

Bury and Whitefield's Reading Newsletter



Introduction

Welcome back to Bury and Whitefield's reading newsletter; your home for all things 'book-ish'. May is host to a few reading related events so make sure you have a look at the event calendar.

An important event this month is Mental Health Awareness Week: a great opportunity to discuss feelings with children and let them know that it is okay to sometimes feel worried or sad. To help with these conversations, and raise awareness, I have centred this month's books around this event. This is a great opportunity to share a book as a family and explore your child's emotions. Whilst I have sectioned them into year groups, they can all be shared with the whole family as they each offer a different element.

Have you read any great books that help explore mental health? Or just a great book that helped you relax? Please feel free to email me with any of your reviews. Thank you to Millie (Y6) who emailed me a wonderful quote from the Pages and Co. series by Anna James. It perfectly summarises why reading is so important.

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...>

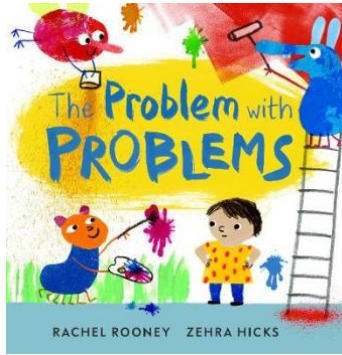
Y3: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3DZGBMFS8GM5V...>

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/3F3MPM8THCC...>

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.” – Joseph Addison



EYFS Recommendation

The Problem With Problems (Rachel Rooney)

Have you ever met a Problem? They come in all shapes and sizes, and can pop up at the most inconvenient times. But you should know some things about them that will help you make them disappear...

This gorgeous picture book will help little ones deal with their pesky problems, whilst enjoying the rhyming text and beautiful illustrations.

Years 1 and 2 Recommendation

Blue (Britta Teckentrup)

Blue lives in the darkest depths of the forest. He has long forgotten how to fly, sing and play. The other birds swoop and soar in the sky above him, the sun warming their feathers, but Blue never joins in. Until one day, Yellow arrives. Step by step, Yellow reaches out to Blue with patience and kindness, and little by little, everything changes.

A thoughtful and uplifting story which is perfect for helping children learn how to deal with – and understand – sadness, and how to help others who might feel sad.

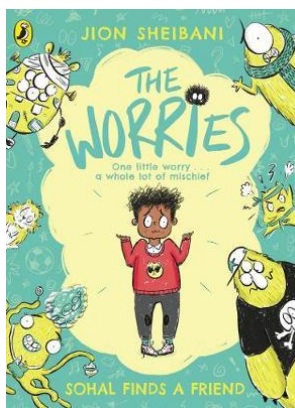


Years 3 and 4 Recommendation

The Worries: Sohal Finds a Friend (Jion Sheibani)

Everyone feels worried sometimes; but what if your worries came to life and started following you around? Sohal worries about a lot of things – the dark, mutant sheep, not having any friends – you name it, he worries about it. So one night he draws his worries to make himself feel better – and somehow they look a lot less worrying once he's scribbled them down... That is, until they come to life! Now it's up to Sohal to work out how to keep his worries under control – and have some fun while he's at it.

A heartfelt, humorous mindfulness manual for fans of funny fiction. This sweet, side-splitting story will provide much comfort to little worriers.



Years 5 and 6 Recommendation

You Are Awesome (Matthew Syed)

I'm not good at sports...I can't do maths...I'm rubbish at drawing...Sound familiar? If you believe you can't do something, the chances are you won't try. But what if you could excel at anything you put your mind to? This book will help with that. It is an inspiring and empowering read for young people to find the confidence to realise their potential. Using examples of successful people, from Mozart to Serena Williams, to demonstrate that success is earned rather than given, it portrays the importance of hard work and determination but – most importantly – the need for self-belief and a Growth Mindset.

Practical, insightful and positive, this is the book to help children build resilience, embrace their mistakes and grow into successful, happy adults.



Miss Pereira's Books of the Month

Children's Fiction



Pages & Co: Tilly and the Bookwanderers (Anna James) – 8+

Since her mother's disappearance, eleven-year-old Tilly has found comfort in stories at Pages & Co., her grandparents' bookshop. But when her favourite characters, Anne of Green Gables and Alice from Wonderland, appear in the shop, Tilly's adventures become very real. Not only can she follow Anne and Alice into their thrilling worlds, she discovers she can 'bookwander' into any story she chooses. Tilly's new ability could even help her solve the mystery of what happened to her mother all those years ago. But danger may be lurking on the very next page...

