

Bury and Whitefield's Reading Newsletter



Introduction

Happy new year! Welcome back to Bury and Whitefield's reading newsletter; your home for all things 'book-ish'. I hope you had a wonderful break and read some great books. It would be great to know if any of you were gifted a book from our newsletter.

To celebrate the new year, we are sticking with all things new as our theme; meaning this month's recommended reads will come from newly debuted authors. I hope you enjoy and find your next favourite author. 😊

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. Each class has been fortunate enough to receive books from their wish-list. Keep up the generosity!

Amazon Wishlists

I would like to take the opportunity to thank every one of you who have been generous enough to donate a book to your child's class. It makes the world of difference to our 'reading for pleasure'.

Our wishlists should automatically update once a book has been purchased. However, sometimes this has not happened. To rectify this, please use the filter at the top left to click 'unpurchased'. This will allow you to see only books which have not yet been purchased. In the mean-time, I have done my best to try and remove purchased items. Thank you for your patience and generosity.

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...>

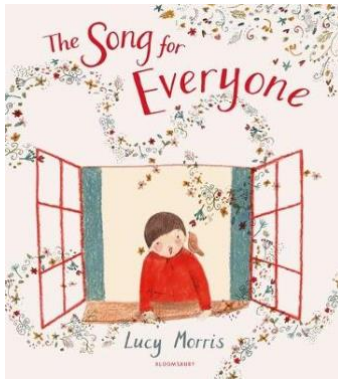
Y3: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3DZGBMFS8GM5V...>

Y4: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/71EK0739YICH...>

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

Y6: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3F3MPM8THCC...>

“Books are a uniquely portable magic.” – Stephen King



EYFS Recommendation

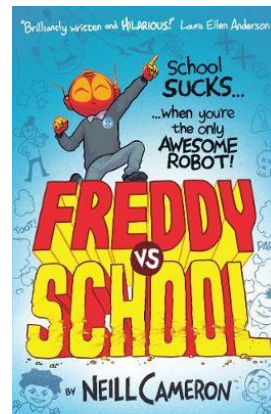
The Song for Everyone (Lucy Morris)

A stunningly illustrated picture book debut about the power of music to transform hearts and minds. In a gorgeous, lyrical story, Morris celebrates the joy of music, the importance of community, and the beauty of simple kindnesses. Sometimes it's the smallest things that draw us together. Timeless and comforting, this beautiful picture book is one to read again and again.

Years 1 and 2 Recommendation

Freddy Vs School (Neill Cameron)

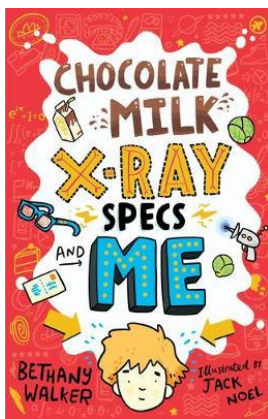
Meet Freddy – the most super-amazing superhero robot ever! His Robotic Abilities are mind-blowingly cool, but it turns out that teachers get really angry when you use your rocket boosters in class. Freddy's super awesome but he's also in big trouble. Can he stay true to himself, stay in school and save his friends from disaster? Fizzing with hilarity and empathy, and sublimely dynamic, the chronicles of Freddy celebrate unity, uniqueness and diversity. Fans of Tom Gates will love this!



Years 3 and 4 Recommendation

Chocolate Milk, X-Ray Specs and Me (Bethany Walker)

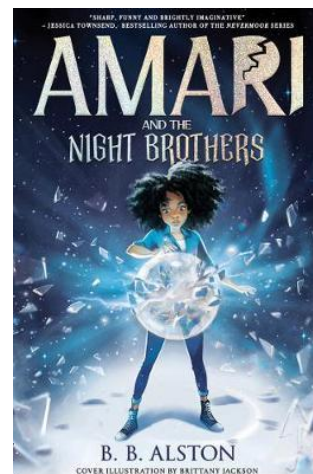
10-year-old Freddy Spicer writes letters to his parents – who he believes are working at a farm in Outer Castonga, with no internet or phone access. In fact, Freddy's parents are secret agents out of the country on a highly classified mission - but Freddy has no idea! Perfectly pitched for fans of funny fiction who are ready to move on from early chapter books, Bethany Walker has hit the spot with her debut. A brilliant book which will have your children in fits of laughter.



