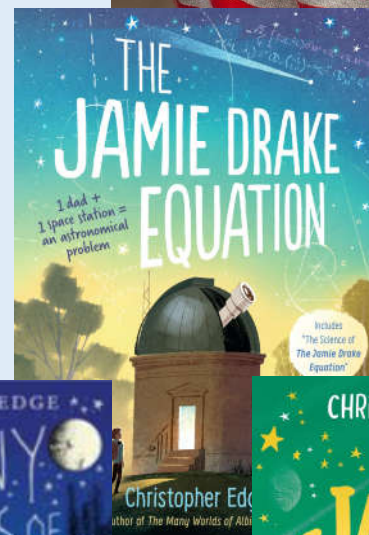
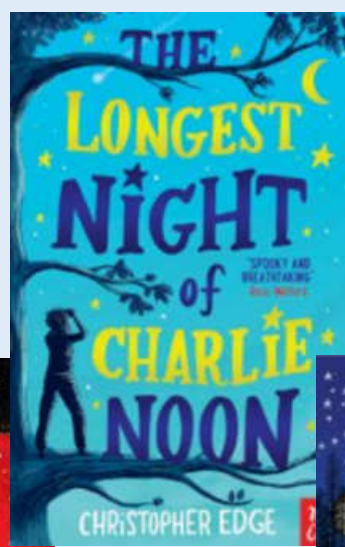
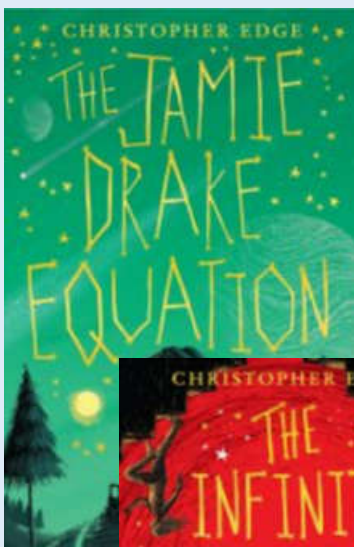


# Author spotlight

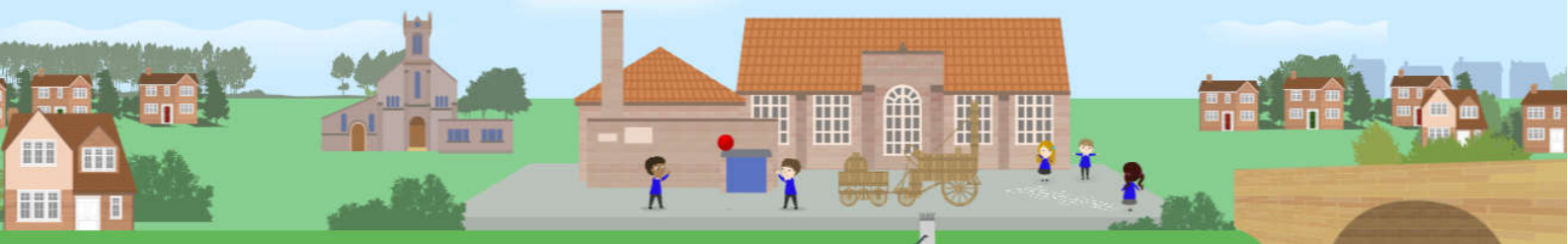
## Christopher Edge

Christopher Edge is an award-winning children's author whose books have been translated into more than twenty languages. He grew up in Manchester, where he spent most of his childhood in the local library dreaming up stories, but now lives in Gloucestershire where he spends most of his time in the local library dreaming up stories.

His novels *The Many Worlds of Albie Bright*, *The Jamie Drake Equation*, *The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day* and *The Longest Night of Charlie Noon* have all been nominated for the prestigious CILIP Carnegie Medal, and he has also won several awards for his children's fiction including the STEAM Children's Book Prize and the Brilliant Book Award. He has been described as 'A writer of genuine originality' by The Guardian and his latest novel, *Escape Room* was selected as The Times Children's Book of the Week.