This is the first in a brilliant series. I have only read the first but Millie (Y6) is working her way through and highly recommends.

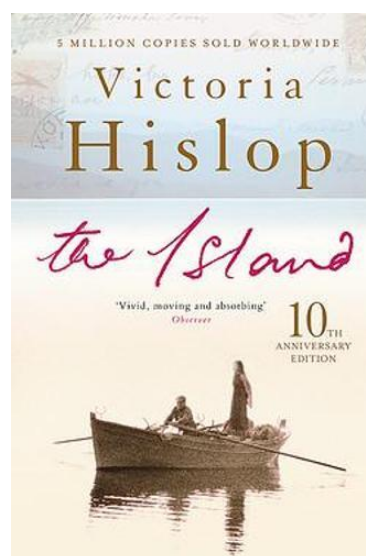
Adult's Fiction

The Island (Victoria Hislop)

On the brink of a life-changing decision, Alexis Fielding longs to find out about her mother's past. But Sofia has never spoken of it. All she admits to is growing up in a small Cretan village before moving to London. When Alexis decides to visit Crete, however, Sofia gives her daughter a letter to take to an old friend, and promises that through her she will learn more.

Arriving in Plaka, Alexis is astonished to see that it lies a stone's throw from the tiny, deserted island of Spinalonga - Greece's former leper colony. Then she finds Fotini, and at last hears the story that Sofia has buried all her life: the tale of her great-grandmother Eleni and her daughters and a family rent by tragedy, war and passion. She discovers how intimately she is connected with the island, and how secrecy holds them all in its powerful grip...

This historical novel has worked its way around school, with many of the staff enjoying the series. Whilst I haven't read it myself, I hear it is gripping and a beautiful read. Enjoy!

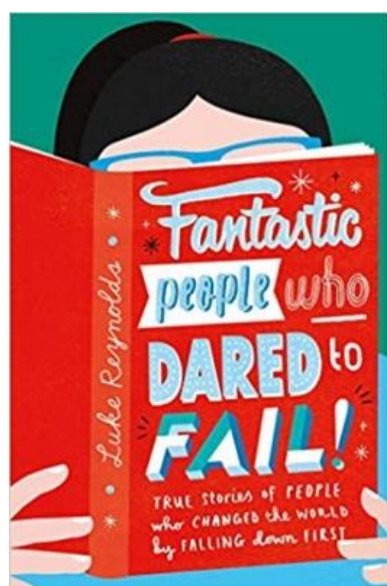


Children's and Adult's Non-Fiction

Fantastic People Who Dared to Fail (Luke Reynolds)

In keeping with this month's theme, here is a book that truly celebrates mistakes or – as I like to call them – life's lessons.

Even the most successful people don't always triumph first time round! Find out how well-known people turned their failures into triumphs with this engaging and positive guide that shows how falling down can just be the first step to making big things happen. Discover the failures and mistakes made by some famous faces you might think have always been successes! From twelve publishers turning down J.K.Rowling, who has since become one of the bestselling authors of all-time; to James Dyson who created over 5000 prototypes before getting his innovative vacuum right. Imagine what you can achieve if you never give up and always believe in yourself!



