

Bury and Whitefield's Reading Newsletter



Introduction

Welcome back to Bury and Whitefield's reading newsletter; your home for all things 'book-ish'.

July brings lots of fun and excitement to school: end of year treats; toy day; non-uniform days; Sports Days... The list goes on. However, it also brings the nerves of transition. Whether that is a simple transition from one teacher to another; a slightly larger transition between Key Stages; or the huge transitions of starting – or leaving – primary school.

Children can worry about these transitions regardless of age or how small we think it is. As a result, I have made this the theme for this month's newsletter. Hopefully, each child can find a book that settles their nerves and shows that this is a common worry; shared by many.

I have said this many times but I do want to reiterate that this is YOUR newsletter so please do let me know if you have any suggestions or requests. I want this newsletter to be as helpful and enjoyable as possible.

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...>

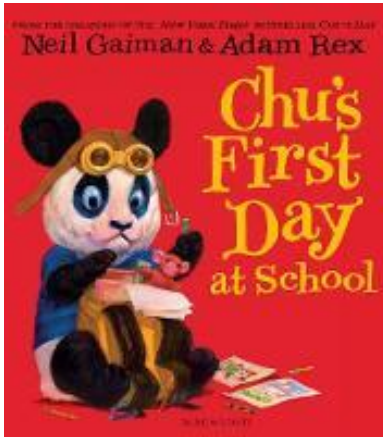
Y3: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3DZGBMFS8GM5V...>

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/3F3MPPM8THCC...>

“We read to know we’re not alone.” – William Nicholson



EYFS Recommendation

Chu's First Day at School (Neil Gaiman & Adam Rex)

Chu is a little panda with a BIG sneeze and when his first day at school approaches he is nervous. Will the other boys and girls be nice? Will they like Chu? A fabulously warm and funny story about little Chu and his enormous sneeze!

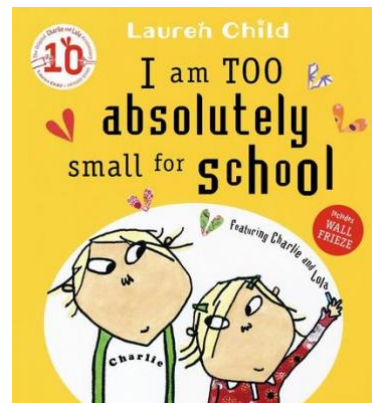
This sweet, beautifully written book – with its gorgeous illustrations and adorable little panda – will help quash any concerns about school. Remember to exaggerate the sneeze for full dramatic effect!

Years 1 and 2 Recommendation

I am TOO Absolutely Small for School (Lauren Child)

Charlie's little sister, Lola, is nearly big enough to go to school...but Lola is not so sure. She thinks it probably would be useful to read and write and count, but she doesn't really have time for lessons – she's much too busy doing extremely important things at home. Anyway, Lola's invisible friend, Soren Lorensen, is slightly nervous about going to school.

Child gives a simple story about starting school extra layers of humour; making it enjoyable for both parents and children.

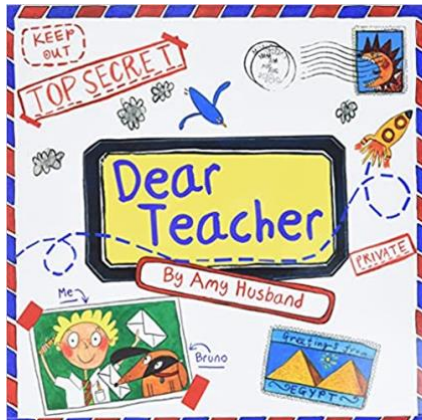


Years 3 and 4 Recommendation

Dear Teacher (Amy Husband)

Can Michael's imagination save him from the first day of school? *Dear Teacher* is a hilarious collection of letters from Michael to his new teacher, explaining why he can't go to class. From travelling to the pyramids of Egypt to getting attacked by pirates and going to the moon in a rocket ship, each letter is increasingly outlandish and covered with Michael's incredibly funny sketches from his many adventures. However, when Michael's teacher writes back telling him how sorry she is he'll miss all of the exciting school activities planned for the year, Michael realises all the fun he'd really miss out on.

