

Three Bridges Primary School

Reading Newsletter

Spring 1



Happy New Year! Welcome to our Spring term reading newsletter. Included this term are important reading diary dates, story telling tips, reading activities, an introduction to a brilliant poet – Joshua Seigal, book recommendations, and safe online reading websites.



Diary dates

National Storytelling Week is a chance to promote and encourage storytelling in your home and takes place from **30 January - 6 February, 2022**.

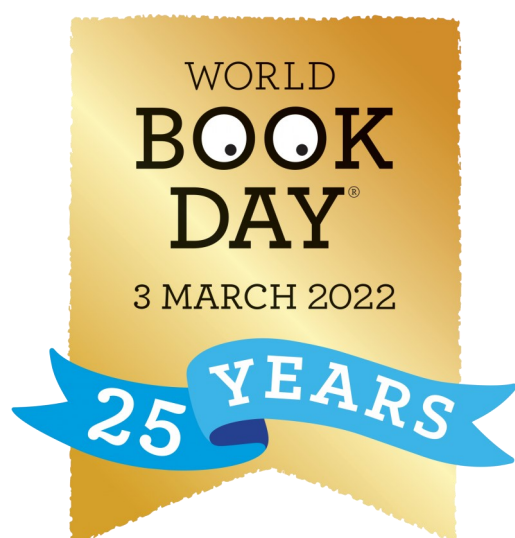


Scan the code for an animated story!

Also this term is World Book Day on the 3rd of March.

You Are a Reader

The theme for this World Book Day follows the message "**You Are a Reader**," and will be a chance to dress up as your favourite character.



Reading tips



ADVICE TO PARENTS ON FAMILY STORYTELLING

Stories are one of the greatest gifts a parent or grandparent can give to their child. Reading to your child is a great way of spending quality time together but there is always the book between you and them.

When you tell stories there is much greater opportunity for your child to contribute to the story, it also gives you the freedom to tailor the story to suit your child or tell stories that have never been written down.

Traditionally stories have been used to teach children important lessons for life, the importance of kindness, courage in adversity and that no matter how bad things get there is always hope for the future.

True stories about family members can draw children and adults, into a deeper understanding of their family. The stories you remember from your childhood can be shared and enjoyed again with your children.

So how do you begin? First choose a story you want to share with your child. You can find a section on folk tales in the majority of public libraries; stories with repetition and a simple structure are easiest to learn. Or create your own story from your imagination or from your life. You know what you and your children are interested in.



Reading activities:

Early Years

Alphabet Museum

Create a DIY showcase with some cardboard boxes and write a big letter in the middle of each one of them. Have kids look for various, small items in the nursery and place them in a box corresponding to the letter they begin with. This activity can be a long lasting game if you change the 'exhibition' every now and then or move the boxes around.

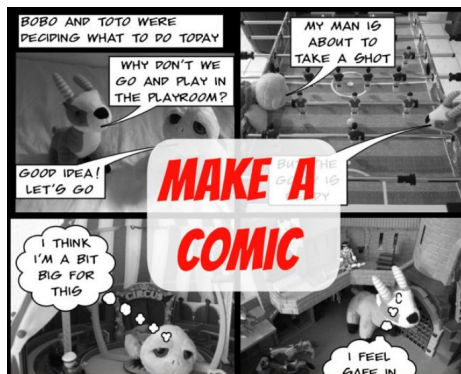
What you need –

- Cardboard boxes
- Colourful papers
- Pens
- Tape
- Small items



KS1

Alternatively retell a story with puppets made with wooden spoons or junk materials!



Mapping it all out



Have a go at drawing a map of one of the places from the story you have just read. See how much detail you can include and be sure to discuss your map with another reader so you can compare and add more if necessary.

KS2

Create your own graphic novel/comic about a book that you have just read

How do you do?

This half term we meet Joshua Seigal an award-winning poet who has kindly answered some questions for us.

Hi Three Bridges Primary School, Mrs Hooper asked me a few questions that she thought would be of much interest to you all.



How did you become a poet?

I became a poet by writing poetry. That's the most important thing to do if you want to be a poet. I did this a lot, so I got better and better. When I felt I was good enough, I called up some schools to ask if I could come and share my poems. Most of them said no, but a few said yes. I also called up publishers to ask if they would publish my books. It took about four years of doing this, but eventually a publisher called Bloomsbury said they would do it.

How do you think of your poems?