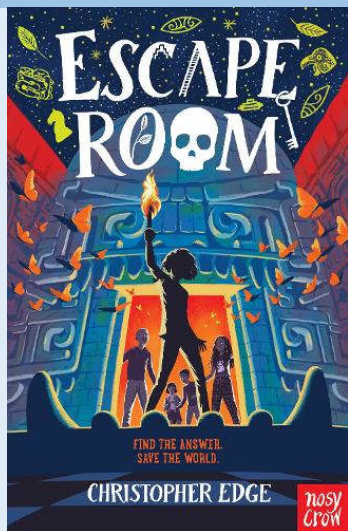






# Recommended reads

## Fiction



### **The Escape Room by Christopher Edge**

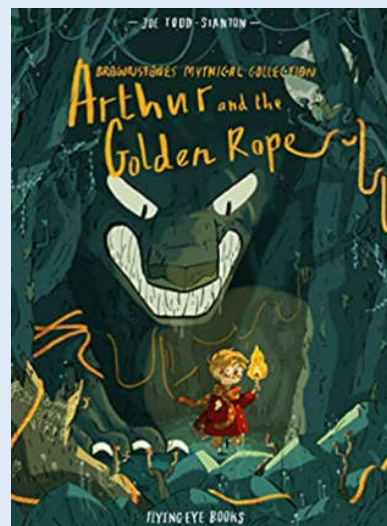
#### **Appropriate for Year 5 and 6**

When twelve-year-old Ami arrives at The Escape, she thinks it's just a game - the ultimate escape room with puzzles and challenges to beat before time runs out. Meeting her teammates, Adjoa, Ibrahim, Oscar and Min, Ami learns from the Host that they have been chosen to save the world and they must work together to find the Answer. But as he locks them inside the first room, they quickly realise this is no ordinary game.

### **Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd Stanton**

#### **Appropriate for Years 3 and 4**

Imagine a vault so cavernous that it could contain all the world's greatest treasures and relics, from mummified remains of ancient monarchs to glistening swords brandished by legendary warriors. Who could be in charge of such a vault and how did he come into possession of such a unique collection? Who is...Professor Brownstone?



### **The Barnabus Project by The Fan Brothers**

#### **Appropriate for Years 1 and 2**

Deep underground beneath Perfect Pets, where children can buy genetically engineered "perfect" creatures, there is a secret lab. Barnabus and his friends live in this lab, but none of them are perfect. They are all Failed Projects. Barnabus has never been outside his tiny bell jar, yet he dreams of one day seeing the world above ground that his pal Pip the cockroach has told him about: a world with green hills and trees, and buildings that reach all the way to the sky, lit with their own

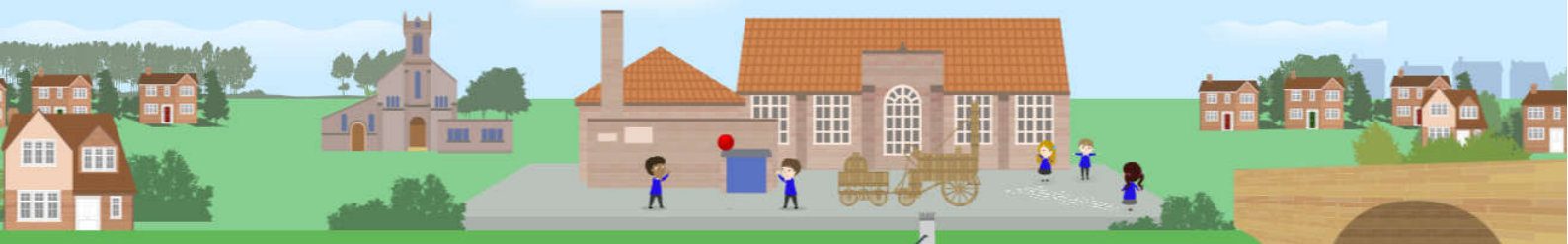


### **I Can Catch a Monster by Bethan Woollvin**

#### **Appropriate for Early Years**

Bo's brothers say she is too little to catch a monster. But Bo has other ideas, so she sets off on a quest to capture herself a beast. Can she defeat the furious griffin, conquer the hideous kraken and triumph over the monstrous dragon?

