



Arbury Primary School

Reading Newsletter Number 5

Summer 1 2021



It has been a really busy half term and so great to see the children getting back into their reading and enjoying the books on offer at school. A big thank you to all the parents who have donated second-hand books to help stock our shelves. These donations are always greatly appreciated!

A small selection of what we have been reading in each year group this half term...

Reception: 'Tyrannosaurus Drip' by Julia Donaldson

Year 1: 'Jasper's Beanstalk' by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen

Year 2: 'Great Women Who Changed the World' by Kate Pankhurst

Year 3: 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson

Year 4: 'The King Who Banned the Dark' by Emily Haworth-Booth

Year 5: 'Varmints' by Helen Ward

Year 6: 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill

Some reading news from this half term...

D.E.A.R. Day (Drop Everything and Read) Friday 14th May

We celebrated all things reading last Friday with a special D.E.A.R day in school. At different points throughout the day, a bell was rung and everybody had to stop and read for 15 minutes, no matter what else they were doing! This might have been sharing a book as a class, reading in pairs or reading independently. We also held 'book blether' sessions, where we got to have discussions and chat about our favourite books and why reading is so important.

CILIP Kate Greenaway Shortlist– eSchools

We have recorded some of the beautiful picture books in the CILIP Kate Greenaway prize shortlist. Head over to the English Group in eSchools to listen to some of these books being shared. Which book do you think should win this prestigious prize?

Mrs Dowdall recommends: Three gripping graphic novels...

I absolutely love graphic novels and think they are a wonderful way to enjoy stories in a different format. The pictures add another dimension to what you are reading and help you connect to the characters. So, if you haven't tried a graphic novel before, here are some of my favourites...

EYFS and Key Stage 1

'Hilda and the Troll' by Luke Pearson



This is a great way to introduce children to the world of graphic novels. Hilda is an adventurous girl who lives in the mountains with her mum and encounters strange creatures on her escapades. The illustrations are stunning and the stories simple and engaging.

Lower Key Stage 2

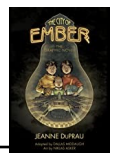
'Arthur and the Golden Rope' by Joe Todd Stanton



This stunning graphic novel is perfect for children who love myths, legends and history. This is an exciting tale that follows the story of Arthur who has to save his village from some terrible monsters. This is the first instalment of the 'Brownstone Mythical Collection'.

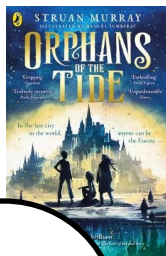
Upper Key Stage 2

'The City of Embers' by Jeanne DuPrau



The graphic novel edition of this award winning book is fantastic. This is a mysterious, adventure story set in a dystopian world that will have you on the edge of your seat. If you enjoy books like The Wind Singer or The Extraordinary Colours of Auden Dare, then this is for you!

This term we have interviews with our Year 5 teachers, Miss Bright and Miss Sewell...



Miss Bright from Class 11

What is your favourite book and why?

When I was a child at Primary School, I adored reading Roald Dahl books. I remember receiving a box set collection of them for my eighth birthday which led me into the world of modern-day fairy tales with a twist. My favourite book of them all was Matilda as I remember desperately wanting to be as strong-minded and courageous as her.

As an adult, I still enjoy reading many children's books. If I'm honest, I'm slightly envious of the amount and variety of books children have to choose from now compared to when I was at Primary School. There are a great deal of books that I love but my favourite at the moment has to be 'Orphans of the Tide' by Struan Murray.

When and where do you like to read?

When the weather is nice, I enjoy reading out in the sunshine while relaxing on a sun lounger. I also really enjoy taking a picnic blanket to a nice park or green where I can read in peace while being outside in the fresh air. When the weather is colder, I like to snuggle up in bed or under a blanket on the sofa reading a good book. My dream is to have a reading nook that has a comfy chair or bean bag to sit on that's surrounded by shelves full of books and maybe some plants too!

What are you currently reading?