This book is perfect for families to read together at home before going back to school and a great light-hearted read. Children will love the wild and colourful illustrations.

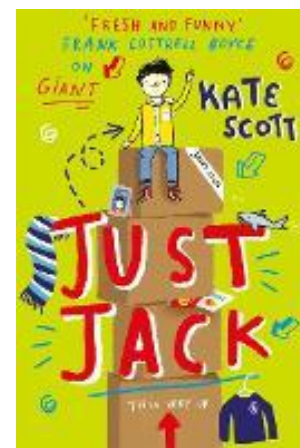


Years 5 and 6 Recommendation

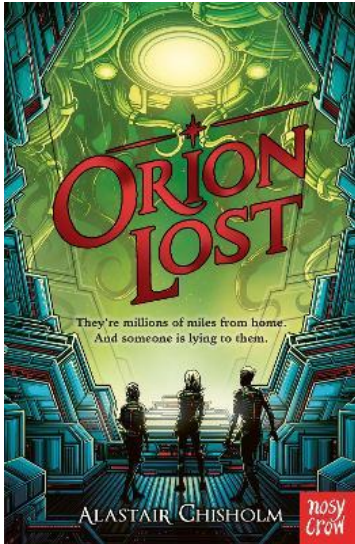
Just Jack (Kate Scott)

Jack knows LOTS about starting a new school. Since Dad left, he and his mum have moved house five times. He also knows about fitting in. The trick is to act exactly like everyone else and make sure no-one ever notices him. But it's hard work trying to be something he isn't and Jack doesn't have any good friends. That is, until Tyler comes along. Tyler is funny and different and might be the key to getting Jack to realise that, although he is brilliant at pretending to be other people, the very best thing he can be is...JUST JACK.

A warm and funny story about making new friends and being yourself. Perfect for fans of *Wonder* and Frank Cottrell Boyce books. It is clever, charming and brilliantly written.



Miss Pereira's Books of the Month



Children's Fiction

Orion Lost (Alastair Chisholm) – 8+

The transport ship Orion is four months out of Earth when catastrophe strikes – leaving the ship and everyone on board stranded in deep space. Suddenly, it's up to 13-year-old Beth, and her friends, to navigate through treacherous and uncharted territory to reach safety. But a heavily-damaged ship, space pirates, a mysterious alien species, and an artificial intelligence (who Beth doesn't know if she can trust) means getting home has never been so difficult.

Hugely gripping, with incredible twists and a fast-paced, action-packed story, this is an unputdownable sci-fi adventure. I was hooked from the start. I loved Beth's relatable character and how the children reacted to the situation. I actually imagined some of our BWJPS pupils as I was reading it. A must-read for fans of science fiction.

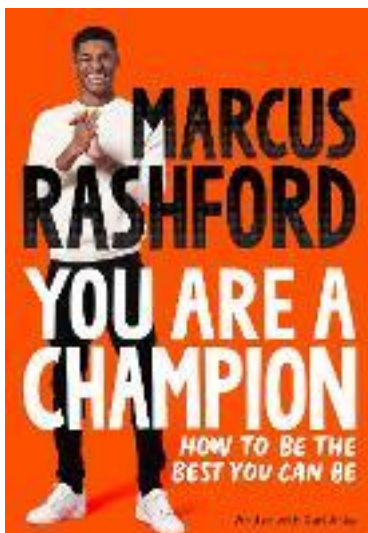
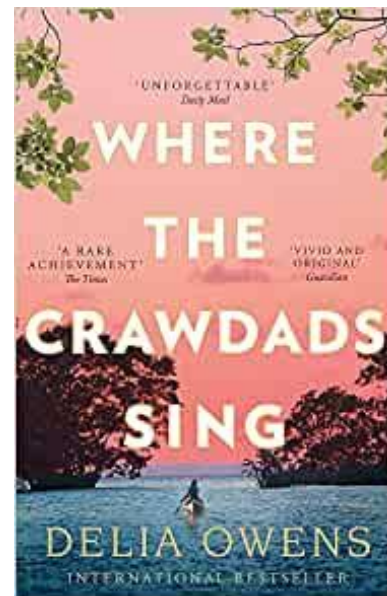
Adult's Fiction