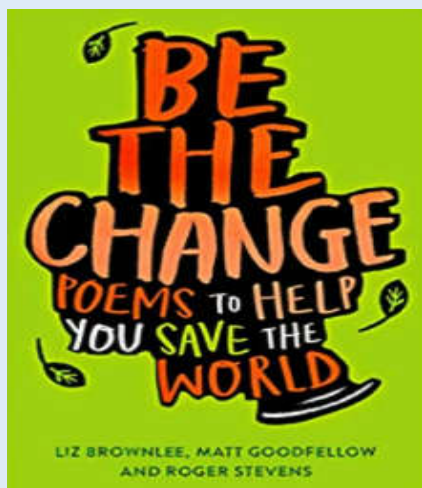




# Recommended reads

## Poetry books

It was World Poetry Day in March. Here are some brilliant books for you to enjoy.



**Be The Change: Poems to Help you Save the World** by Liz Brownlee, Roger Stevens & Matt Goodfellow

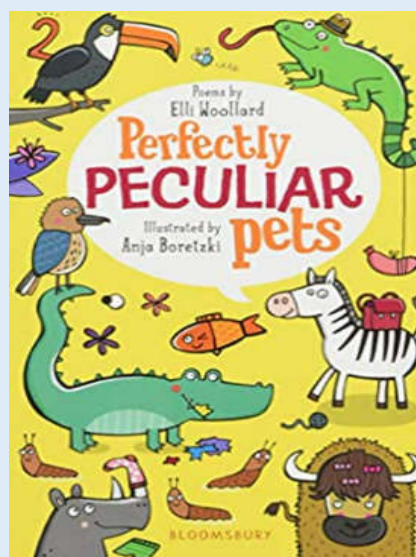
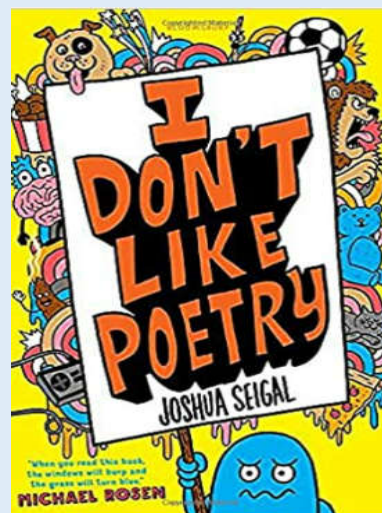
**Appropriate for Years 5 and 6**

Three children's poets come together to create a collection of positive poems about looking after the planet. The poems in this stirring and topical volume explore the theme of sustainability without the doom and gloom that can too easily dominate conversations about climate change, instead encouraging positive steps that make an impact on the world around us.

**I Don't Like Poetry** by Joshua Seigal

**Appropriate for Years 3 and 4**

This collection of poems was shortlisted for the 2017 Laugh Out Loud Book Awards and it is not hard to see why, as each poem is designed to raise a chuckle. From the clever and witty to the downright silly, this imaginative collection of verses is likely to win over reluctant readers and be passed from pupil to pupil in KS2 classrooms.



**Perfectly Peculiar Pets** by Elli Woollard and Anja Boretzki

**Appropriate for Years 1 and 2**

We love this whacky A-Z of weird and wonderful pets. With a different pet poem for each letter of the alphabet (from armadillos to zebras via kookaburras to umbrella birds!), the poems are quirky and energetic, making them perfect to read aloud. Children will enjoy finding the poem that matches their name's initial or just dipping in and out of the rhythmical menagerie of verses.