I'm currently in-between books. I've just finished reading a new book which was recently released called 'Rumaysa: A Fairytale' by Radiya Hafiza. It is a magically empowering book, with a strong-willed female protagonist, that weaves three fairy tales together. I really enjoyed reading it and I hope the author continues to write about Rumaysa's adventures in the future. I'm about to start 'The Strangeworlds Travel Agency' by L.D. Lapinski. Reading the blurb intrigued me as I like the idea of being able to transport to a different world through a suitcase!

Why is reading important to me?

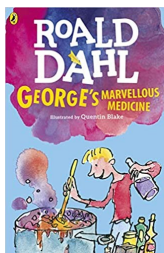
While I've always enjoyed reading various children and adult books, I would say reading has become even more important to me over the past year or so. Reading books has allowed me to escape into wonderful worlds and embark on adventures and quests while sitting on my sofa drinking a cup of tea. Giving myself that time to indulge in a book made me feel a lot happier.



Miss Sewell from Class 12

What is your favourite book and why?

My favourite book is George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl. This is because I can vividly remember it being read to me as a child and enjoying the character's voices my dad would use. He really did make it very funny.



When and where do you like to read?

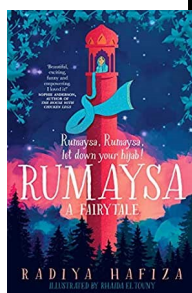
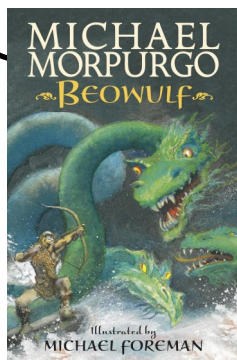
I like to read just before I go to bed – I find it helps me to relax and unwind. The only problem with this is if a book is really enjoyable it can be hard to put down!

What are you currently reading?

I am currently reading Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo, ready to plan some great English lessons for Year 5! I'm really enjoying it as it is full of adventures and monsters!

Why is reading important to me?

Reading is important to me as I use it as a way to 'escape' and immerse myself in the lives of the characters and live temporarily in another reality! It also can challenge your own views and make you see things from perspectives you hadn't necessarily considered before!



Book Reviews...

Thank you to everyone who has written a book review this term! We've had loads submitted from Upper Key Stage 2 this term which is great.

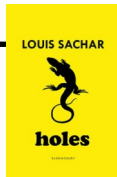
However, our first review to the right is a special one written by Miss Golden, who is the trainee teacher in Class 5...

'Vi Spy' by Maz Evans, reviewed by a Year 5 pupil (Class 11)



I really enjoyed this book as it's very funny and exciting. My favourite character in the book is Esther because she is amazing. Her second name is Day so her full name is Esther Day' which is really funny! This book is all about family and friends. It is also about spys and I would recommend it to anyone who likes a good mystery. I would give it 5 stars. For ages 8 upwards.

'Holes' by Louis Sachar, reviewed by a Year 6 pupil (class 13)



Holes is a book about a boy called Stanley who's family is under a curse. After being wrongly arrested, he is given the option to go to jail or go to a camp called Camp Green Lake – he chooses the camp but regrets it. At the camp, he has to dig a hole every day (it has to be 5 metres wide and 5 metres deep). At some points of the book it tells another story from the past, set at Camp Green Lake. This helps to explain Stanley's family curse...

'The Kid who Came From Space' by Ross Welford, reviewed by a Year 5 pupil (class 11)

This book is very interesting and I liked it because I love sci-fi books. It is about a boy called Alfie whose sister goes missing. She has been taken to an alien planet far away. A mysterious alien called Helyann brings her back. I found this book exciting as there were lots of cliffhangers and an unexpected ending. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes sci-fi stories and give it 5 stars. It is for ages 9 and up.



'The Girl Who Stole An Elephant' by Nizrana Farook, reviewed by Miss Golden

Age range: 9-11

This is an exciting adventure story about a girl who steals an elephant. Chaya is a determined character who accidentally puts her friends and family in danger. She steals the Queen's jewels and the King sends his guards to find the thief, who they think is Chaya's best friend, Neel. The children escape on the King's elephant and have many action-packed moments along the way. It's a story of friendship and loyalty, set in a beautiful forest in Sri Lanka. I'd recommend to anyone who is after an exciting adventure story!



