

Three Bridges Primary School

Reading Newsletter

Spring Term 2025



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?

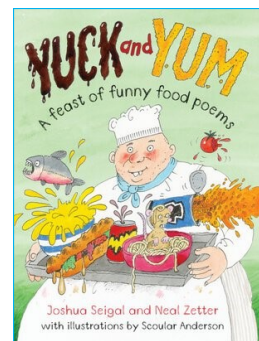
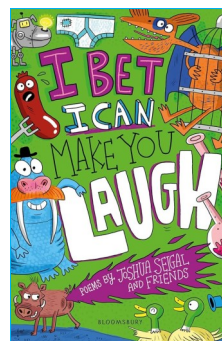
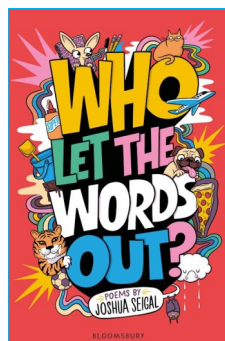
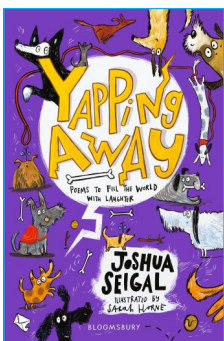


This term, meet Joshua Seigal.



News alert!!!! Joshua has agreed to visit us on World Book Day (6th March) to do some creative writing workshops with KS2.

I am Joshua Seigal, a highly acclaimed, award-winning professional poet and performer who uses poetry to develop literacy skills and inspire confidence and creativity in communication. I have an MA in Writing and Education, have worked in hundreds of schools, libraries and festivals around the world, had books published by Bloomsbury, HarperCollins and other major publishers, and have written and performed for BBC television. Please enjoy having a look around my lovingly handmade website. (If you're viewing on a newfangled 'mobile device', the site may look a little wonky. Please contain your excitement until you reach a more traditional computer.)



School Dinner

School dinner, I love you.
You're yummy and hot.
I like your lasagna
and pizza a lot.

You come with fresh salad
and something to drink.
Your rolls are so crusty.
Your salmon is pink.

School dinner, you're lovely.
You dance on my lips.
There's pasta with sauce
and fish fingers with chips.

You fill up my tummy.
You smell like a dream.
There's rice and there's curry
and sometimes ice cream.

School dinner, you're awesome.
You nourish my brain.
The depth of my passion
I cannot explain.

There's yoghurt and fruit
and there's gravy and roast,
but the best thing about you is

SPIDERS ON TOAST!



Click here to listen to Joshua
perform one of his poems.

Why Read?

Reading helps with Everything

- Reading is essential to just about everything in life - from cooking to driving to just getting through school. It is important to start at a young age and teach your child the value of reading so they will grow to practice it often and value their ability to do so.



Set a good example

- Research shows that one of the most important steps parents can take to support children's early literacy skill development is to have a literacy-rich home environment. Read for pleasure, talk with your children about how much you love reading, have books available, make reading a fun and special activity at home, not just for them, but also for you. Looking for a good book? [Goodreads](#) for some ideas for you as well as your children.

Reading to Young Children: A Head-Start in Life

The research sets out to explore the connections between parents reading to their young children and their child's later reading and other cognitive skills.

Key Findings

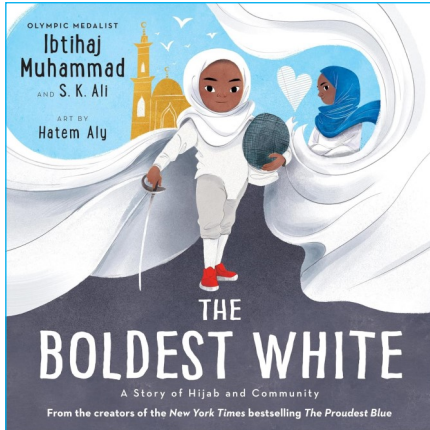
The frequency of reading to children at a young age has a direct causal effect on their schooling outcomes regardless of their family background and home environment.

- Reading to children at age 4-5 every day has a significant positive effect on their reading skills and cognitive skills (i.e., language and literacy, numeracy and cognition) later in life.
- Reading to children 3-5 days per week (compared to 2 or less) has the same effect on the child's reading skills at age 4-5 as being six months older.
- Reading to them 6-7 days per week has the same effect as being almost 12 months older.
- Children read to more frequently at age 4-5 achieve higher scores on the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for both Reading and Numeracy in Year 3 (age 8 to 9).
- These differences in reading and cognitive skills are not related to the child's family background or home environment but are the direct result of how frequently they have been read to prior to starting school.

This research is a result of a partnership arrangement between the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research.

Reading Recommendations

Books for Early Years



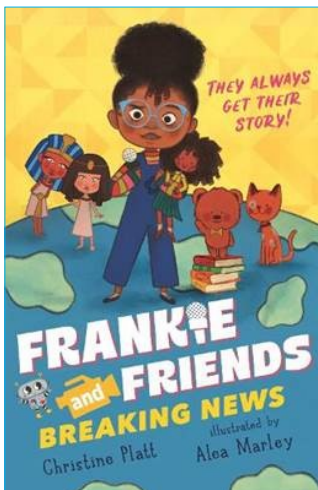
The Boldest White

Author: Ibtihaj Muhammad and S. K. Ali

Illustrator: Hatem Aly

Will Faizah be bold enough to fence in front of others? A warm, beautifully illustrated book with an unusual message on bravery.