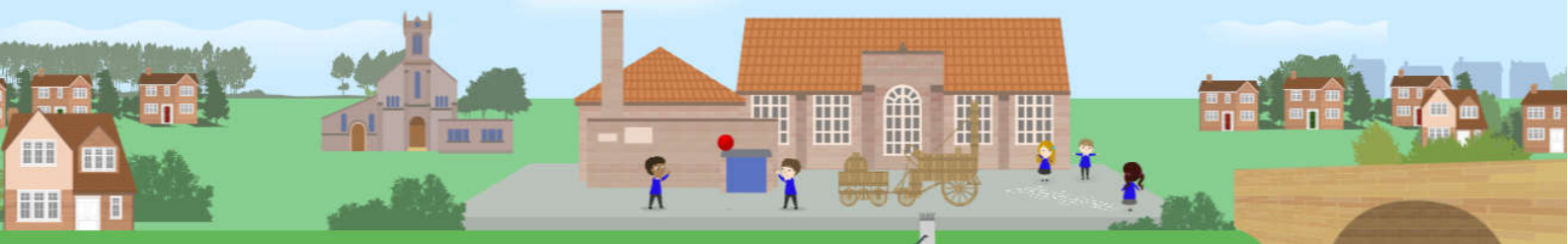
**Poems Out Loud** by Laurie Stansfield & Various Poets

**Appropriate for Early Years**

A new collection of illustrated verses from a range of contemporary children's poets, performers and hip-hop artists. This is the poetry collection that EYFS classrooms have been waiting for! The poems have been selected for their suitability to read aloud and cover topics like minibeasts, pirates, animals and night time. Highly recommended.







# World Book Day - Thursday 3rd March

## Reverend David



Reverend David came into school on World Book Day because he really loves to read. He shared the different ways this is made possible with some classes in school and the children were able to see the technology that Reverend David uses to facilitate this. From braille books to reading devices and audio books, the children were able to ask questions and discovered that enjoying books is truly accessible for

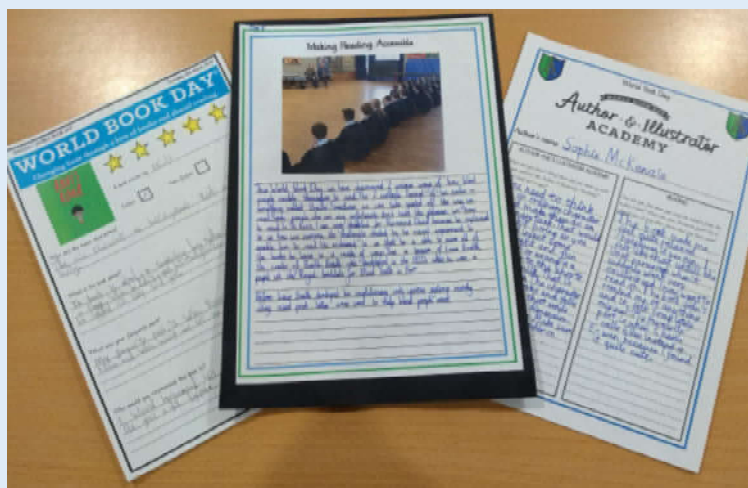
## Activities in our classes

There were many different activities to celebrate World Book day on Thursday ranging from an Author and Illustrator workshop in Year 6 to building a reading cave in the Early Years! Everyone had a great time and many different authors were introduced to our classes and because of this, hopefully your children are excited to spend their £1 book voucher this weekend!



