



Reading Newsletter

Autumn 2020

Welcome to our Autumn Term Reading Newsletter—a place for us to share reading recommendations and support our children in accessing and enjoying great books.

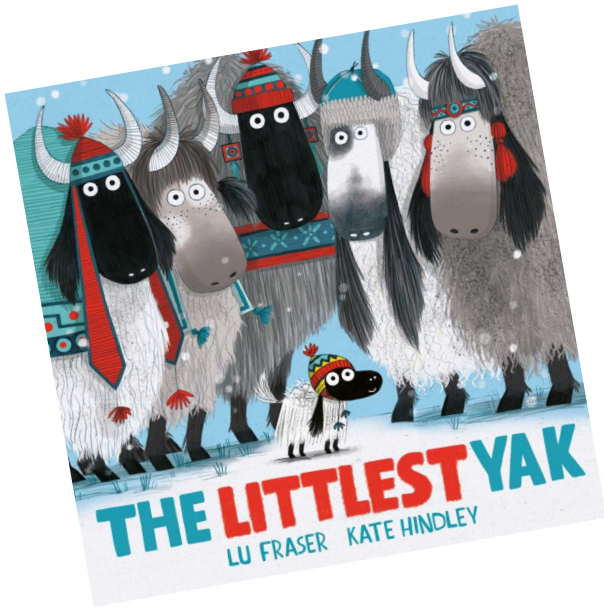
It has been wonderful to see how much fantastic reading has been taking place this past term—both in and out of school. Our children have enjoyed reading a broad selection of engaging and challenging texts in ‘Whole Class Reading’ sessions, as well as borrowing school library books from our ‘Spooky Section’ at Halloween and our ‘Festive Section’ at Christmas. We look forward to featuring more of these themed sections in our libraries throughout the year!

Recently, our English Coordinator and RWI Phonics Coordinator undertook audits of both school libraries (KS1 and KS2) and have spent over £3,000 on replacing and updating our selection of Stage Books and Black Band books. Children will soon be able to borrow and enjoy these new, high-quality books!

As we move into the Spring Term, we will be looking forward to World Book Day which takes place on Thursday 4th March 2021. From the week commencing Monday 1st March, we will be collaborating with Usborne Books on running a week-long sponsored reading challenge called Ready Steady Read, where we will be having a whole-school focus on reading for pleasure. All the money raised from this event will go towards new Usborne books for our school. Plus, Usborne will provide up to 60% of free books on top! Keep an eye out for more information on this next term!

Lastly, we would like to wish all of our families the very best for a peaceful and relaxing break. Happy reading!

Readers aged 5+

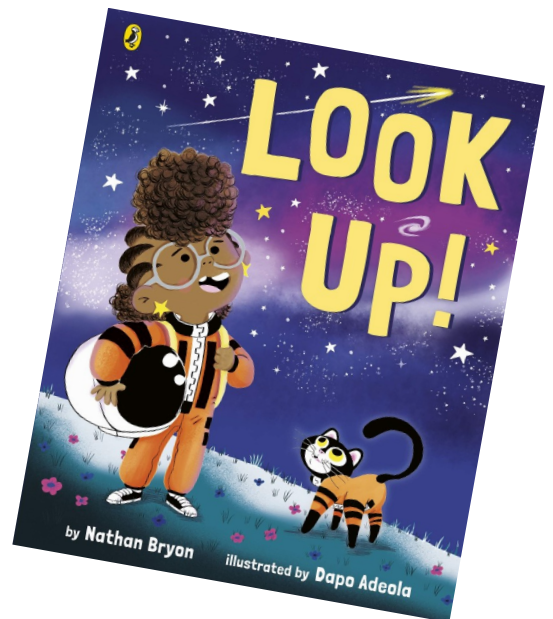


The Littlest Yak by Lu Fraser

The Littlest Yak is a joyous, rhyming caper that teaches little ones to celebrate their own unique talents! Gertie is the littlest yak in her whole herd, and she's feeling stuck in her smallness - she wants to grow UP and have bigness and tallness! But when it turns out that there are some things that only Gertie can do, might she come to see that she's perfect, just the way she is? A rollicking, heart-warming and reassuring story.

