

Three Bridges Primary School

Reading Newsletter

Autumn Term 2024



Welcome to our reading newsletter. Each term, we will be sharing reading tips, introducing an author, important reading diary dates, sharing book recommendations and safe online reading websites.



How do you do?

This half term, meet Dan Worsley.

At a young age, I decided that I wanted to become a teacher. In 1998, I achieved my long-held ambition by securing a post at Layton Primary School, Blackpool. I spent fifteen magical years working there and feel privileged to have taught so many wonderful children. While I was teaching, I delivered many writing sessions. I was able to see which topics and themes fired the children's enthusiasm. I decided that I wanted to create stories which would make children want to pick up a book as I firmly believe that reading is the key to so much in life.



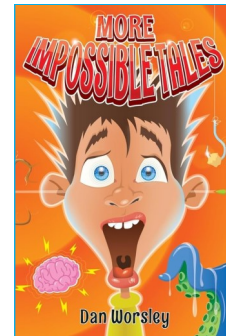
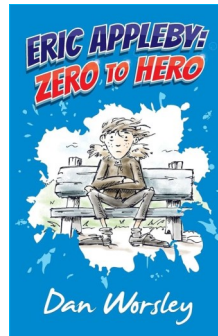
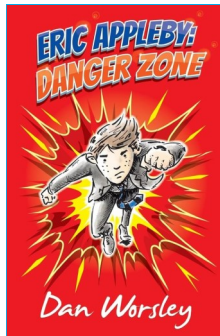
I hatched a plan to write a series of short stories for children. I formulated my ideas and played around with them for years, but teaching being the demanding job it is, I didn't have the time to sit down and write.

In 2013, I made the decision to leave my teaching post and take the plunge into the world of writing and storytelling. I wrote a collection of weird and wacky short stories and in October 2014, I launched my first book, 'Impossible Tales!' Five more books followed. It really has been a writing whirlwind!

My writing adventure has so far taken me to hundreds of primary and high schools where I have shared my books, performed stories and written with tens of thousands of children. I've performed stories in libraries across the North West and do all I can to support these vital community hubs. I've even held creative workshops at The Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool. My largest audience to date was at the Wordpool Family Day at Stanley Park, Blackpool where I shared my



Click here to listen to an extract from one of Dan's books.



Why Read?

BENEFITS OF **READING** to your Child

Parents play an integral part in their children's education and helping them reach their full potential. Here are some benefits of reading to your children:

Helps them sleep.

Getting a good night's rest is important for developing children, and reading to them while they are in bed can calm their minds and bodies.

Improves communication skills.

When you spend time reading to children, they will be much more likely to express themselves and relate to others in a healthy way.

Creates new bonds.

With a majority of our days spent looking at computer, TV and phone screens, it's important to take a few moments to spend quality time with your children. Reading to your children also can build an emotional connection. It's a win-win.

Teaches them the basics.

Teaching children to read is like building a house — you need to have a solid foundation that you can build upon later in life.

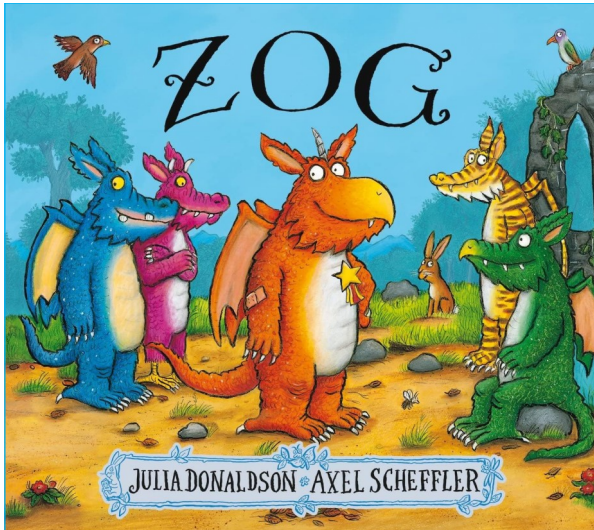
Improves logical thinking skills.

Reading to children helps their ability to grasp abstract concepts, apply logic, recognize cause and effect, and use good judgment.



Reading Recommendations

Books for Early Years



Zog

Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler
Picture Book

A firm favourite in Reception classrooms from national treasure Julia Donaldson. This is the story about a dragon called Zog, who is determined to try his best at dragon school but doesn't always manage to win the teacher's gold star. The story shows how perseverance and following dreams can lead to positive outcomes, and that different people's strengths emerge in different situations.