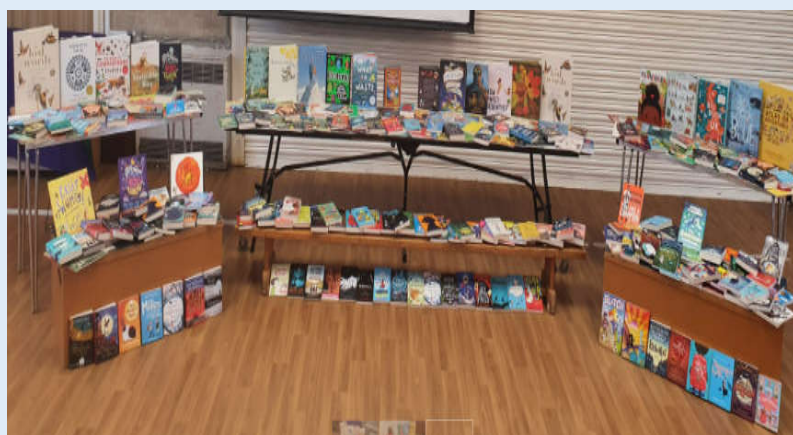
## Story share

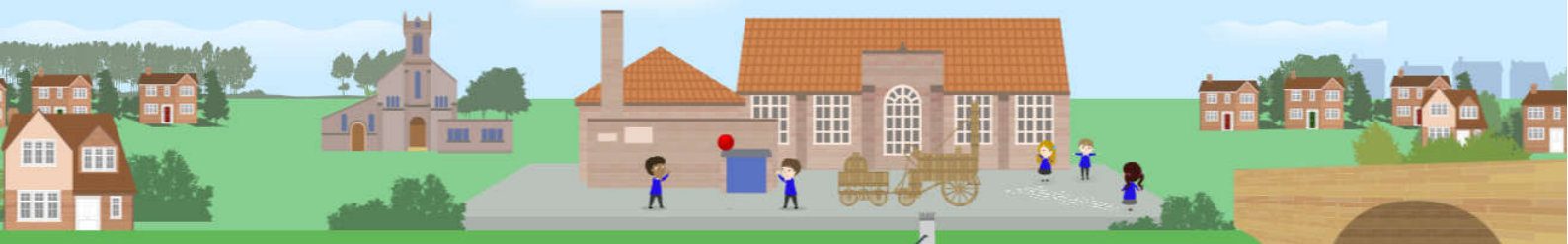
In order to continue to promote a love of reading around school, all teachers took part in a Story Share on Friday afternoon. This involved teachers visiting a different class and sharing their favourite stories and authors with those children. Make sure to ask your children who they had a visit from as everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



## And finally...Thank you to the Rowley Family!

We had a very special assembly welcoming the family of a former teacher, Edwina Rowley, into school. Mrs Rowley's children very kindly donated £2000 to St Ann's to be spent on reading books in her memory and all classes have been involved in choosing texts for their class library. We were very excited to say a huge 'thank you' to them in person and to show Mrs Rowley's family just how many books we were able to purchase with such a generous amount of money. Keep your eyes peeled for some of our new books making their way home very





# Coming up...

Next term, we will be reading lots more wonderful books carefully selected by our class teachers. Here is a sneak preview showing some what each year group can expect:

	Author Focus	Inspirational text(s)
Early Years	Julia Donaldson	The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
Year 1	Michael Rosen	Tiny Little Fly by Michael Rosen
Year 2	Vashti Harrison	Tell Me a Dragon by Jacqui Morris
Year 3	Catherine Johnson	Race to the Frozen North by Catherine Johnson
Year 4	Michael Morpurgo	The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo
Year 5	Candy Gourlay	Tall Story by Candy Gourlay
Year 6	Louis Sachar	The House with Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson and Holes by Louis Sachar



## Scholastic Book Fair

St Ann's will be hosting a Scholastic book fair for 5 days from 25th April—29th April. There will be a wide range of wonderful books on sale and all classes will be given the opportunity to visit the fair throughout the week. Further details will follow nearer the time.

## Library visits

As you are aware, we are constantly striving to promote reading for pleasure across the whole school. To this end, all classes will be visiting our local library to reacquaint children with the wonderful array of books available to all ages and we are inviting parents to accompany us. Please check your emails for more details of how to sign up and what dates your child's class will be going.

