



Reading Newsletter

Spring 2020

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

At a time when our children are learning from home, one of the single most important activities they can do is to read! We strongly believe that regular reading is crucial—not just for academic learning but also as a chance to relax and escape.

During the next two-week period marking the Easter Holiday, pupils' year group pages will not feature any new weekly learning tasks but, instead, all teachers would encourage their pupils' home learning to focus on the enjoyment and pleasure of reading.

Whilst there is nothing better than holding a real book in your hands—turning each page with suspense and entering a magical literary world—we recognise that sourcing physical copies may present difficulties at this present time with bookshops and libraries currently closed. We would therefore like to share some useful links to where thousands of e-books and audiobooks can be accessed. Please see the final page of this newsletter for further details.

Lastly, we would like to wish all of our families the very best—we are thinking of you and we hope you are keeping safe and well.

Readers aged 5+

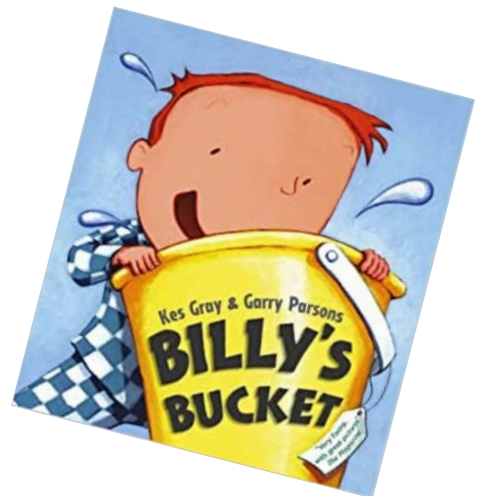
Dragon Post by Emma Yarlett



A story about friendship and asking for help. One day, Alex finds a dragon living in the cupboard under the stairs. Luckily, he knows just what to do. He writes letters to lots of different people - including the fire brigade and the butcher - to ask how he should take care of his surprise visitor. Children will love opening the five envelopes, reading the hilarious letters to Alex and following his magical adventure with his new fiery friend.

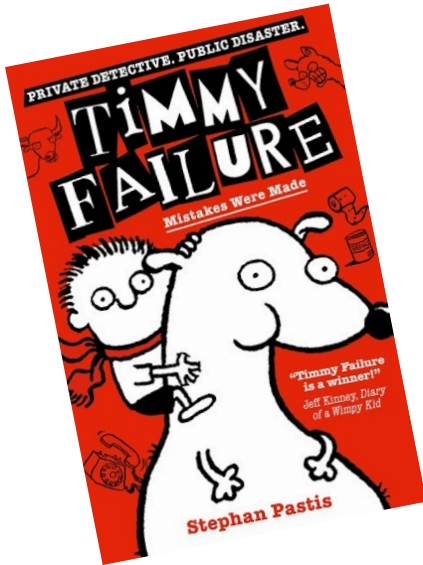
Billy's Bucket by Kes Gray

Billy wants only one thing for his birthday - a bucket. Inside it, he can see all kinds of magnificent sea creatures. But Mum and Dad are sceptical and, when Dad unwittingly uses the bucket to clean his car, he's in for a big surprise! A humorous tale about the power of our imagination and what happens when parents don't do as they're told...!



Readers aged 7+

Timmy Failure (Mistakes Were Made) by Stephan Pastis



Riotously funny and perfect for fans of Wimpy Kid, Tom Gates and Barry Loser. Meet Timmy Failure, founder of the "best" detective agency in town - Total Failure, Inc. With the help of his polar bear 'Total', the clueless, comically self-confident Timmy already has plans for world domination. Plans that will make his mother rich and unpaid bills a thing of the past. And plans that will defeat Corrina Corrina, "The One Whose Name Shall Not Be Uttered". Young readers will enjoy spotting Timmy's rookie errors which are wittily conveyed in both the words and the engaging illustrations. A fabulously fun read!

The Truth Pixie by Matt Haig

From number one bestselling author Matt Haig comes a hilarious and heartwarming story, brilliantly illustrated throughout by Chris Mould. Wherever she is, whatever the day, she only has one kind of thing to say. Just as cats go miaow and cows go moo, The Truth Pixie can only say things that are true. Already amassing an army of fans, The Truth Pixie is an innovative and characteristically profound story in verse that addresses children's fears, worries and anxiety.



Readers aged 9+

The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell



A girl, and the wolves who love her, embark on a rescue mission through Russian wilderness in this lyrical and adventurous tale. Feo's life is extraordinary. Her mother trains domesticated wolves to be able to fend for themselves in the snowy wilderness of Russia, and Feo is following in her footsteps to become a wolf wilder. She loves taking care of the wolves, especially the three who stay at the house because they refuse to leave Feo, even though they've already been wilded. But not everyone is enamored with the wolves or with the fact that Feo and her mother are turning them wild. And when her mother is taken captive, Feo must travel through the cold, harsh woods to save her - and learn from her wolves how to survive.

