

Bury and Whitefield's Reading Newsletter



Introduction

Welcome back to Bury and Whitefield's reading newsletter; your home for all things 'book-ish'. There is lots going on this month: Children's Mental Health Week, Dickens' birthday and Purim, to name a few. With all of these wonderful events going on, it was tricky to find a theme for this month's newsletter. Especially as I have previously covered wellbeing. As a result, I decided to pick a theme that would put a smile on most faces. Animals.

During lockdown, our animals have become our lifelines and even more of a best friend than they already were so I felt they deserved their own issue. I hope you enjoy! 😊

P.S. I could not do an animal-based newsletter without sharing a picture of my gorgeous rottweiler, Tiny. Please feel free to share pictures of your pets or – even better – pictures of you reading with your pets! My email is c.pereira@bwjps.org.uk and I would love to see your furry best friends.



Reading at BWJPS

At Bury and Whitefield, we understand the importance of reading and aim to develop fluent readers who not only can read but enjoy reading. These wish lists are frequently updated to avoid multiple copies being purchased and to ensure they consistently offer an up-to-date selection. As always, our wish lists can be found on your child's class page (on our school website) or in this newsletter.

EYFS: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/>

Y1: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2PS0FETXIL21C...>

Y2: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/YH5HJ18NF0LZ...>

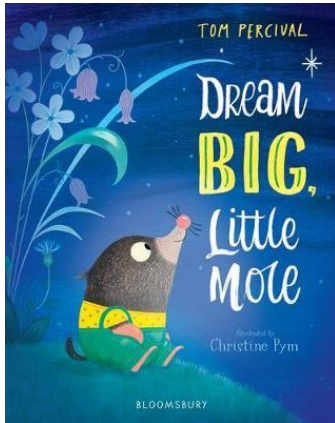
Y3: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3DZGBMFS8GM5V...>

Y4: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/71EK0739YJCH...>

Y5: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/Z5YGGCC81RM3...>

Y6: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3F3MMPM8THCC...EW...>

“Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend.” – Groucho Marx



EYFS Recommendation

Dream Big, Little Mole (Tom Percival)

A little mole sets out to dig the biggest hole ever in an attempt to follow her dreams and prove how special she is but things don't go well. Mini disasters keep happening to poor Little Mole. However, with encouragement from a friendly otter, Little Mole carries on digging until, against all odds, she makes everything right.

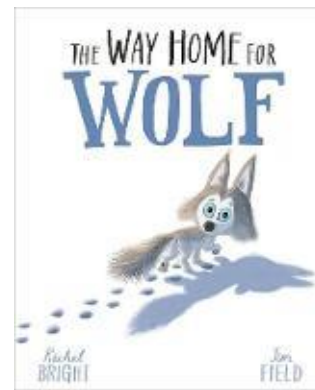
A lovely message which will resonate with children and encourage them to embrace who they are.

Years 1 and 2 Recommendation

The Way Home for Wolf (Rachel Bright)

Wolf-cub Wilf doesn't want help from anyone. Whatever it is, he can do it all by himself! But when Wilf finds himself lost and alone in the chill of the Arctic night, he discovers something important; sometimes we all need the helping hand of a friend.

This positive rhyming tale of friendship and community is perfect for stubbornly independent little cubs everywhere.

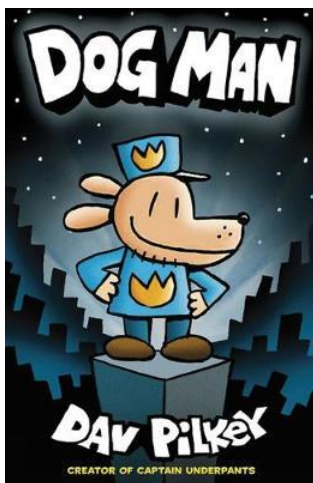


Years 3 and 4 Recommendation

Dog Man (Dav Pilger)

Get ready to HOWL with laughter with the first book in the hilarious illustrated series – Dog Man.

George and Harold (co-stars of the popular Captain Underpants series) are in big trouble again! They have created a new breed of justice; one that is part-dog, part-man, and ALL HERO! With the head of a dog and the body of a human, this heroic hound digs into deception, rolls over robbers, and scampers after squirrels. Will he be able to resist the call of the wild to answer the call of duty? Brilliant for reluctant or struggling readers.



Years 5 and 6 Recommendation

The Last Wild (Piers Torday)

In a world where animals no longer exist, 12-year-old Kester sometimes feels like he hardly exists either. So when he meets a flock of talking pigeons and a bossy cockroach, Kester thinks he's finally gone mad. But a wise stag needs Kester's help. Together they must embark on a great journey, joined along the way by an over-enthusiastic wolf-cub, a spoilt show-cat, a dancing harvest mouse and a stubborn girl named Polly. The animals saved Kester but can Kester save the animals?

A wonderfully imaginative tale of endless possibility. Brilliant for fans of Michael Morpurgo or Eva Ibbotson.