Where the Crawdads Sing (Delia Owens)

For years, rumours of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So, in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home: finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be loved and freed from her lonely existence. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life – until the unthinkable happens.

This exquisite and heart-breaking coming-of-age story, reminds us that we are all subject to the opinions of others and emphasise how these can shape a person. Like 'Orion Lost', I found this book extremely difficult to put down. Owens emerges you into Kya's world and she immediately steals your heart. Beautifully written, with a great pace and story-line; I look forward to reading it again!

WARNING: Evidence of racist language and some events which may cause discomfort.



Children's and Adult's Non-Fiction

You Are a Champion: How to Be the Best You Can Be (Marcus Rashford)

It's hard to know what is possible until you start. You have to be able to dream big and be prepared to work hard towards your dreams. Rashford is famous for his skills both on and off the pitch – but before he was a Manchester United and England footballer, and long before he started his inspiring campaign to end child food poverty, he was just an average kid from Wythenshawe. Now, Marcus Rashford MBE wants to show YOU how to achieve your dreams, in this positive and inspiring guide for life. No matter who you are and no matter where you come from, every single person in the world has the potential to be a champion!

Perfect for children who need to hear that they are already a champion – they just might not know it yet.

“There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates’ loot on Treasure Island.” – Walt Disney

Finding the Right Book

I often get asked, ‘How do I get my child to read?’ This is a tricky one as you should try to avoid forcing a child to read – it should be something they want to and enjoy doing – but I know this is sometimes impossible.

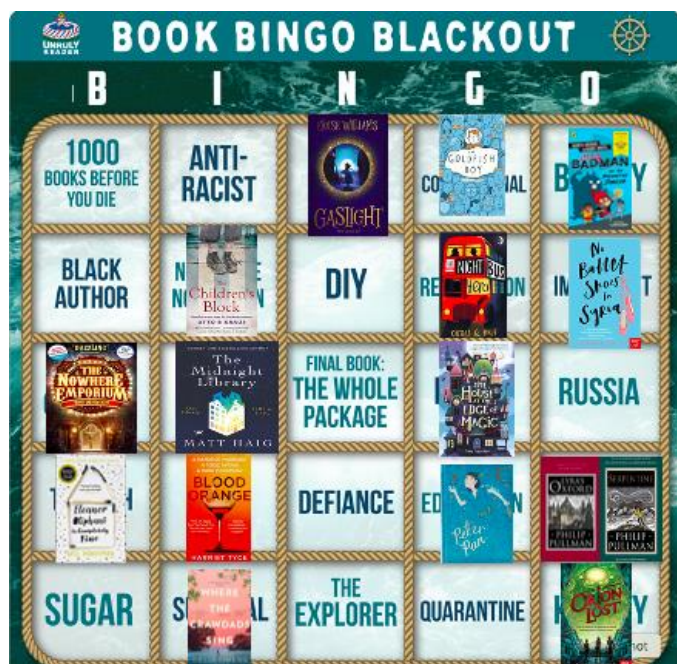
The main trick to encouraging reading for pleasure is to find the book that hooks them. This does not always have to be a chapter book; it could be a comic, magazine, poem or atlas. This will build their enjoyment of the process and usually grows from there. However, to find the right text can be difficult and take time – this is normal. I do not recommend buying lots of books as this can be very costly. Instead, encourage your child to speak to their teacher (or me) and have a conversation about the things they like. We have lots of books in school, which we aim to expand further, and would love to help your child find a book they enjoy.