Can You See Me? by Libby Scott

With diary entries written by 11-year-old Libby Scott, based on her own experiences of autism, this pioneering book, written in collaboration with esteemed author Rebecca Westcott, has been widely praised for its realistic portrayal of autism. Tally is 11 years old, and she's just like her friends. Well, sometimes she is. If she tries really hard to be. Because there's something that makes Tally not the same as her friends. Something she can't cover up, no matter how hard she tries: Tally is autistic. Tally's autism means there are things that bother her even though she wishes they didn't. It means that some people misunderstand her and feel frustrated by her. People think that because Tally's autistic, she doesn't realise what they're thinking, but Tally sees and hears - and notices - all of it. And, honestly? That's not the easiest thing to live with. Endearing, insightful and warmly uplifting, *Can You See Me?* is a story of autism, empathy and kindness that will touch listeners of all ages.

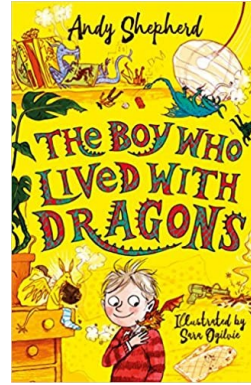
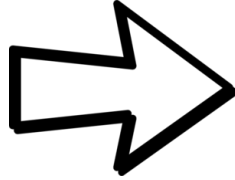
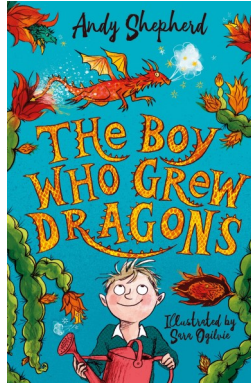


Recommendations based on our
KS2 class novels from Spring Term:

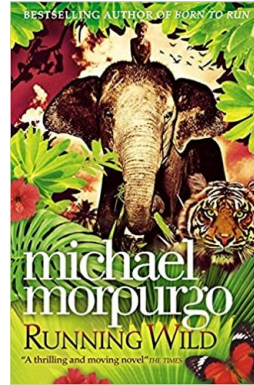
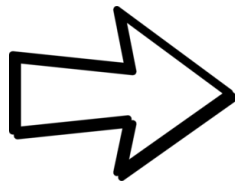
We read this...

So now try this...

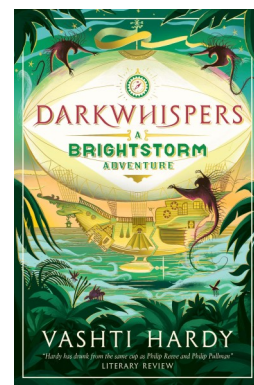
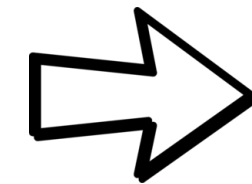
Year 3



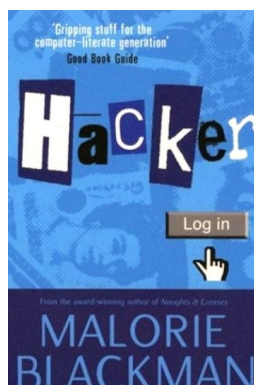
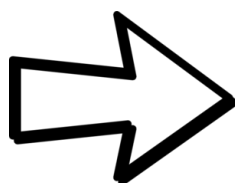
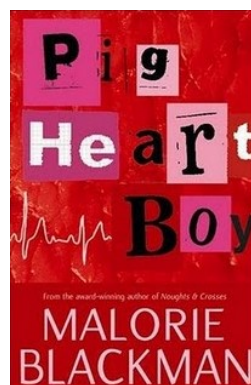
Year 4



Year 5



Year 6



Useful websites for 'e-reading':



Oxford Owl

Free e-book collection, developed for children aged 3-11 years old. Explore the range of over 100 books and browse categories filtered into age groups and book types. <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/#>



Audible

Instantly stream an incredible collection of stories, including titles across six different languages. All stories are free to stream on your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet. Log in with your Amazon account, explore the collection, select a title and start listening!

<https://www.audible.co.uk/>



Borrow Box

Whilst libraries are closed, they have made thousands of e-books and audiobooks available to download onto your device.

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/e-books-e-audio-e-magazines-and-book-groups/e-books-and-e-audio/>

If you're not a library member yet, you can still use this service by joining the library online here:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/facilities-and-charges/join-the-library/>



Myths and Legends

Vast online store of animated and narrated comic strip stories based on myths and legends from around the world. <http://myths.e2bn.org/>