I try to write about things I am interested in. For me, this is animals, school, family, food and doorknobs. I have about seven hundred poems about doorknobs, but no one wants to publish them. I also use my memory a lot, so I write about things that happened to me when I was younger. For example, a monkey once stole my shoe at the zoo, so I wrote a poem about that.

Which poets inspire you?

I write for both adults and children. For my children's writing, I am inspired by Michael Rosen, John Hegley, Kenn Nesbitt and Roger Stevens. When I write for adults I am inspired by Simon Armitage, Billy Collins and Tommy Clutterbottom. One of those poets is made up. Can you work out which one?

Are your poems based on life experiences?

Sometimes they are, like when the monkey stole my shoe. But sometimes I make things up. Sometimes my poetry is fictional, and other times it is autobiographical. That's the great thing about poetry - it can be anything you want it to be.

How long does it take you to come up with a poem?

Once I have an idea, I can do the first draft in maybe about half an hour. But it takes a lot longer to edit.

One very important tip for you all! Editing and drafting are really important. Your first draft is like a lump of clay. When you edit, what you are doing is chiselling that lump of clay into shape, so you end up with something beautiful. As a professional writer, I can say that the majority of my time is spent editing my work. That, and feeding my pet polar bear.

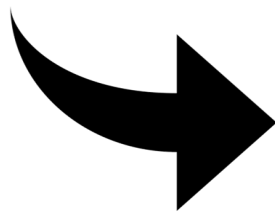


Poem of the Month - Warrior King

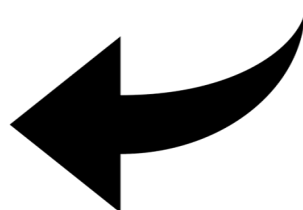
I'm the Warrior King of the garden.
I'm a revolutionary,
With my gun and my axe and my
telescope
and my lookout tree.

I'm the Warrior King of the garden.
I'm a soldier, a fighter, a winner.
I don't take orders from anyone...
until mum calls me in for dinner

Scan here to watch Joshua perform some of his great poems!

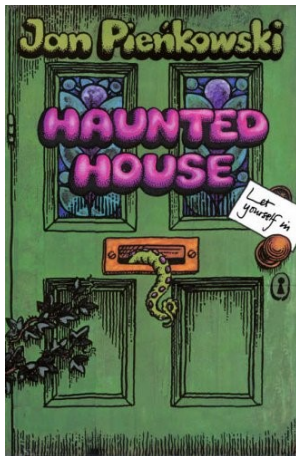


A note from Joshua Segial - If you have enjoyed my poetry, it would be amazing if you'd consider voting for my latest book in the People's Book Prize. It takes 20 seconds and can be done here.



Book Recommendations

Age 3 Years



Haunted House

Enjoy a tour of this spooky old house where a spine-tingling surprise lurks in every dark corner. Re-issued in its original full-size format, this definitive edition brings the classic pop-up novelty to a whole new generation.; With a spectacular new holographic foil cover and five brand new flaps to reveal extra hidden horrors!

I want my hat back

A bear sets out in search of his missing hat. Along the way, he asks all the animals he meets if any of them have seen his hat. They all say no... but one of them is lying.

Told in a refreshingly deadpan manner, this quirky and distinctive picture book from US author and illustrator Jon Klassen will delight young readers. Beautiful and stylish illustrations, in a palette of muted colours, provide the perfect complement to the understated text. A future classic.



Book Recommendations

Age 5 Years +



Mr Gum!

Mr Gum is an extremely nasty man who hates everyone and lives in a disgusting tip of a house. His garden, though, is immaculate and beautiful. And this is because if he lets it get out of control, an angry fairy who lives in his bathtub comes and whacks him over the head with a frying pan.

So when Jake the dog, a bouncy, friendly animal beloved of the whole town, decides that this garden is the perfect place to play in, Mr Gum isn't best pleased!

Age 7 Years +

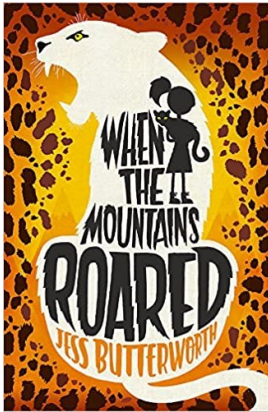
Picklewitch is, quite literally, out of her tree. **She has a nose for naughtiness**, a taste for trouble and a weakness for cake. And unluckily for brainbox Jack – winner of the 'Most Sensible Boy in School' for the third year running – she's about to choose him as her new best friend . . .