You could also take them to your local library and allow an hour or two for them to explore. They can pick up, start, put back and try again. If this isn’t possible, most libraries are part of the app: Borrow Box. This allows eBooks to be borrowed and downloaded straight onto your device. Waterstones is also a good place to explore books as they have knowledgeable staff and inviting areas for children to explore a variety of books. I could spend hours browsing the shelves and it’s much easier to gauge if you like a book in store than it is online.

If you’re still struggling, encourage them to talk to their friends about books. Ask what their peers are reading and see if this inspires them to try something new.

It is really important that you allow your child to stop reading any book they are not enjoying. As adults, we know the struggle of trying to read something that we’d rather not and this can be very off-putting for a child; possibly resulting in them being turned off reading altogether. Show them that it’s ok to not finish everything they start, including their school reading books.

Reading Challenge Update



I read a good mix of adult and children’s fiction last month. My favourite book is actually our adult’s book of the month: ‘Where the Crawdads Sing’, which is the first novel by Delia Owens. Another book that I devoured in one day as it was too beautifully written to put down! I did also enjoy ‘Orion Lost’ with its many twists making it a great page-turner for children.

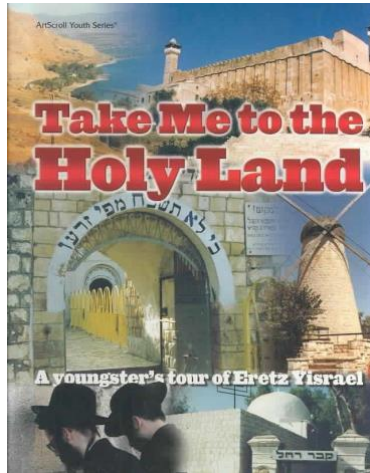
Category	Title	Rating
Unconventional	The Goldfish Boy (Lisa Thompson) (8+)	3.5/5
Knotty	Orion Lost (Alastair Chisholm) (8+)	4/5
Survival	Where the Crawdads Sing (Delia Owens) (18+)	5/5

“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

Take me to the Holy Land (Tsvia Yanofsky) - Recommended ages 9-12



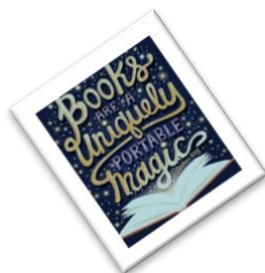
At the moment it is quite difficult to travel to a different country, but many Jewish children will be wanting someday to go to Israel. This informative and colourful book gives an insight into the history and significance of many places in Israel, bringing them to life for the reader.

It is a very special kind of travelogue. In it, she visits numerous places, from the Kosel to the desert and tells her children about them. History, facts, stories, interesting tidbits, personal feelings and beautiful full-colour photographs combine to make an appealing and interesting read.

It is an outstanding introduction of the holiness and beauty of the Holy Land, which children will surely enjoy and appreciate.

Upcoming Events

<p>Reading Together Day</p> <p>16th July</p>	<p>Over 15 organisations collaborating to highlight the importance of reading together. Families across the country are invited to take part in the celebration of reading together on 16th July as part of the Reading Together Day, coordinated by the The Reading Agency.</p> <p>You can find activities to complete here: https://www.sla.org.uk/reading-together-day</p>
<p>Summer Reading Challenge</p>	<p>Starting in July but lasting through August, is the Summer Reading Challenge. When the summer holidays start, you can sign up for free at your local library or online at: https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/wild-world-heroes-intro</p> <p>The challenge is to read six library books (or more – the more, the better) and pick up badges/ stickers along the way.</p>



Happy reading!
Miss Pereira