Miss Pereira's Books of the Month



Children's Fiction

The House at the Edge of Magic (Amy Sparkes)

Nine, the protagonist, is an orphan made to pickpocket in order to continue living under Pockets' roof. It is during a successful - though rather messy - pickpocket attempt that she finds 'the house at the edge of magic'. A house containing an array of magical mysteries and loveable characters that need Nine's help, for their house has been cursed. After a life where love and compassion has been misplaced with disappointment and horrors, is Nine willing to help? Could this be the thing she needs to change her life forever?

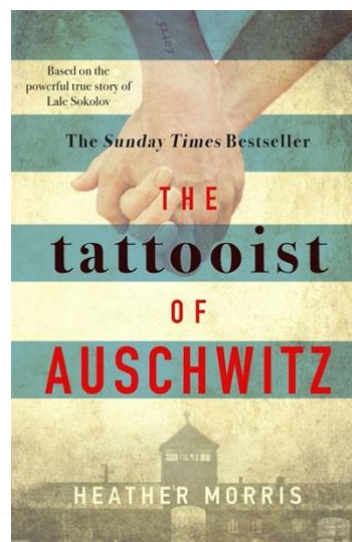
This is a truly magical book which I struggled to put down – resulting in me devouring it in two days. A wonderful book for children – and adults – of all ages. The fun characters and curiosities make light reading of what could be a darker topic. A 2021 must-read!

Adult's Fiction

The Tattooist of Auschwitz (Heather Morris)

Whilst it is hard to say I enjoyed a book about such a harrowing time in history, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* is undoubtedly one of the most courageous, unforgettable and emotional stories I have ever read.

It follows the journey of Lale Sokolov, who was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1942. During his time there, he is given the job of tattooing the prisoners when he meets a terrified young girl name Gita. It was love at first sight. Determined not only to survive himself, but to ensure Gita did too, Lale does everything he can to fight for his love and freedom. Words cannot do justice to the profound effect this book has on the reader as you follow Lale's journey through one of the darkest experiences in history. However, it is not a downbeat tale as the strength of human spirit shines through on every page.

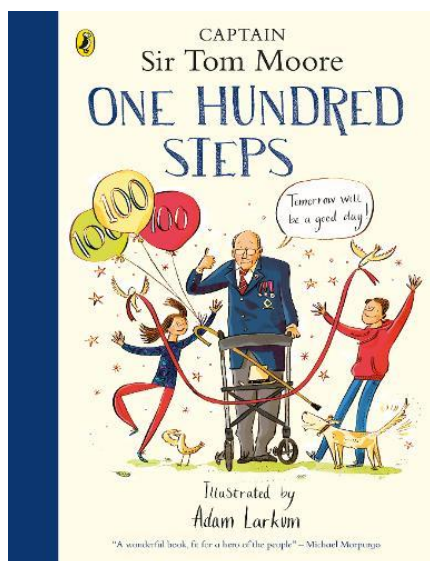


Children's and Adult's Non-Fiction

100 Steps: The Story of Captain Sir Tom Moore

Following the sad news of Captain Tom Moore's passing, I felt it only right to use the story of his life for this month's non-fiction choice.

From his beginnings in Yorkshire through to his incredible fund-raising campaign for the NHS (with some wild adventures along the way), this is the story of Captain Tom's amazing life, beautifully illustrated by Adam Larkum. A book about adventure, family, hope and what we can achieve when we work together; it sends a message of resilience and optimism when we need it most. A beautiful and interesting read for all the family.



“Reading is a passport to countless adventures.” – Mary Pope Osborne

Developing Retrieval Skills through Reading

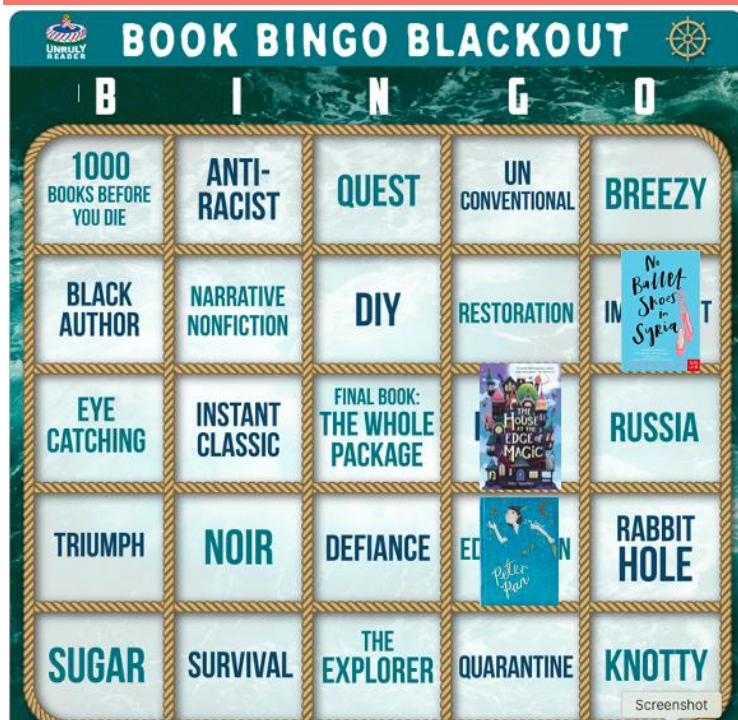
Retrieval is defined as the ‘process of obtaining or extracting information or material’ (Oxford Dictionary, 2019). Put simply, this is the skill a child will use to answer questions by using information from the text. Retrieval is often seen as the most significant reading skill and needs to be taught and practised regularly before effectively delving deeper into a text, inferring and comparing. Strong retrieval skills are essential for confident and effective comprehension and should be practised daily, whether orally or written.

