

BARLOWS READING NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 1 2024



Welcome to the first Barlows Reading Newsletter of 2024! In this edition, we celebrate some fantastic children's books which the children are currently reading in class. We've also shared some links with recommended reads as well as exciting new titles being released this month!

In School News, we share some outcomes from last week's Liverpool Children's Festival of Reading, some more reading for pleasure initiatives being rolled out across the school and we look ahead to whole-school events taking place on Thursday 7th March to help celebrate World Book Day. We are certainly busy with books!

We hope you enjoy reading about what we have been getting up to in class.

Mrs N.Taylor (English Subject Leader)

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

7 MARCH 2024

We're extremely excited to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024! We are inviting the children to dress up and look forward to celebrating books through a range of exciting activities planned.

We are encouraging the children to bring in their favourite books during the week commencing Monday 4th March - Friday 8th March. The children will be sharing their recommended reads with their classes, with the aim of promoting a love for reading.

All pupils will receive a World Book Day £1 book token, of which they can use between 15th February to 31st March 2024 to purchase any of the books in the link below:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/>

Last week, the children have taken part in celebrating the Liverpool Children's Festival of Reading. The festival is a series of digital events designed to raise aspirations, promote creative careers and encourage children to read and write for pleasure.

Pupils from Reception to Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed participating in a number of online events featuring a diverse and inclusive range of authors, illustrators and poets and had the opportunity to take part in a question and answer session.

KS2 all participated in an online session with poet, Alex Wharton. They had the opportunity to echo read some of Alex Wharton's poems out aloud as a class along with the engaging poet himself. The children had great fun and many were inspired to write some of their very own poems.

LIVERPOOL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL OF READING 2024



LIVERPOOL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL OF READING
PRESENTS

ALEX WHARTON



LIVERPOOL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL OF READING
PRESENTS

ANNEMARIE ANANG

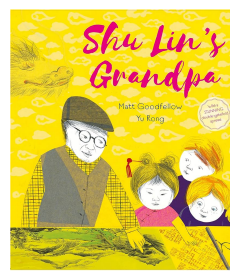
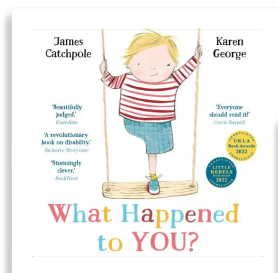
What We're Reading In Class...



Since September, we have implemented the CUSP Curriculum for many subjects, including our reading spine. Feedback from the children has been invaluable and they are thoroughly enjoying the texts that they are reading in class. The idea behind the CUSP reading literature spine is that the children can look out of the window into the lives of others but also be able to look into the mirror and relate to the themes and characters from what they have read. Please see below the texts that the children are currently reading:

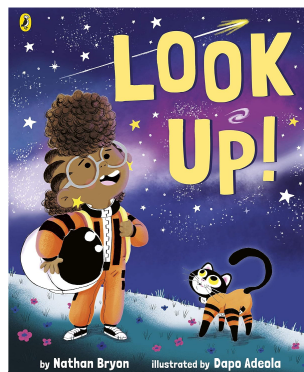
Nursery

This book explores how childhood experiences shape our lives and relationships, and offers insights and tools to nurture healing, resilience, and self-awareness.



Reception

Shu Lin starts a new school and her Grandad visits to show the class his Chinese art. They learn how important it is to make people feel welcome and that we should respect different cultures and learn from them.

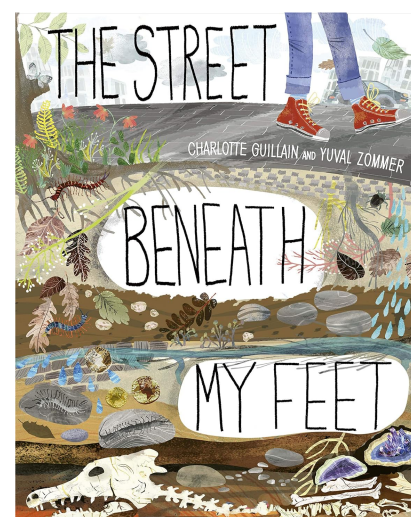


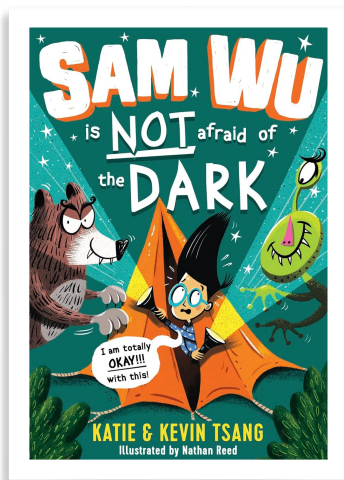
Year 1

This book centres on a young girl (Rocket) who has ambitions to be an astronaut and has a fascination with space. She is inspired by Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman in space. Rocket tries to get everyone to look up in order to see a meteor shower much to the frustration of her brother. After sending out lots of leaflets, many people come to see the meteor but it does not appear on schedule.

Year 2

This book takes the reader on an exploratory underground journey to the centre of the Earth and back again passing through both a rural and an urban setting. It is an expanding concertina book which is jam-packed with facts about Earth. The vibrant illustrations are continuous and run seamlessly from one page into the next, allowing the reader to trace the journey without any page turning.





