

Bury and Whitefield's Reading Newsletter



Introduction

Welcome back to Bury and Whitefield's reading newsletter; your home for all things 'book-ish'. This month is obviously Chanukah so I have decided to base this month's newsletter around giftable books. The books included this month will make lovely additions to any child's bookshelf and feel a little more special. I hope you find something that you like or that you would like to pass on.

Happy Chanukah!

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 wishlist. Keep up the generosity!



Books donated this month

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...>

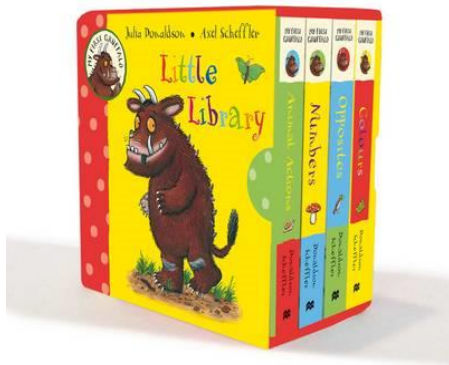
Y3: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3DZGBMFS8GM5V...>

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/3F3MPM8THCCEW...>

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” – Frederick Douglass



EYFS Recommendation

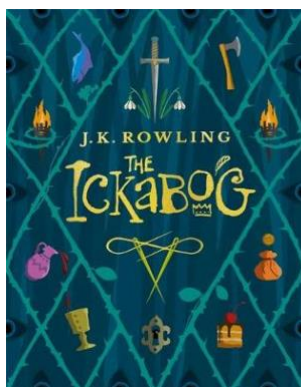
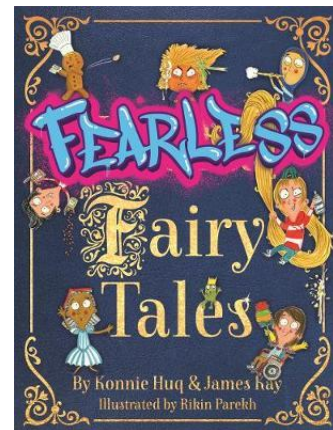
My Gruffalo Little Library (Julia Donaldson)

Learn about colours, numbers, opposites and animals with this fabulous set of four bold, bright board books now available in a miniature slipcase. A perfect gift for young Gruffalo fans with small paws! This will make a lovely gift for any toddler and are nice and sturdy, meaning they can be trusted in your baby's hands without fear of being damaged.

Years 1 and 2 Recommendation

Fearless Fairy Tales (Konnie Huq & James Kay)

A brilliant read for children aged 5+. This illustrated book takes the best-loved fairy tales, shakes them up and brings them uproariously into the 21st century. All your child's favourites are here but turned into something fresh, new and very funny (e.g. pity the three bears who have to put up with Mouldysocks, a boy too busy playing computer games to tidy up). Each story will have your child(ren) – and you – roaring with laughter.



Years 3 and 4 Recommendation

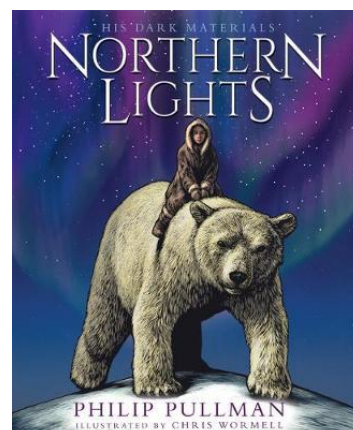
The Ickabog (J.K. Rowling)

The Ickabog is coming... a mythical monster, a kingdom in peril, an adventure that will test two children's bravery to the limit. Discover a brilliantly original fairy tale about the power of hope and friendship to triumph against all odds. Beautifully illustrated, using fan pictures from children of varying ages, this is a stunning book for young readers; surely set to become a classic.

Years 5 and 6 Recommendation

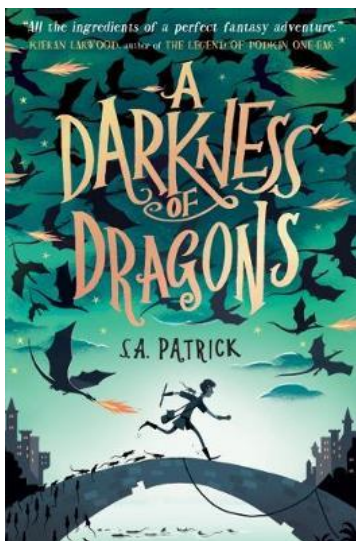
Northern Lights - Illustrated Edn. (Philip Pullman)

Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon's destiny will take them to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Their extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world... This is a classic which has been in my top 5 since being young; now in a beautiful illustrated edition, I highly recommend this for all avid readers.