Year 1



Frankie and Friends: Breaking News

Author: Christine Platt

Illustrator: Alea Marley

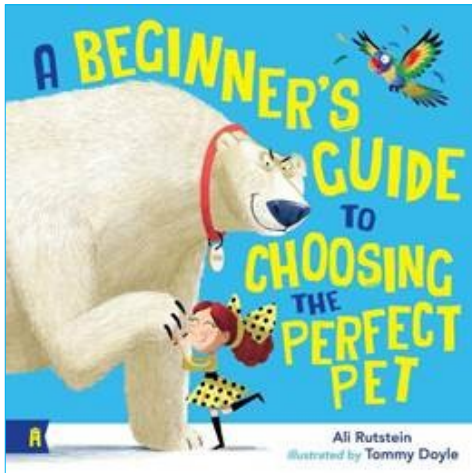
Can Frankie cover her first breaking news story, like her journalist mama? Heartwarming and charming, with cute illustrations, ideal for newly confident readers or for reading together.



"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax all you need is a book!"

– Dr. Seuss

Year 2



A Beginner's Guide to Choosing the Perfect Pet

Author: Ali Rutstein

Illustrator: Tommy Doyle

Tigers, anacondas and polar bears are in, and rabbits, kittens and puppies are definitely out. A fabulously funny picture book that turns the idea of the perfect pet on its head.

Year 3



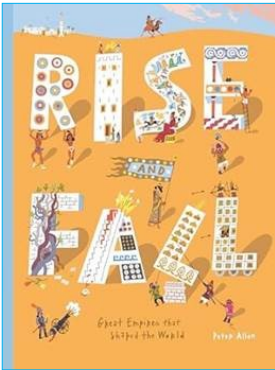
Guardians of the New Moon: Ming and Miaow's Great Race

Author: Eric Huang

Illustrator: Phùng Nguyễn Quang

The ruler of heaven challenges every animal to a great race, with the fastest 12 immortalised in the Chinese zodiac. Join Ming the fox and Miaow the cat as they fight to win the race!

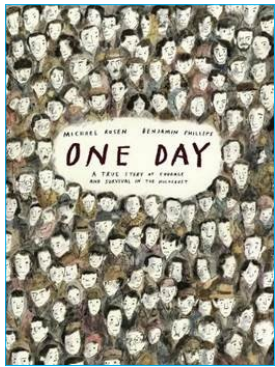
Year 4



Rise and Fall: Great Empires that Shaped the World

Author: Peter Allen

A marvellous nonfiction resource that showcases nine fascinating cultures, looking at how each empire rose to power, and what its significance was.



One Day

Author: Michael Rosen

Illustrator: Benjamin Phillips

A hard-hitting picture book which tells the true story of a Holocaust survivor. This important book explores dark events in a sensitive but unflinching way.

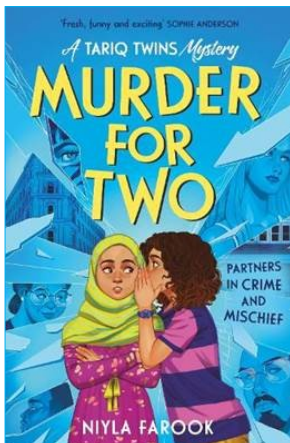
Year 5



Ice Apprentices

Author: Jacob North

An exciting, brilliantly imagined fantasy adventure set in a brutal, frozen landscape and featuring several LGBTQI characters and multiple fearsome monsters.

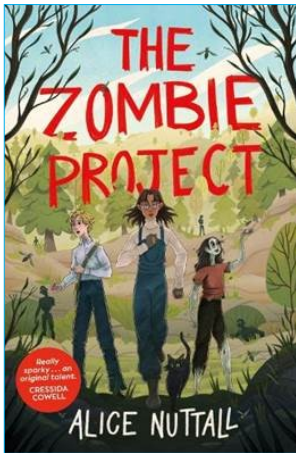


Murder For Two

Author: Niyla Farook

A lively, entertaining, sleuthing adventure with a multicultural cast of characters and focussing on family relationships.

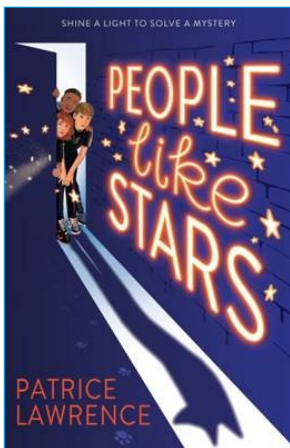
Year 6



The Zombie Project

Author: Alice Nuttall

Merian's mum Gwen studies and protects zombies, but an unexpected zombie outbreak plunges them both into extreme danger. This highly original, dystopian novel is a thrilling and thought-provoking read.



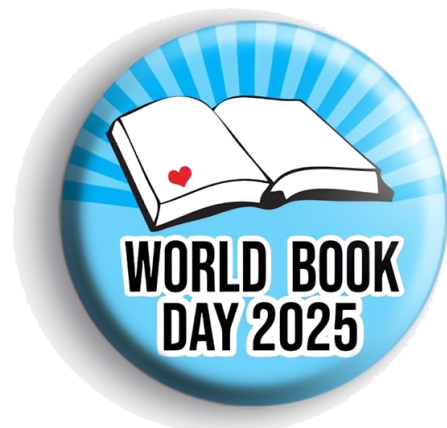
People Like Stars

Author: Patrice Lawrence

Ayrton was stolen as a baby – and Stanley's mysterious grandmother did it! But can they find her? A gripping story of family secrets and friendship.

Diary Date

Thursday 6th March World Book Day



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 Story times, especially for children and young people with additional needs.

The next session is on 5th October at 2:30pm

<https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/-/multi-sensory-story-magic>



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!



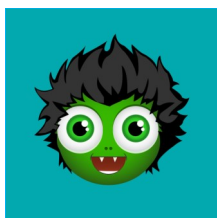
Oxford Owl for Home

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.