Year 3

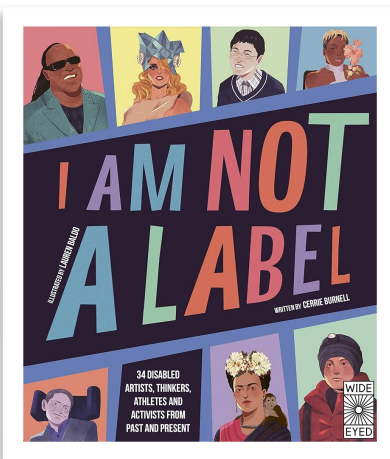
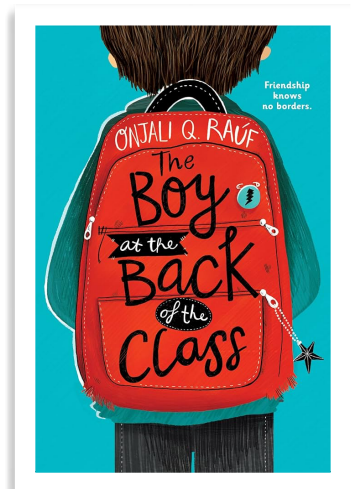
This book sits somewhere between a picture book and a graphic novel. The book centres around Sam Wu trying to prove that he is not afraid of the dark which proves challenging when he is sent on a camping trip.

Convinced that all sorts of dangers, from aliens to wolves, are hiding in the dark he sets out his plan to protect everyone from possible attacks. The chaotic illustrations amplify the humorous situations that Sam and his friends find themselves in as they try to execute his plan.

Year 4

The Boy at the Back of the Class is the story of a group of classmates who, through their empathy and bravery, make a massive impact on Ahmet, a boy who has come to their school as a refugee from Syria.

Told with humour and warmth, The Boy at the Back of the Class provides a child's perspective on the refugee crisis and highlights the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that often makes little sense.



Year 5

This is an anthology which examines the lives of a range of disabled artists, athletes, scientists and activists from across the generations. The author's motivation is to ensure that people with a disability are represented in children's literature.

As she says, "Everyone deserves to see someone like them in a story or achieving great things."

Year 6

In 1948, the Empire Windrush sailed from Jamaica to Britain - on board, passengers hoping for a better life ahead. The narrative is told through a diary, written by an eleven-year-old boy called Preston, alongside factual commentary. It explains the reasons why people from the West Indies, amongst others, chose to make the journey, what life was like on board and the challenges around making a new home in a new country.



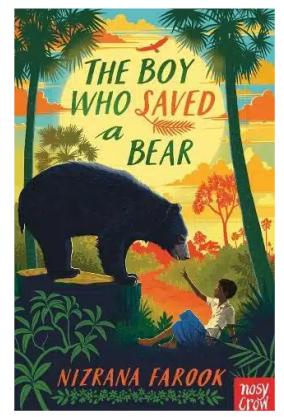
Recommended Reads

Please use the links below to find out more information regarding recommended reads for your child/ren's age group:

<https://www.waterstones.com/category/childrens-teenage>

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/recommended-reads/>

Here, on the Waterstones and Books for Topics websites, you will be able to find a range of bestselling books, classic texts, graphic novels, new releases and a range of books for dyslexic and reluctant readers.



Spotlight on... Vocabulary



Our CUSP Reading Curriculum is underpinned by the explicitly-taught vocabulary. In lessons, children from Nursery-Year 6 are looking at the etymology and morphology of the words. We are now finding that our pupils are able to make connections with words across subjects of the curriculum through their broadened knowledge of vocabulary.

Please use some of the strategies below to help develop your child's vocabulary:

- * Give the definition of the word and ask your child to then put the word in the correct context.
- * Find and copy i.e Find and copy a word in the text that means...
- * Root word challenge - Give a root word i.e 'care' and the children are to think of as many prefixes and suffixes to add to the word (careful, careless, caring etc.)

Poet Laureate Joseph Coelho



Prior to World Book Day, on Friday 1st March, we are excited to share that the children in KS2 will take part in an online event with current Poet Laureate Joseph Coelho. Joseph will talk about his career as well as sharing some of his popular poetry. The children will also have the opportunity to take part in a question and answer session.

Promoting a Love for Reading...

Sharing a book with your child can be a magical experience. By building story time into your daily routine you will be:

- Entering a shared world to explore together
- Developing your child's imagination
- Introducing your little one to new words and meanings
- Giving them the chance to ask questions
- Helping them to relax and calm down
- Spending time together
- Having fun together!

Daily Story Time

Find a short slot in your daily routine (just before bedtime works best for many families) to read one or two books together every day. Find a quiet, cosy place to snuggle up, and put phones and screens away so you and your child have each other's full attention. Once it's become part of your routine, both you and your child will begin to look forward to this special time together.

Repeat, repeat, repeat

Reading the same book again and again will help your child get to know the story. Once they know it well, ask them about what's happening or what's going to happen next and praise them when they respond.

Look at the Pictures

The beauty of children's books is that it doesn't matter if you don't read all the words - you can tell a story from the pictures! If your child knows the book well, or even if they don't, let them have a go at becoming the storyteller just from looking at the pictures on the page. It will help them to improve their speaking skills and grow more confident.

Take a trip to the library

Visit your local library with your child to find lots of new stories and activities together! Story time online

Online Story Time Sessions

Please see the link below/QR code from the Book Trust, where you will have access to a range of online story time videos that you can share with your child/ren:

<http://tinyurl.com/yc6e3y8c>