Miss Pereira's Books of the Month

Children's Fiction



A Darkness of Dragons (S.A.Patrick) – 9+

In a world of dragons, song spells, pipers and battles... Patch Brightwater is a boy in disgrace. Thrown in jail for playing a forbidden spell, he is no one's idea of a hero until he discovers a deadly truth – the evil Piper of Hamelyn is on the loose. With the help of Wren, a girl cursed to live as a rat, and Barver, a fire-breathing dracogriff, Patch must stop the Piper sparking the biggest battle of them all. Three accidental heroes versus one legendary villain...an epic adventure is born!

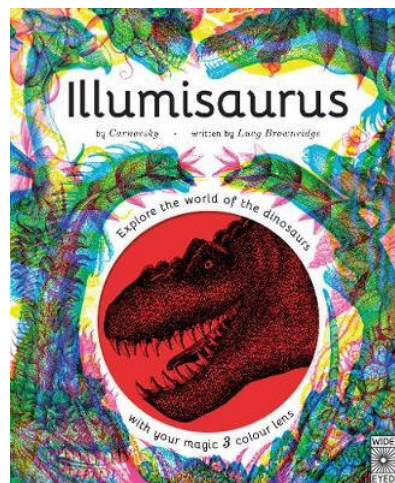
This is the first book in the 'Songs of Magic' series and I have been avidly awaiting the release of the second since last year! A truly brilliant page-turner with twists and turns amongst each chapter. One of my favourites!

Children's and Adult's Non-Fiction

Illumisaurus (Lucy Brownridge) – 5+

Even the most expert young palaeontologist will be awestruck by this book, which gives the closest experience (within printed pages) yet to walking amongst dinosaurs. Huge double-pages take you around the globe and back through time to when dinosaurs roamed the planet. Look at the brightly coloured pages through the special lenses provided and 3D scenes spring into life. Each lens reveals a new layer to the page. Alongside the wonderful 3D illustrations are fact-filled pages of diagrams and text for dinosaur lovers of all ages to read and enjoy!

This innovative, engaging and information-packed book will take you on an eye-opening journey of discovery.

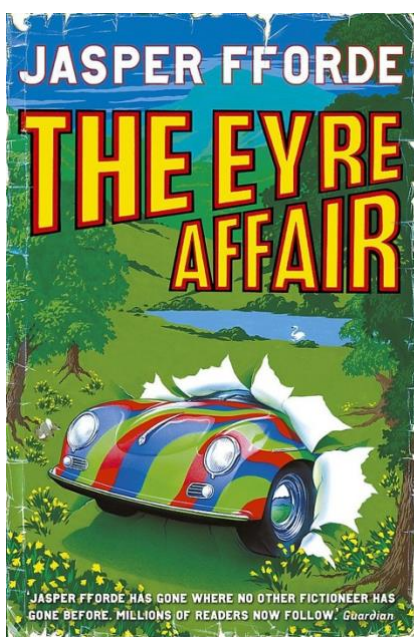


Adult's Fiction

The Eyre Affair (Jasper Fforde)

Set in Great Britain, 1985, where time travel is routine, cloning is a reality (dodos are the resurrected pet of choice), and literature is taken very, very seriously. Acheron Hades, the third most wanted man in the world, has stolen the original manuscript of Martin Chuzzlewit and killed a minor character, who then disappears from every volume of the novel ever printed! Now he's after the beloved Jane Eyre, and it's not long before he plucks her from the pages of Bronte's novel. Enter Thursday Next, the Special Operative's renowned literary detective. With the help of her uncle Mycroft's Prose Portal, Thursday enters the novel to rescue Jane Eyre from this heinous act of literary homicide.

Suspenseful and outlandish, absorbing and fun, The Eyre Affair and its fictional universe will take you on a journey that you won't want to return from. The first in a series, I highly suggest you read them all as they are brilliantly unique, good fun and extremely well written.



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

Developing Prediction Skills through Reading

Predicting is an important reading strategy as, when making predictions, children envision what will come next based on prior knowledge. This encourages them to actively think ahead and ask questions whilst reading, allowing for better connections to be made and encouraging an interaction with the text. Making predictions also encourages readers to use critical thinking and problem solving skills as it requires them to reflect on and evaluate the text, thus extracting deeper meaning and comprehension skills.