Year 1

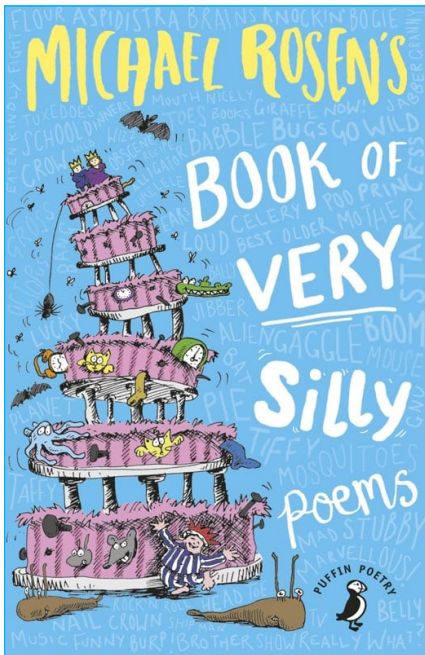


Grandad's Secret Giant

David Litchfield
Picture Book

A giant story of belonging and friendship from David Litchfield, author of *The Bear and the Piano*. Billy doesn't believe his Grandad when he tells him there's a giant living in his town, doing good deeds for everyone. He knows that a giant is too big to keep himself hidden. And why would he want to keep himself a secret? But as time goes on, Billy learns that some secrets are too big to stay secret for long. This delightful heartfelt story of belonging and friendship teaches the importance of tolerance and acceptance to young children.

Year 2



Michael Rosen's Book of Very Silly Poems

Michael Rosen & Shoo Rayner

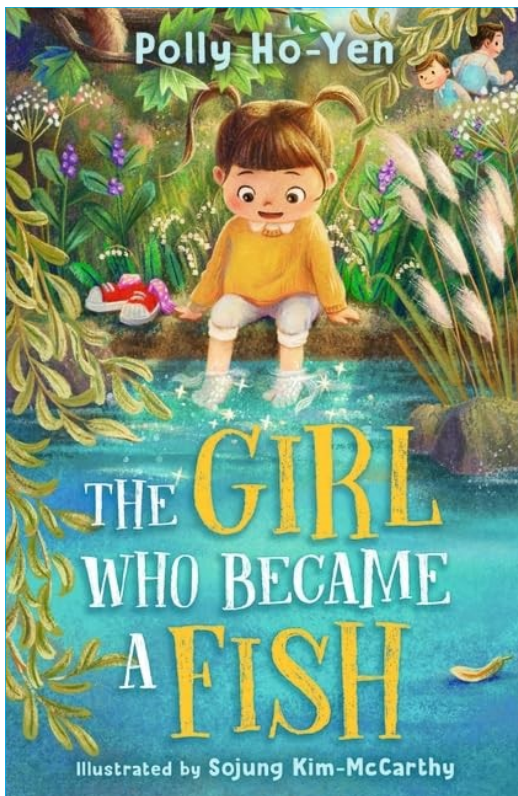
Poetry

A collection of funny poetry, selected and curated by Michael Rosen purely to entertain and delight.

Clustered into groups that appeal to children's common interests – food, animals, playground rhymes etc. – this collection will entertain children with a mixture of Michael Rosen's own poems, verses by a range of famous poets, familiar-sounding traditional playground chants and tongue-twisters, and even poems written by primary children.

The thread that brings together the collection is that the poems are humorous in silly and subversive ways, with twists on old classics and brand new playful rhymes to discover.

Year 3



The Girl Who Became A Fish

Polly Ho-Yen & Sojung Kim-McCarthy

Chapter Book

Ita is afraid of lots of things. She's afraid of talking to her classmates at her new school. She's afraid of walking through her new town. But most of all she is afraid of water.

When one day she realises the river in her new town turns her into a fish, she is forced to face up to her fears. In doing so, can she bring her family together again?

With themes of change, and deftly tackling the topic of fear for younger readers, this is another heart-warming and beautifully-written early reader by Polly Ho-Yen, filled with charming artwork by Sojung Kim-McCarthy.

Year 4

The Night We Got Stuck in a Story

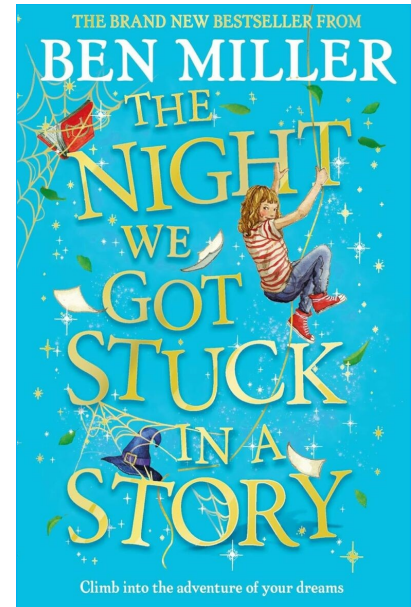
Ben Miller

Chapter Book

This is a brilliant book by Ben Miller that will be loved by fans of his previous stories and is sure to get new readers hooked on his books too.

The story tells of siblings, Lana and Harrison (from *The Day I Fell into a Fairytale*), who go to visit their grandparents and are upset to find that their favourite play spot (an old, hollow tree) is under threat. When Lana speaks to developers and makes a deal she soon regrets, she cannot put it out of her mind. That night, a mysterious golden thread leads her back to the old, hollow tree and Lana and Harrison end up getting pulled (quite literally) into storybook land full of mystery and adventure. Lana finds herself with a very big problem – she needs to rescue her brother before it is too late, but he isn't the only one who needs her help!

