

Reading Newsletter

October 2025



Welcome to the First Edition of Our Reading Newsletter!

We are excited to share the first edition of our Reading Newsletter for the new academic year. Each half term, we'll bring you updates on reading across the school, including recommended fiction, non-fiction and poetry, as well as practical ideas for supporting reading at home.

You'll also find information about reading activities and events happening in school.

Thank you for supporting your child's reading development — it really does make a difference.

Mrs Minta

Reading Lead

The Power of Taking 10 to Read

Inspired by the National Literacy Trust's 'Take 10 to Read' Campaign



Did you know that just 10 minutes of reading a day can make a real difference — not just to your child's reading skills, but to their *wellbeing* too? That's the message behind the National Literacy Trust's 'Take 10 to Read' campaign, which encourages everyone to pause, take a breath, and

spend ten minutes enjoying a good book, magazine, comic, or article.

Reading for wellbeing

Research from the National Literacy Trust shows that children who enjoy reading are three times more likely to have good mental wellbeing than those who don't. Reading for pleasure helps to reduce stress, builds empathy, and provides a positive break from screens and daily routines. It's a simple habit with powerful benefits for both children and adults alike.

Why ten minutes?

Even short bursts of daily reading can:

- improve focus and vocabulary
- support emotional wellbeing

- strengthen parent–child connections through shared stories
- boost academic success over time

It doesn't have to be a novel — *any* kind of reading counts! Comics, recipes, song lyrics, news stories, or even instructions for a new game – all build language and confidence.

How can you 'Take 10' at home?

Here are a few simple ways families can join in the Take 10 spirit:

1. **Make reading part of your routine.**
Choose a regular time when everyone takes ten minutes to read quietly together. Consistency helps turn reading into a habit.
2. **Model reading for pleasure.**
When children see adults reading for enjoyment, they're more likely to value it too. Talk about what you're reading or share a favourite line or character.
3. **Let them choose.**
Give your child the freedom to pick what they want to read. Why not try a magazine, picture book, comic or non-fiction book? The more interested they are, the more likely they are to stick with it.
4. **Chat about what you are reading**
You might want to talk about the characters, facts, plots or pictures you find on the page.
5. **Read and Repeat**
Read the same thing again. Children learn so much from repeated reading. They'll learn to anticipate what's coming next which builds their reading confidence.

The most important thing?

Do what you can! If reading every day with your child isn't possible right now, don't worry. You can gradually build up to a daily habit.

Author Spotlight Jenny McLachlan



A special message from Jenny...

Hello to everyone at West Bridgford Juniors!

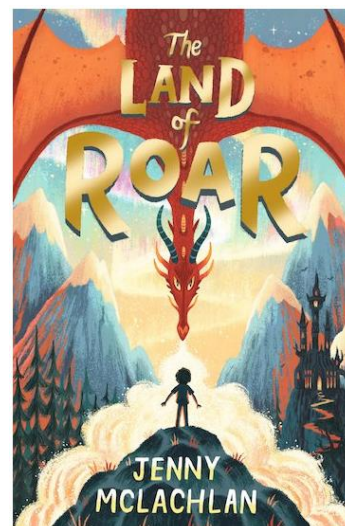
I wanted to send you an autumn message because now is the PERFECT time to curl up with a book. I write funny, adventurous books for children and I thought I'd tell you about something true that happened to me one half term at my Nan's house.

My cousins and I loved playing in her attic and we used to dare each other to crawl through the folding camp bed she kept up there. When I was right in the middle of the mattress, my cousins would go very quiet and I'd get the feeling that I wasn't in the attic any more. Then I'd start to crawl feeling scared and excited, all at the same time, until...

...I crawled out of the bed and found out I was still in the attic and all my cousins were laughing at me!

When I grew up, I decided to write down everything I wished had happened inside the bed, and that's how the Land of Roar came to life.

West Bridgford Juniors, have a brilliant half term – roll in leaves, bake cakes, play games and, if you'd like to fly a dragon, why not read The Land of Roar?



Scholastic Book Fair – Coming Soon!

COMING SOON!
11th, 12th & 14th November

We're excited to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair will be at school on **Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th, and Friday 14th of November**, to coincide with Parents' Evenings. The fair will be held in Class 1, and we'd love for you to stop by before or after your appointment!