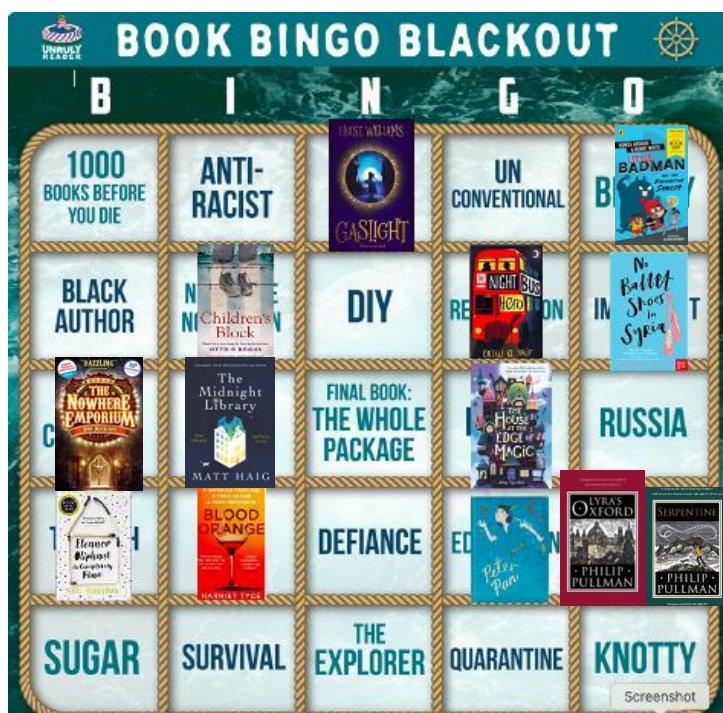
“A book will welcome any reader; any age, any background, any point of view...Books welcome everyone who wants to explore them...” – Anna James

Developing Reading Skills

Last term, I carried out a reading survey across the school and was very shocked by the small number of children that said they had an adult read to them at home. Understandably, the numbers declined the higher up the school I went but this is still worrying. Children of all ages – including those in Year 6 – should be hearing adults read, as this is where they pick up new vocabulary and learn the intonation and expression skills that make an effective reader. It is also a brilliant time to discuss books and develop the joy of sharing a story.

It may sound cliché, but reading to your child is the “chicken soup” of reading education; it helps everything. Research shows reading to kids exposes them to richer vocabulary than they usually hear from the adults who speak to them, and can have positive impacts on their language, intelligence and later literacy achievement. What should you read to them? Anything! Find something that you will enjoy too. It can be pitched slightly higher than their age/ ability as you can discuss vocabulary together and you are taking pressure away by reading the difficult words to them. So take the stage and read aloud to your child.

Reading Challenge Update



Lots of children’s books this month so it has been some light, breezy reading. I highly recommend ‘The Nowhere Emporium’ for any child who loves a bit of fantasy and magic. Unfortunately, I was slightly disappointed by Pullman’s short stories, relating to his Golden Compass series, as they didn’t grip me like his books usually do. However, ‘The Midnight Library’ was incredible. Very grateful to the many people who recommended it to me.

Category	Title	Rating
Eye Catching	The Nowhere Emporium (Ross Mackenzie) (age 8+)	4/5
Instant Classic	The Midnight Library (Matt Haig) (18+)	5/5
Rabbit Hole	Lyra’s Oxford and Serpentine (Philip Pullman) (13+)	2/5
Breezy	Little Badman and the Radioactive Samosa (Humza Arshad & Henry White) (6+)	3.5/5

“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

Sadie and the Big Mountain (Jamie Korngold)



When her preschool plans a Shavuot hike, Sadie is afraid she won't be able to make it to the top of the "mountain" and tries to think of ways to avoid the walk. When the day arrives, it's much different (and better!) than Sadie presumed.

A wonderful book to read and enjoy over Shavuot, especially for children 4 years and above.

Upcoming Events

<p>National Share-a-Story Month</p>	<p>National Share-A-Story Month (NSSM) is an annual celebration of the power of storytelling and story sharing, providing a fantastic opportunity to fulfil the core aim of the FCBG of bringing children and stories together. Lots of fun competitions available at: http://fcbg.org.uk/national-share-a-story-month-2021-competitions/</p>
<p>Children's Book Week</p> <p>3rd – 9th May</p>	<p>Children's Book Week is the annual celebration of books for young people and the joy of reading. Established in 1919, Children's Book Week is the longest-running national literacy initiative in the country. Every year, events are held nationwide at schools, libraries, bookstores, homes — wherever young readers and books connect! https://everychildareader.net/cbw/cbw-resources/</p>
<p>Mental Health Awareness Week</p> <p>16th – 22nd May</p>	<p>The aim of this week is to educate the public about mental health issues and to promote better mental health. This event is also a vehicle to raise funds for the Mental Health Foundation. Runs from 16th – 22nd May 2021 with this year's theme being nature and the positive impact it can have on mental health. For resources, go to: https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week</p>



Happy reading!
Miss Pereira