Years 5 and 6 Recommendation

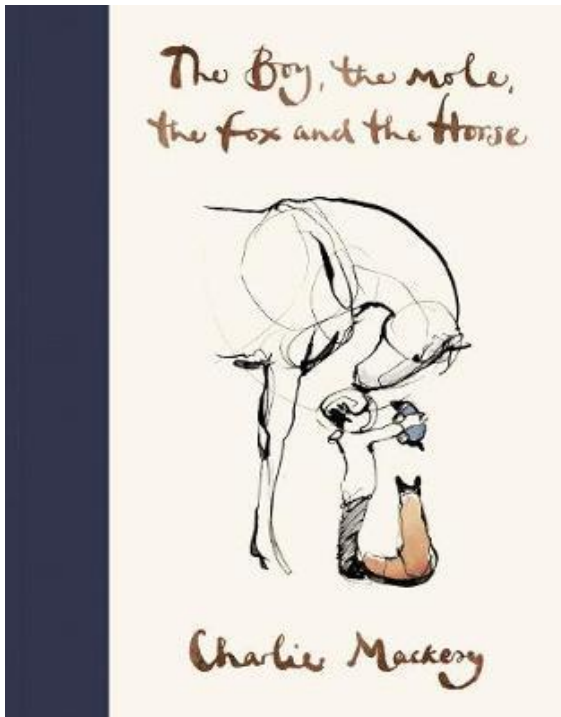
Amari and the Night Brothers (B.B. Alston)

Amari Peters' big brother has gone missing and his mysterious job holds the secret... So when Amari gets an invitation to the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain this is her chance to find him. But first she has to get her head around the new world of the Bureau, where mermaids, aliens and magicians are real, and her room-mate is a weredragon. All whilst an evil magician threatens the whole supernatural world and her own classmates think she is the enemy! A brilliant supernatural adventure book, perfect for fans of Percy Jackson, Nevermoor and Men in Black.



Miss Pereira's Books of the Month

Children's and Adult's Fiction



The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse (Charlie Mackesy) – the whole family

Four very different characters take centre stage in this unusual and beautifully illustrated book. There's a horse (wise and reliable); a boy (Christopher Robin-like in his curiosity and kindness); a mole (an optimistic cake-lover); and a fox (vulnerable and in need of love). The story of their friendship is told through Mackesy's evocative pen and ink sketches. Most but not all are accompanied by three or four lines of text, which are not so much a narrative but rather little flashes of insight into the human mind.

A truly stunning read whether you are 5 or 95! This book will brighten your day and warm your heart at a time where such sentiment is much needed. My favourite part, which I have shared with my class on numerous occasions, is:

' "What is the bravest thing you've ever said?" asked the boy. "Help," said the horse. '

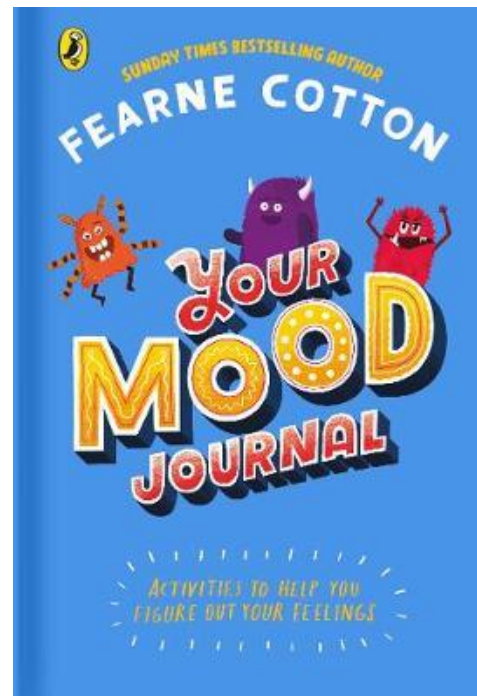
This truly is a must-read and one that you will treasure.

Children's and Adult's Non-Fiction

Your Mood Journal (Fearne Cotton) – all ages

Everyone struggles to cope with their emotions, but it's especially difficult for young children who often lack vocabulary to express how they are feeling, even to themselves. Fearne Cotton (a champion of mental health and wellbeing) has created a book which cleverly provides children with practical ways to learn about their feelings and, through that, understand why they feel the way they do. It does this through fun and engaging interactive activities, which allow children to be creative and to play even as they work out what's going on in their heads. It's a book that many parents will welcome and will be a real boost for lots of children – particularly during a time of isolation as schools are closed.

Whilst not a book *per se*, I felt the need to include this in our reading newsletter – particularly January's issue as it is a month to start new habits – due to the current climate. Our children need all the help they can to not only share how they are feeling but to also understand those feelings themselves. I think this is an excellent buy for any member of the family – including adults.