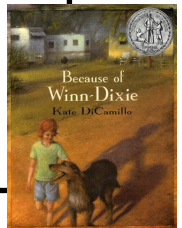
Cloud Boy by Marcia Williams, reviewed by a Year 6 pupil (Class 13)

I loved Cloud Boy. It is a really touching novel about two best friends (Angie and Harry) and how Angie deals with her feelings when Harry goes into hospital. I really loved this book because you can really feel Angie's feelings and over time you really grow to love all the characters. I would recommend this book for ages 9+.



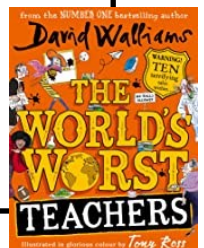
Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo, reviewed by a Year 6 pupil (Class 13)

Because of Winn-Dixie is about a girl called Opal who finds a stray dog. This dog becomes her best friend. Opal has just moved to a new town: her dad is a preacher, her mother left her when she was three and she has no friends other than old ladies. I love this book as it's really funny and easy to relate to. I would recommend it for children aged 8+.

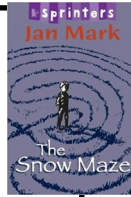


'The World's Worst Teachers' by David Walliams, reviewed by a Year 6 pupil (Class 13)

The World's Worst Teachers is a book about 10 different teachers who are all horrible in their own way. One does not like balls, one is overly obsessed with drama and another one keeps giving detention to the whole school (including herself!). This book is full of comedy and would suit children from age 7 upwards.



'The Snow Maze' by Jan Mark, reviewed by a Year 5 pupil (Class 11)



This is a book about a kind and caring boy called Joe who finds an intriguing key on the way to school. Joe uses the key to open a gate and finds a magical world. I really liked the character of Joe because he worries about others and does kind things. There were bits in the book that made me sad, like when Joe is bullied. I would give this book 4 out of 5 stars. It is for ages 8 and up.

'Alex Rider Books' by Anthony Horowitz, reviewed by a Year 5 pupil (Class 11)

These are spy and action books and there are lots in the series. In each book the main character Alex has to investigate mysteries and there are always lots of twists and turns to the stories. Alex is a very determined character and very brave. I would recommend this book series to anyone who likes spy books and enjoys action. I give it 5 stars and recommend it for anyone who is 9 or older.



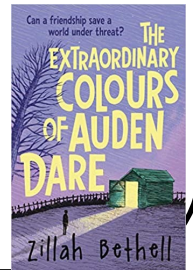
Thank you for all the brilliant book reviews, Arbury. I always need book reviews for the reading newsletter, so if you have read something recently please do send me a review to include in the Summer 2 issue.

Your review should be: short and snappy (around 4 to 5 sentences only); give a short synopsis (summary); explain why others may enjoy the book; describe the age range the book is suitable for and—importantly—shouldn't give away the ending!

Remember, you can write your review on a piece of paper and give it to your teacher, e-mail your review to me (Mrs Dowdall) via eSchools or even record your review on video and send it to me— I can then write it up for you ready for the newsletter!

'The Extraordinary Colours of Auden Dare' by Zillah Bethell, reviewed by a Year 6 pupil (class 13)

This amazing book, set in the future, is all about a boy called Auden who has moved to live in Cambridge. Auden is colour blind (he can't see colours) but this doesn't stop him. He makes a friend called Vivi and together they go on a mission to save the world and bring rain water back to Earth. The story is quite unpredictable and it shows how friendship can save a world under threat. I recommend this book for children aged 9 years and over and would give it a six out of five star rating!



Reading Matters!

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF
READING 20
MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
1.8 MILLION
words per year
and scores in
90th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

5:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
282,000
words per year
and scores in
50th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to
8,000
words per year
and scores in
10th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

It is fantastic to see the love and enthusiasm for reading in our school. On our DEAR day the children discussed some of the reasons why reading is so important:

- 1. It helps widen your vocabulary*
- 2. It is great for wellbeing*
- 3. It helps develop empathy*
- 4. It develops general knowledge about the world around us*
- 5. It helps children become better writers*
- 6. Reading with others builds bond and develops communities*
- 7. Reading before bed has been proved to help with sleep patterns*
- 8. It impacts positively on academic achievement*
- 9. It is fun and pleasurable!*