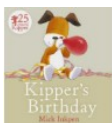



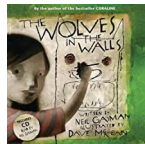








We have had a very busy half term enjoying books and reading at Arbury. It is great to see the pleasing average weekly reading minutes for each class in Key Stage 2; most weeks, every class is well above the 30 minutes we expect. It's also wonderful to see in the reading records that Key Stage 1 children are reading regularly at home and sharing lovely choosing books. Keep reading, Arbury!

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

Reception	  	Year 4	  
Year 1	  	Year 5	 
Year 2	 	Year 6	 
Year 3	 		

Some reading news from this half term...

Anti-bullying week- whole school book

This half term we all took part in anti-bullying week. The theme this term was 'One Kind Word' and we shared lots of beautiful new books purchased by Mrs Morris. Every class was given the book 'Kind' by Alison Green and Axel Scheffler to share. This gorgeous text gave classes lots to think about and discuss.

New books for our AR library

In Key Stage 2, we are revamping the Accelerated Reader Library. Over Christmas, new shelving will be fitted and we have purchased loads of wonderful new books. We can't wait to share pictures of the library area when it is complete in January. In the meantime, here are some pictures of a few of the new books which will be going onto the shelves...



Mrs Dowdall recommends: Three winter warmers...

At this time of the year, when the weather is cold and wintry outside, it is great to curl up and get cosy with a book inside. Here are three wintry books to curl up with and enjoy (a hot chocolate would make them even better...)

EYFS and Key Stage 1



'One Snowy Night' by Nick Butterworth

This is one of my very favourite books. Percy the park keeper is getting ready for bed one snowy evening when he hears a knock at the door. Someone needs a warm place to sleep! Soon Percy is inundated with visitors and his little hut is getting a bit crowded. Gorgeous illustrations and a lovely message make this a perfect book to share!

Lower Key Stage 2



'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold

This is a gem of a book, only recently published. April goes to live in the Arctic with her Dad who is a scientist. She is told there are no bears where they are but April finds one and a magical friendship is formed. This amazing debut novel tackles climate change and humans' relationship with the natural world. 8+

Upper Key Stage 2



'Northchild' by Edith Pattou

This beautifully told story, with its roots in the magic of fairy tales, is an epic novel to really get caught up in. Although it is a long book, it is told in short chapters that move quickly and are full of adventure and action. 9+

Book Recommendations from Year 5 and 6

Some of the children in Year 5 and 6 have written reviews of the books they have enjoyed so far this term. If you have read a great book lately, just write a short review and ask your teacher to pass it to me (Mrs Dowdall). I can then include it in the reading newsletter!

'Wonder' by R.J. Palagio

Reviewed by a Year 6 child



I am currently reading 'Wonder' and it is inspiring and shows that looks don't matter and that love and friendship is key. The book is about a boy called August who has a medical condition even he can't pronounce! The story follows him as he starts a new school and the roller-coaster of emotions he experiences!

Age: 9+

'The Haunting of Avaline Jones' by Phil Hicks

Reviewed by a Year 6 child

This is a fantastic, spine-tingling book full of mysteries. Avaline is staying with her aunt when she makes a strange discovery: a book full of eerie tales. One of the tales has been scribbled out and Avaline begins to discover a strange, spooky tale that is real...

Age 10+



'Twitch' by M.G Leonard

Reviewed by a Year 5 child

This book is highly recommended as you won't be able to put it down! It is about a boy who loves bird watching and is called Twitch. He gets mixed up in the case of an escaped convict. The book is both funny and also serious. It is a really good book.

Age: 9+



'Vi Spy' by Maz Evans

Reviewed by a Year 5 child

This book is really funny and also full of mystery. It's about a girl who's mum is a spy and her dad is a 'bad guy'. This story will keep you on the edge of your seat and also make you laugh out loud. I really recommend it!