This story is best suited for Lower Key Stage Two children and would make the perfect bedtime story or an enjoyable class novel. At the end of the book, author Ben Miller spends time sharing some of the ideas behind his writing in 'A Brief Note About Spiders'. When I read this aloud, this part sparked the interest of children in the class and they were fascinated to learn about the real-life animals that inspired the Golden Diving Bell Spiders.

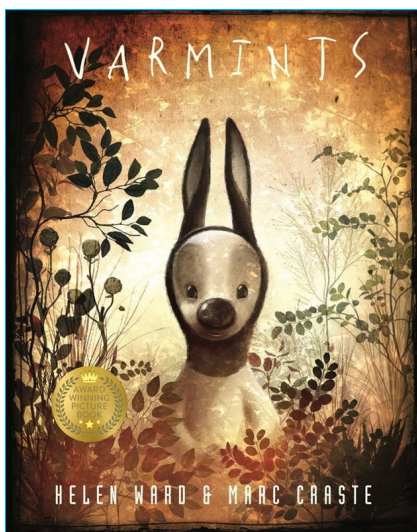


Year 5

Varmints

Helen Ward

Picture Book



Varmints is an intriguing and mysterious picture book, with an environmental theme, and images that play with concepts of light and dark. This is not a story to enjoy in the traditional storytime sense, but an intriguing picturebook to offer reward to those willing to ponder over, consider and reflect upon the multi-layered offerings on each page. The ideal age of the audience for this book is Upper Key Stage 2 children.

A once peaceful place becomes darker when varmints turn up. They destroy the bees and plants and bring with them grey buildings and too much noise to think. Peace and tranquillity become lost – as does thinking – and the environment gets darker and more ominous with each page turn. Some of the images are stark and haunting – almost cinematic at times. In one tiny moment, a creature restores hope by nurturing a pocket of wildlife and a little bit of wilderness grows once again.

Year 6

Operation Banana

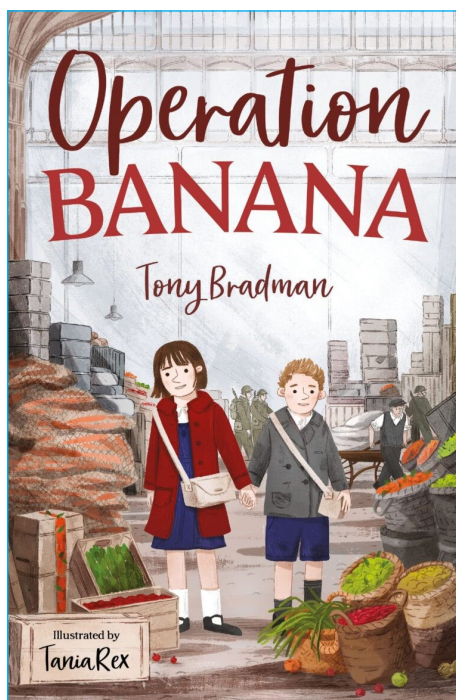
Tony Bradman

Chapter Book, Dyslexia friendly

World War 2 is the setting for this short, dyslexia-friendly chapter book and is a common history topic in schools. Many of the great books for primary-aged children set in this era may be too challenging for some readers and so this book enables children to catch a glimpse of life during the war and also learn about some of the important features of life: rationing; schools; the changing roles of adults; evacuation and the black market (through the unique storyline of a girl trying to get hold of a banana in times when all food was in short supply).

Vocabulary that may be unfamiliar to children is explained as part of the storyline, for example explaining who the 'yanks' were. In addition, there are a few 'notes' at the end of the book that provide a simple overview of the period in history and also a clear explanation of money before decimalisation.

The focus of the story is a young girl's concern and care for her mum at a time of great stress and strain on family life, where dad is away fighting in the war and mum has taken on a new job, working long hours in the factory. There are many parallels that the modern reader could draw with their own experiences. The print is clear without too many words on the page. The book is illustrated by Tania Rex and the pictures will support the reluctant readers' engagement as well as enable a child's first step into reading a chapter book, to be scaffolded.



Why not visit Crawley Library!

As well as having a wealth of books to borrow, there are a range of free activities that take place at the library.



Drop in to a Storytime session to help your child develop their imagination, every Saturday 10.30 - 11.15am, or scan the QR code for some online story times.



Crawley library also run free, regular Multi-Sensory Storytimes, specially for children and young people with additional needs. The next session is on 5th October at 2:30pm

Oxford Owl

Parents who are new to the school will find a log in to the Oxford Owl – online reading resource. Here you will find a range of free eBooks.

Please check your child's book bag for this!



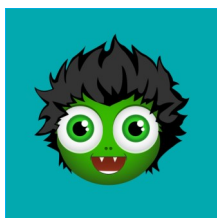
Oxford Owl for Home

Free resources to support learning at home

- Advice and support for parents
- Educational activities and games
- Free eBook library for 3- to 11-year-olds

Enter site

Boomreader



Please encourage children to record their reading on Boom Reader. Boom Reader is a digital reading record, where you can log reading completed at home and log comments. This can be recorded by pupils and lower down in the school by parents.



The Book Trust is an online resource with free online books, videos, games, quizzes and you can even learn to draw your favourite characters.