Please note that the book fair is **cashless** – all purchases must be made using a QR code provided at the fair. **Parents will need to bring a mobile phone and credit or debit card**, as payment details will be entered on the spot.

Every purchase helps us earn free books for our school – the more we raise, the more new titles we can add to our library and classrooms. Thank you for supporting reading at our school!

Meet Our Reading Champions

We are proud to introduce our newly appointed Year 6 Reading Champions — six enthusiastic and committed readers who are eager to share their love of reading across the school. They will mentor Year 3 readers, help run reading events and competitions, and inspire others to enjoy books as much as they do.

From left to right: Lydia, Kasym, Axel, Leo, Thomas and Phoebe.



Extreme Reading – Half-Term Challenge

The Reading Champions are running a fun half-term competition all about being caught reading in unusual places!

Here's how to take part:

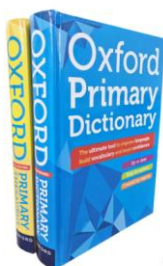
- **Ask someone to take a photo of you reading somewhere unusual.**
- **Bring a printout of your photo with your name, class, and the place where you were reading written on the back.**
- **Deadline: Tuesday, 4th November.**
- **No printer? Send your photo via Dojo to your class teacher.**



There will be a prize for the best photo in each year group, so get creative and show us your reading adventures!

Happy reading... anywhere and everywhere!

New Dictionaries and Thesauruses



In September, we ordered brand new dictionaries and thesauruses for every class. These were much needed and will be well used by the children as part of their reading and writing lessons.

A huge thank you to the HSA for contributing a significant amount towards the cost.

Guiding Children's Reading Choice

Not sure what your child might enjoy reading next? A fantastic resource we recommend is **The Reader Teacher** website – a treasure trove of brilliant book suggestions for children of all ages and reading levels.

Created by a former primary school teacher and children's book expert, The Reader Teacher is packed with **age-appropriate reading lists**, **topic-based recommendations**, and even **books linked to popular school texts**. Whether your child loves adventure, fantasy, mystery, or funny books, you're sure to find something they'll be excited to dive into!

You can browse by age group, subject, or even search for "If you liked... try this!" style suggestions. It's a brilliant way to keep your child's reading journey fresh, fun, and perfectly matched to their interests.

Explore more at: www.thereaderteacher.com

The Reader Teacher



Reads, Reviews & Recommendations!

Home

About

Brand New BookLists

Reads

Reviews

Recommendations

Year Group & Key Stage Book Lists

#BookMatch

#BOOKMATCH

Books for fans of **Abi Elphinstone**



IF YOU LIKE ABI ELPHINSTONE, READ THESE

#BOOKMATCH

Books for fans of **Christopher Edge**



IF YOU LIKE CHRISTOPHER EDGE, READ THESE

#BOOKMATCH

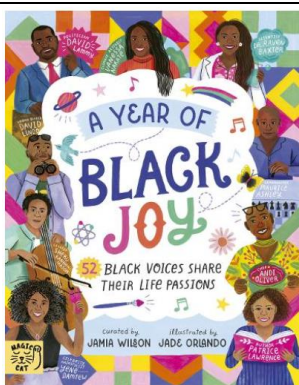
Books for fans of **David Baddiel**



IF YOU LIKE DAVID BADDIEL, READ THESE

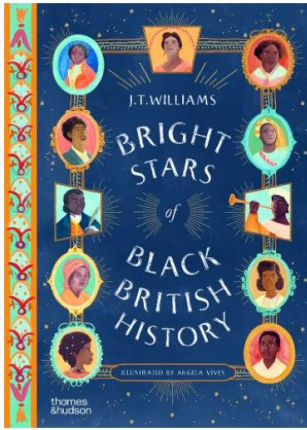
October: Black History Month

Each year, the whole month of October is dedicated to highlighting the importance of understanding Black History. There are many books available to open up discussions and these are just a small sample.