“One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.” – Malala Yousafzai

Developing Explanation Skills through Reading

Being able to explain and justify their thoughts and answers is another core reading skill. This requires children in KS1 to say why they think ___ or what word shows ___? In KS2, this may require direct use of the text by finding quotes which prove their answer.

Explaining why we think/ know something or why the author has chosen to use a particular word/ phrase can be difficult. When reading with your child, it would be good practise to ask some of the following questions:

- What structures has the author used?
- Is the use of ... effective? Why?
- How do you know the character's mood has changed?
- What affect does ... have on the audience?
- How does the author engage the reader here?
- Which section was the most interesting/ exciting part? Why?
- How are these sections linked?

For children in Years 5/6, it would be useful if you could also ask your child questions such as:

- Which word/ phrase shows you that?
- Which language techniques make the reader ...?
- Why do you think the author used this word?

Simple activities such as asking your child to explain their favourite part (and why) is also a great activity.

2021 Reading Challenges for All the Family

The start of a new year is a brilliant opportunity to start a new challenge. Why not make it a reading challenge that all the family could get on board with?

You could keep it simple and set your family a numeric goal, such as 40 books to read in 2021 (between all members), or you could really challenge yourself to diversify your reading choices. There are many set challenges out there which could be adapted for the whole family. It's up to you if you decide to set the challenge for each individual member, or if you share the challenge between you. Either way, it is a great chance to get your child excited to read new books/ genres/ authors or relight their passion for reading.

Below are some links to reading challenges which I think may be suitable. If you have your own or find a different one, I would love to hear about it!

- <https://buildyourlibrary.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Build-Your-Library-2021-Reading-Challenge.pdf>
- <https://booksofamber.com/2020/12/announcement-debut-author-challenge-2021.html>
- <https://www.theliterary.life/19-in-2021-reading-challenge/>
- <https://www.doyoudog-ear.com/2020/12/read-alphabet-challenge-2021.html>

Feedback

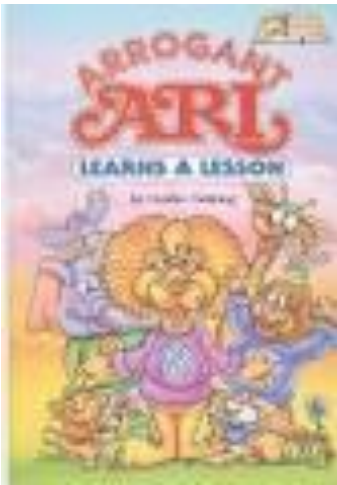
This section of the newsletter is for you – the parents and carers. It is a way of passing on tips and advice on how to help your child with their reading and comprehension skills. For this to be as useful as possible, please let me know if there is anything you would like to see in this section or any 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



Arrogant Ari learns a lesson

The story is based on teaching others the concept of good middos - (character traits.) The story is about a lion called Ari. (Aryeh is actually Hebrew for lion). Arrogant Ari thought he was the best, brightest and most handsome animal in the whole world. He bragged and boasted to his classmates and his friends alike. His classmates felt really put down and nobody liked him. Then something very scary happened- and he had to learn his lesson the hard way. Good middos are what we should have and we get them by looking and learning, practising and saying 'that is how I want to be.' Together we can change the world, with just one random act of kindness at a time. This book is suitable for 4-7 year olds and is beautifully illustrated.

Upcoming Events

Unfortunately, there aren't many reading events throughout the month of January. However, there are plenty of things you could do with your child to maintain reading fun. For example, you could have a book tasting session (described previously), let them write a book review for Amazon or even record themselves reviewing a book (pretending they have a video blog).

<p>Winter Mini-Reading Challenge</p> <p>(deadline is 15th January)</p>	<p>The Reading Agency are hosting a winter mini-reading challenge. The challenge is to read 3 different books over the 6 week period: Tuesday 1st December to Friday 15th January. Sign up to the website to upload the books you have read and download your certificate! Fun activities will take place throughout the challenge so keep an eye out. More information can be found at: https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/winter-mini-challenge-2020</p>
<p>National Storytelling Week</p> <p>30th January</p>	<p>Stories belong to everyone...what's your story? What will you be telling and where will you be telling it? Every year there are hundreds and hundreds of events during National Storytelling week. It's a celebration of storytelling for all! National Storytelling week this year will run from 30th January to the 6th February. https://www.sfs.org.uk/national-storytelling-week</p>

Happy reading!
Miss Pereira