Look Up by Nathan Bryon

3 ... 2 ... 1 ... LIFT OFF! Let science-mad chatterbox Rocket launch into your hearts in this inspiring picture book. Rocket's going to be the greatest astronaut, star-catcher, space-traveller that has ever lived! But... First, she needs to convince her big brother Jamal to stop looking down at his phone and start LOOKING UP at the stars. Bursting with energy and passion about space and the natural world, this heart-warming picture book will reignite your desire to turn off those screens and switch on to the outside world.



Readers aged 5+ (continued)

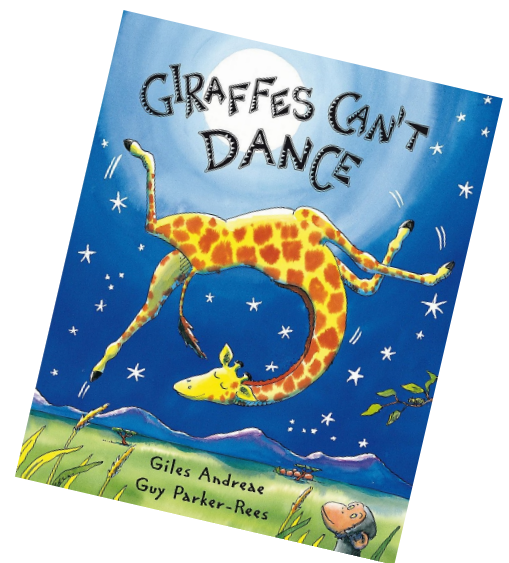
What We'll Build by Oliver Jeffers



Oliver Jeffers returns with an enthralling new story about boundless love, the importance of dreams and the power of imagination - all the very best ingredients for building a bright future. A father and daughter set about laying the foundations for their life together. Using their own special tools, they get to work; building memories to cherish, a home to keep them safe and love to keep them warm. From renowned, internationally bestselling picture-book creator and visual artist, Oliver Jeffers, comes this rare and enduring story about a parent's boundless love, life's endless opportunities and all we need to build a together future.

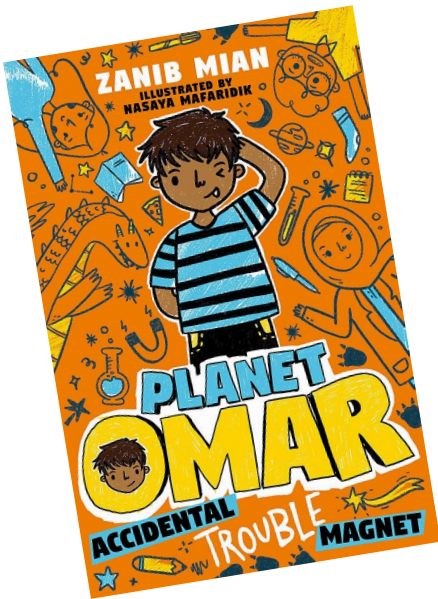
Giraffe's Can't Dance by Giles Andreae

Number One bestseller *Giraffes Can't Dance* from author Giles Andreae has been delighting children for over 15 years. Gerald the tall giraffe would love to join in with the other animals at the Jungle Dance, but everyone knows that giraffes can't dance... or can they? A funny, touching and triumphant picture book story about a giraffe who finds his own tune and confidence too



Readers aged 7+

Planet Omar—Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Mian



Welcome, readers, to the imaginative brain of Omar! You might not know me yet, but once you open the pages of this book you'll laugh so hard that snot will come out of your nose (plus you might meet a dragon and a zombie - what more could you want?)

Big-hearted, funny and very entertaining. A graphic chapter book in the style of the Tom Gates or Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, Planet Omar takes in all sorts of issues, from dealing with school bullies and prejudice to forming new friendships and adjusting to change.

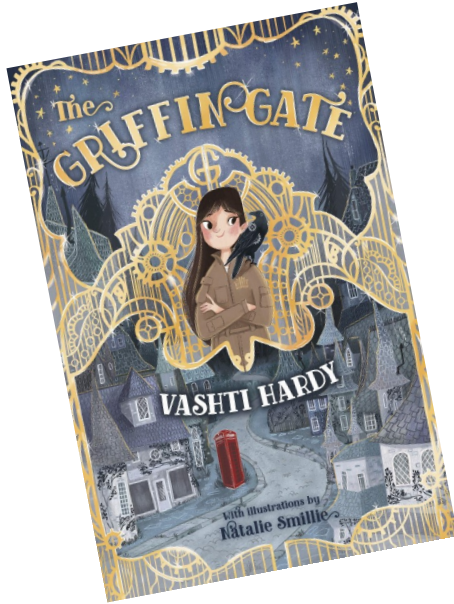
Agent Asha—Mission Shark Bytes by Sophie Deen