Predictions are guesses made using clues from the text or pictures and information they have gathered thus far. The biggest misconception children make is that they can guess anything and get it right. Predictions need to be sensible and based on information they have already accessed or clues they have been given.

To ensure a sensible prediction, children should be encouraged to explain why they think that. As they are justifying their explanation, they should automatically be using information from the text to support their ideas. This should be encouraged.

Activities to help predictions:

- Show them a photo from a newspaper and ask them to predict what the article is about.
- At the end of a chapter, ask your child to predict what will happen next? What do you think the character is going to do now? **Why?**
- Ask questions: From the cover, what do you think this is going to be about? What does this suggest will happen next? Do you think the setting influences the plot?

Making Reading Enjoyable for All the Family

Do you struggle getting your child to read? Does it feel like a chore? Most of the time, this is due to the book. If your child is disheartened due to them not liking the book they are currently reading, please DO NOT force them to finish it. Speak to their teacher to change it (if it is a school reading book) or tell them they can pick something else. Should you or your child be struggling for ideas, feel free to email me and I will do what I can to help.

However, if your child needs a bit of spark putting back into their reading, here are some ideas to try:

- **Host a book tasting.** Print off the cover, blurb and/or the first page of 5-10 new books. Give these to your child(ren) and give them a few minutes to read each one, making any notes on their ‘menu’. This works best if others join in so it would be great if this is something you could do as a family. Read more about book tastings here: <https://bit.ly/2VhTRCI>
- **Take it in turns** to read each other’s books aloud e.g. you read a book aloud (different to theirs) then they read theirs the next night.
- **Show an interest** by asking them about the plot or what they enjoy in a book. Discuss rather than interrogate.
- **Vary their reading experiences** – show them that magazines, comics and picture books count too!
- **Act it out** – let them make a pop up theatre and act out their favourite part of the book. Why not get involved? If you have a part, they’ll have to explain to you what has happened which builds their summarizing skills. Works great with siblings and is great for modelling reading excitement to younger readers.

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.

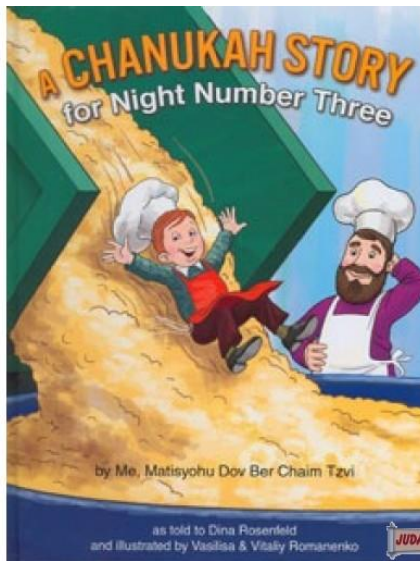
Pop an email to c.pereira@bwips.org.uk and I will be sure to include it in our next newsletter.

“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

A Chanukah Story for Night Number Three - Dina Rosenfeld



This is the story of a boy with a VERY long name (Matisyahu Dov Ber Chaim Tzvi) whose birthday falls on Chanukah. It is a very funny story, written in rhyme, about how Matisyohu Dov Ber Chaim Tzvi dreams of making something far more exciting than plain birthday cake! He is determined to make the world’s biggest potato latke, all for himself.

His wacky adventure involves six hundred and nine potatoes, a cement mixing truck, a dump truck and the kitchen at the local hospital. Yet the story also teaches an important lesson - sharing with others and cheering people up is really the greatest way to celebrate.

This book has been recently reprinted with beautiful, colourful illustrations and would make a great Chanukah gift. It even includes a delicious latke recipe!

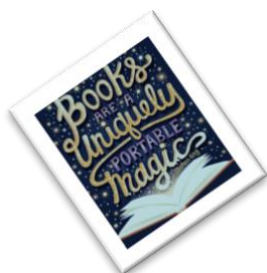
P.S. Year Two will be giving us a sneak preview of this story at the Chanukah concert!

Upcoming Events

Unfortunately, there aren’t many reading events throughout the month of December. 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), take a trip to an independent bookseller – who often have lots of events on – or let them write a book review for Amazon.

Winter Mini-Reading Challenge

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>



Happy reading!
Miss Pereira