Whilst being the key reading skill, it is considered the easiest to develop as the answer is **always** in the text or image. Success at retrieval requires pupils to understand that the skill is to find ‘literal’ information using the text or image. This means that the answer is always there but the child has to be able to understand the text to find it.

This is where age-appropriate books become very important. You may consider your child’s reading book to be too easy as they can read all the words with no problem but this is only accessing the book at word level. The importance comes from the understanding of what they are reading and being able to follow the plot of the book.

To practise retrieval at home, simply take a couple of minutes to ask your child some questions about what they have read. Think about the key question words (who, what, where, when, why, which, how). Start off easy with basic questions such as: what is the main character’s name? Where did they go? Why did they go there? Before moving onto more difficult questions, such as: give one example of ... or what happened to?

Reading Challenge Update



In last month’s newsletter, I wrote about the many reading challenges available and how these may encourage your child to read. I started my own reading challenge and invite you – and your child(ren) – to join in with me. I will track my progress here to both inform and encourage, should it help. Please feel free to email me with suggestions for my next read or simply to tell me what you’ve enjoyed reading!

Category	Title	Rating
Immigrant	No Ballet Shoes in Syria (age 9+)	4/5
Blurb	The House at the Edge of Magic (age 7+)	5/5
Edwardian	Peter Pan (age 9+)	1/5

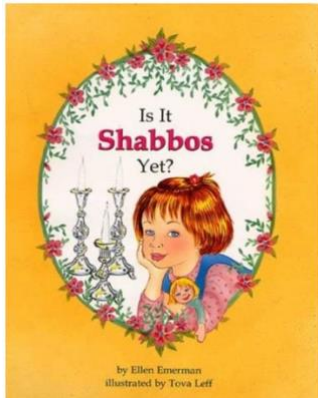
Feedback

This section of the newsletter is for you – the parents and carers. It is a way of passing on tips and advice on how to help your child with their reading and comprehension skills. For this to be as useful as possible, please let me know if there is anything you would like to see in this section or any areas you are struggling with in particular. Pop an email to c.pereira@bwjps.org.uk and I will try to include it in our next newsletter.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” – Dr. Seuss



Jewish Studies Book of the Month



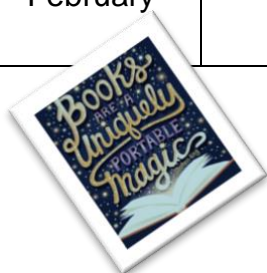
Is it Shabbos yet? (Ellen Emerman)

A wonderful little book which shows the magic Shabbos can bring to Jewish children. It is told through the eyes of a little girl who cannot wait for Shabbos, and keeps asking her mother, "It is Shabbos yet?" But there are still things to be done. It really conveys how much she is looking forwards to Shabbos. When she says to her mother, "I love Shabbos," it is with real feeling. The wonderful drawings highlight the wonder of the child! This book is a useful aid in learning how to prepare for Shabbos. Suitable for children aged 3-6.

Upcoming Events

The reading season is picking up again with a few more events added to our calendar. My favourite being ‘International Book Giving Day’. Last year, I left a variety of children’s and adults books at the end of my drive to celebrate this brilliant day – and to regift much loved books – and was delighted when they all found themselves new homes! Maybe you could do something similar?

<p>National Storytelling Week 1st – 8th February</p>	<p>Let your imagination run free and tell all of those stories you have whirling around your head. Go to https://www.sfs.org.uk/national-storytelling-week for more information.</p>
<p>International Book Giving Day 14th February</p>	<p>Now more than ever, books, reading and stories are needed by so many children so let’s make this year’s International Book Giving Day one to be remembered. These don’t just need to be new books. Why not regift those books that have been collecting dust on your shelves? Whether they be to a neighbour, a relative or to school – get giving.</p>
<p>Tell a Fairy Tale Day 26th February</p>	<p>Tell a Fairy Tale Day provides a perfect opportunity to read fairy tales to your children and enjoy your favourite childhood tales all over again. Make some hot chocolate, curl up in a comfy spot and immerse yourself in the world of princes and princesses, evil witches and beautiful fairies.</p>



Happy reading!
Miss Pereira