Computer code just got dangerous in this action-packed spy adventure series. Asha Joshi has the perfect excuse not to finish her homework. She's just been recruited to join the top-secret Children's Spy Agency. Her first mission: SAVE THE WORLD. Can she do it? Asha's a coder so she should be able to hack into the biggest tech company in the world, fight deadly sharks and figure out why the Internet has stopped working. All before bedtime. Easy, right? The story is a great way to engage young readers in coding, critical-thinking and STEM.



Readers aged 7+ (continued)

The Griffin Gate by Vashti Hardy



Grace's family are wardens of the Griffin Map, using its teleport technology to fight crime across Moreland. Although Grace is still too young, she longs to go on missions herself. After all, if her brother, Bren, can do it, why can't she? So when Grace finds herself alone with the map when a distress call comes in, she jumps at the chance to prove she's up to the task. But the map transports Grace to a remote village where nothing is quite as it seems ... Has she taken on more than she can handle? Be transported to a world like no other in this steampunk, fantasy adventure with family at its heart from Blue Peter Book Award-winner Vashti Hardy.

The House of Clouds by Lisa Thompson

Tabby's fed up. Fed up with losing her best friend and fed up that Grandad has come to stay. Grandad's always telling the same old silly, made-up stories and now Tabby has to walk his smelly dog Buster every day after school. When one of Tabby's walks takes her to a lonely hilltop house she spots something strange going on. So strange she can't help but mention it to Grandad who of course turns it all into another fantasy. But when tragedy strikes, Tabby's left wondering if Grandad's impossible story could be true? A poignant and uplifting story of family, connection and imagination, from the Blue Peter Book Award shortlisted author Lisa Thompson.



Readers aged 9+

The Midnight Guardians by Ross Montgomery



Waterstones Children's Book of the Month for November 2020! When Col's childhood imaginary friends come to life, he discovers a world where myths and legends are real. Accompanied by his guardians - a six-foot tiger, a badger in a waistcoat and a miniature knight - Col must race to Blitz-bombed London to save his sister. But there are darker forces at work, even darker than the Nazi bombings. Soon Col is pursued by the terrifying Midwinter King, who is determined to bring an eternal darkness down over everything. This lovely adventure story has the feel of a classic children's book.

A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll

A Kind of Spark tells the story of 11-year-old Addie as she campaigns for a memorial in memory of the witch trials that took place in her Scottish hometown. Addie knows there's more to the story of these 'witches', just like there is more to hers. Can Addie challenge how the people in her town see her, and make her voice heard? A story about friendship, courage and self-belief, perfect for fans of The Goldfish Boy, Addie's story was born from Elle's own experiences of neurodiversity and her commitment to seeing greater representation in children's books.



Readers aged 9+ (continued)

The Highland Falcon Thief by M.G Leonard and Sam Sedgman



A breathless train journey full of deceptions, puzzles, mysteries and clues to solve. Harrison Beck is reluctantly joining his travel-writer Uncle Nat for the last journey of the royal train, The Highland Falcon. But as the train makes its way to Scotland, a priceless brooch goes missing, and things are suddenly a lot more interesting. As suspicions and accusations run high among the passengers, Harrison begins to investigate and uncovers a few surprises along the way. Can he solve the mystery of the jewel thief and catch the culprit before they reach the end of the line? Hear whispers in the dining car, find notes in the library, and unknown passengers among the luggage as you help Harrison to solve the mystery aboard one of the world's grandest trains. Fast-paced and packed with illustrations and clues, this is a stop you won't want to miss!

What's That In Dog Years? by Ben Davis

Gizmo has been my best friend since the day I was born - he's always been around. But now they're telling me he might not always be around which completely sucks. I'm determined that me and Gizmo will have lots more fun and adventures before he goes - I mean, he loves parties, deserves pampering, and needs a break by the seaside. And as for that old saying about how you can't teach an old dog new tricks - it's true, you really can't! Gizmo's bucket list is up and running - unlike Gizmo who is totally lazy and demanding to be carried . . . All the laugh-out-loud humour you'd expect from a Ben Davis book but with added heart and poignancy . . . and a four-legged character you'll fall in love with!