Age: 9+



'The Nothing to See Here Hotel' by Steven Butler

Reviewed by a Year 6 child

This book is hilariously funny. It is about a boy called Frankie who is half goblin and half human. His parents own the Nothing to See Here Hotel. One day a goblin prince arrives who is very troublesome and demanding. There is a mystery for Frankie to unravel

Age: 7+



'Crater Lake' by Jennifer Killick

Reviewed by a Year 5 child

I recommend Crater Lake because it is a mix of creepiness and also friendship between characters. Some children go on school camp but there are lots of mysterious things going on. Can the children survive the trip?

Age: 10+



This term we have two interviews with our wonderful new teachers: Ms Hayhurst in Year 1 and Ms Jackson in Year 2. Read on to find out about why reading is special to them both...

Ms Hayhurst—Year 1

What is your favourite book and why?

My favourite children's book is 'Leon and the Place Between' by Angela McAllister. It's about a boy who is transported to a magical world by a magician. It's beautifully written, with lots of rich description that sparks your imagination and helps you to picture the setting in your head. The illustrations are so detailed and interesting; each time I look at them, I spot something new.



When and where do you like to read?

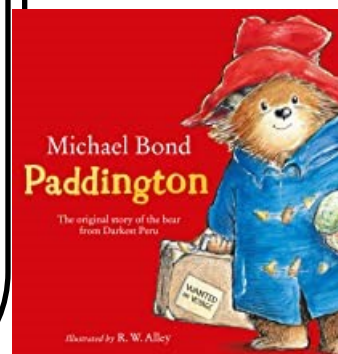
In the evenings, I love reading on the sofa; it's the comfiest place to read! At weekends, I enjoy visiting my favourite cafés, to read and have a hot chocolate. I also love going to bookshops to have a look for new books, although this means I have a pile of unread books to get through! On train and bus journeys, I like listening to audiobooks.

What are you currently reading?

In Class 4, we recently read some Paddington Bear stories. I enjoyed them so much that I have been looking through the versions of these stories that I had when I was younger. Paddington Bear is definitely one of my favourite book characters; he gets into some sticky situations but always finds a way out of them!

Why is reading important to me?

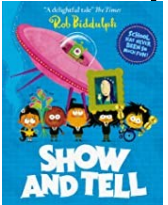
I think books are special because they are different for each person; we all picture something unique in our minds when we read the same words. I also love the sense of achievement that I get when I finish a book and I really enjoy finding out about new things through reading.



Ms Jackson—Year 2

What is your favourite book and why?

I have lots, but one of my favourite children's books is 'Show and Tell' by Rob Biddulph. I love reading this with Class 6 because it rhymes and it is really funny! One child even brings in the moon to school for show and tell.



When and where do you like to read?

I really like to read outside in the sunshine but, because we live in cold England, I also like to snuggle up on the sofa with a cup of tea and chocolate to read.

What are you currently reading?

I am currently reading 'The Running Dream'. I really like this book because I love to run in my spare time but also because it has such a powerful message about never giving up when things get tricky. I think it also shows the importance of working as a community to support each other.

Why is reading important to me?

Reading is important to me because it helps me relax after a busy week of teaching. Reading allows me to use my imagination and gives me lots of wonderful new ideas that I can share with my class during our writing lessons.



Finding new books...

Lots of parents and carers often ask us for book recommendations. Please do ask your child's class teacher for ideas– we are always happy to help and we love discussing books! The children's literature currently being published is absolutely wonderful; in fact, it is being called a 'golden age' for children's literature. However, I know that so much choice can sometimes be overwhelming! Below are two really useful websites that you may find helpful for finding new books that might appeal to your child and for finding out more about Reading for Pleasure and why it is so crucial to a child's development, attainment and wellbeing.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>



The Booktrust is the UK's largest reading charity and reach millions of children every year with books, resources and support to get every child reading, regularly and by choice. Their website is packed full of book recommendations, activities and advice to support reading for pleasure at home.

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>



This is a really useful website that has lots of book recommendations for each age group. It is updated regularly with reviews and other useful information about children's books. The website was created by Scott Evans who is a primary school teacher and reading for pleasure advisor.