Ruskin Splinter is small and thin, with knock-knees, thick glasses and a squeaky voice, and the idea of him taming a dragon makes the whole class laugh. Big, strong Elvis is stupid but he looks like a hero. So who is more likely to get the big part in the school play? But when the mysterious beast, Krindlekrax, threatens Lizard Street and everyone who lives there, it is Ruskin who saves the day and proves he is the stuff that heros are made of after all.

Book Recommendations

Age 7 Years +



When Ruby's dad uproots her from Australia to set up a hotel in the mountains of India, Ruby is devastated. Not only are they living in a run-down building in the middle of the wilderness surrounded by scorpions, bears and leopards, but Ruby is sure that India will never truly feel like home - not without her mum there.

Ever since her mum died, Ruby has been afraid. Of cars. Of the dark. Of going to sleep and never waking up.

But then the last remaining leopards of the mountain are threatened and everything changes. Ruby vows to do all she can to protect them - if she can only overcome her fears...

Age 9 +



A year after the death of her older brother, **Prue Haywood's** family is still shattered by grief. But everything changes when a stranger arrives at the farm.

A new, incredible technology has been discovered in the city of Medlock, where a **secretive guild of inventors** have developed a way to capture spirits of the dead in **animal-like machines**, bringing them back to life.

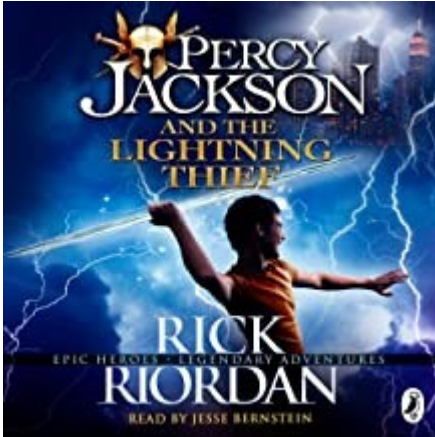
Prue knows that the "Ghost Guild" might hold the key to bringing her brother back, so she seizes the stranger's offer to join as an apprentice. But to find her brother, she needs to find a way to get the ghost machines to **remember** the people they used to be.



Found abandoned in a bear cave as a baby, 12-year-old Yanka has always felt out of place in her small village. When she wakes up to find that her legs have become bear legs, she sets off into the forest to discover who she is, on a journey that takes her from icy rivers to smouldering mountains, with an ever-growing group of misfits alongside her... Interwoven with traditional stories of bears, princesses and dragons, Yanka's journey is a gorgeously lyrical adventure from the best-selling author of The House With Chicken Legs.

Book Recommendations

Age 9 +



Half **boy**. Half **God**. ALL **Hero**.

I was just a normal kid, I went to school (got expelled a lot, but that wasn't my fault), played sports and hung out with my best friend.

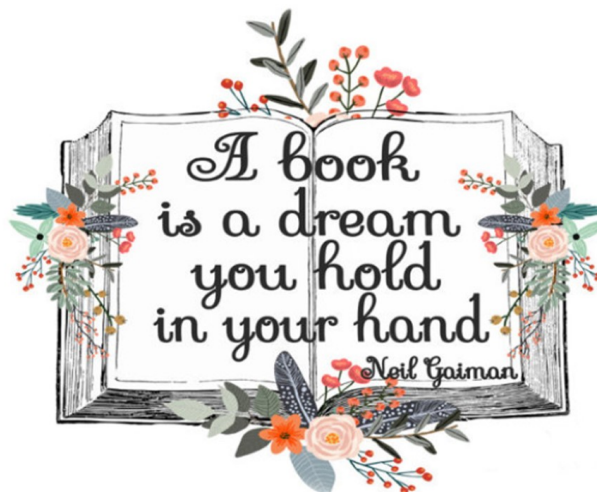
Until I accidentally vaporized my maths teacher.

Now, I spend my time at Camp Half Blood, battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive.

And now that Zeus thinks I've stolen his lightning bolt, staying alive is going to be even harder....

Reading websites

There are some great reading websites out there, here are a few that I have looked at that may be of interest to you.



This space is for you!

Have you read a good book lately? Do you want to tell everyone about it? Well now you can! Ask your teacher for a book recommendation form and share your find with the rest of the school. Look out for your contribution in next term's newsletter!

Happy Reading!