A Year of Black Joy: 52 Black Voices Share Their Life Passions Jamia Wilson

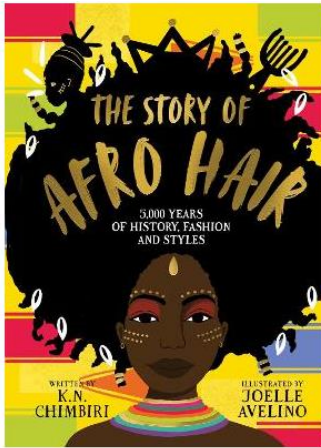
This colourful and uplifting book celebrates stories of happiness, creativity and strength from Black voices around the world. Each chapter shares moments of pride and joy that remind us to celebrate who we are. It's a brilliant read for children and families to explore together — full of positive messages and inspiring real-life stories.



Bright Stars of Black British History

J.T. Williams

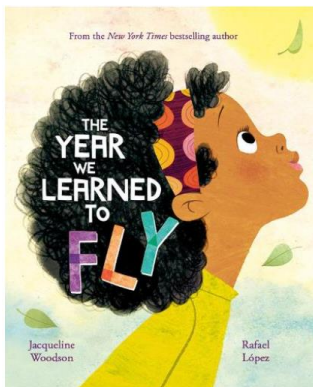
Travel through time and meet the amazing people who helped shape Black British history! From inventors and musicians to writers and campaigners, this beautifully illustrated book brings their stories to life. It's perfect for curious minds and families who enjoy learning about history, courage, and change-makers who made a difference.



The Story of Afro Hair

K. N. Chimbiri

This fascinating book takes readers on a journey through 5,000 years of history, fashion, and culture — all told through the story of Afro hair. From ancient African kingdoms to today's trends, it celebrates creativity, identity, and pride. A brilliant read for children to learn how hair can tell powerful stories about who we are and where we come from.



The Year We Learned to Fly

Jacqueline Woodson

This beautiful story shows how imagination and hope can help us soar, even when times feel difficult. When a brother and sister feel bored or frustrated, their grandmother reminds them to “lift their arms, close their eyes, and take a deep breath.” With her words, they learn to find strength and freedom within themselves.

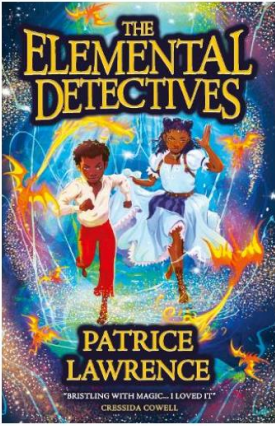


This Is Not A Small Voice: Poems by Black Poets

Traci N. Todd

A beautiful, bold and moving collection of 100 poems by Black poets for the whole family to treasure.

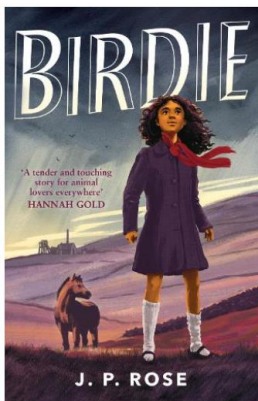
This gorgeously-illustrated children's anthology makes the perfect introduction to poets such as Lucille Clifton, Langston Hughes, Benjamin Zephaniah, Gwendolyn Brooks, Maya Angelou and Amanda Gorman. It also features brand new work from celebrated writers such as Nikki Grimes and Carole Boston Weatherford.



The Elemental Detectives

Patrice Lawrence

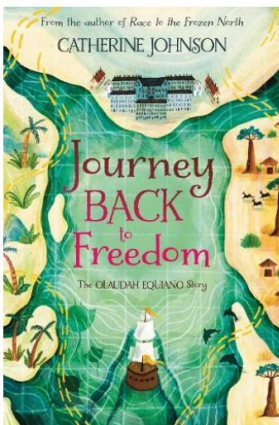
In a magical London full of hidden spirits and powerful elements, two brave children must solve a mystery to save their city. This thrilling adventure blends history, magic, and courage.



Birdie

J P Rose

Set in 1950s Yorkshire, this heartfelt story follows Birdie, a brave, mixed-race girl who feels out of place in her new village — until she befriends Mr Duke, the last pit pony in town. Together, they discover friendship, courage and the power of standing up for what's right.



Journey Back to Freedom

Catherine Johnson

Dyslexia friendly

Based on a true story, this gripping book follows enslaved sailor Olaudah Equiano as he fights for his freedom and travels across the world. It's an inspiring tale of bravery, hope and determination.

