

# BWJPS READING NEWSLETTER



**AUTUMN TERM  
2023**

## MY FAMILY AND OTHER ROMANS - 8+

Very comical plot that will have you rethinking what you knew about the Romans. Great read!



Silvia just wants to fit in. So, being catapulted back to Ancient Rome and finding out her mum is a war goddess is not part of the plan. As for the rest of the family – her sister is a cyclops, her uncle is building an army, and her role-play obsessed dad is now a lava soldier.

And to top it all, the Romans seem to think she's some sort of chosen one with the fate of the world resting on her shoulders. Can Silvia embrace her differences and sort this mess out?



## MARIE BASTING SAYS...

Hello Bury and Whitefield Jewish Primary School!

Happy new school year! My name's Marie Basting and I write funny fantastical adventure stories for children. Well at least I think they're funny though I guess you'll be the judge of that!

My latest book, *My Family and Other Romans*, is about a schoolgirl called Silvia who travels through a portal back to Ancient Rome where she discovers she's a demi-god. And with a cyclops for a sister, lava monster dad, and mum who's a war goddess, this is just the start of her adventures. Maybe it will be the start of your adventures too. Because books are your portal; the gateway that will take you on a million different journeys.

Growing up, I didn't have many books, so I used to visit my local library with my mum. We used to walk there to save the bus fare. It was a long walk for little legs, but I didn't mind because any good adventure requires a bit of effort. And there were just so many different worlds to visit. If I didn't like a book, it didn't matter. I could just give it back and find a new story - a story I could relate to, that spoke to me in some way. Sometimes I'd find a story that made me think anything was possible. Even being a writer. I hope this new school year, you'll try lots of different books too and have some fantastic adventures of your own. Reading made me a writer. Where will reading take you?

Warmest wishes,

Marie xx

## AUTHOR OF THE MONTH



# BOOKS OF THE TERM



**DAWN MCMILLAN**

"It's Halloween and I'm so excited! It's my favourite time of the year. I'd like to be scary, wear something hairy or be a pirate my friends would fear." A brilliantly funny picture book from the hilarious duo behind the phenomenal I Need A New Bum! series. It's Halloween and a costume is needed. But what will it be? A Ghost? A pirate? No, he's bought a balloon....how will a balloon be a costume? A balloon with a face...but where does it go?



A book that genuinely made me laugh - and how can it not? This series is hilariously good fun for adults and children alike. Enjoy!

**EYFS**

**IBTIHAJ MUHAMMAD & S. K. ALI**

It's that day at school when the photographer comes in and Faizah is wearing a very special dress. As their teacher asks the class to imagine the sort of world they want, Faizah draws a kind world, her best friend Sophie a superhero world, and the two spend break times helping other children. No wonder, in their class photo, everyone is smiling. When it comes to the sibling photos, Faizah is upset because she doesn't match Asiya until a final act of kindness from her friends makes everything all right.



A book full of the happiness that comes from being kind, this is a lovely story to read and share. Not only is it filled with beautiful illustrations but it shows the power of being kind, the difference a good friend can make and - in particular - the joy of sibling love.

**DAV PILKEY**

**KS1**

Piggy is back, and his newest plot is his most diabolical yet. WHAT new villains are on the horizon? WHERE are they all coming from? And WHO will step forward to save the city when scoundrels sabotage our Supa Buddies? Find out in DOG MAN #11 - it's EPIC! Dog Man appeals to readers of all ages and explores universally positive themes, including: empathy, persistence and the importance of doing good.

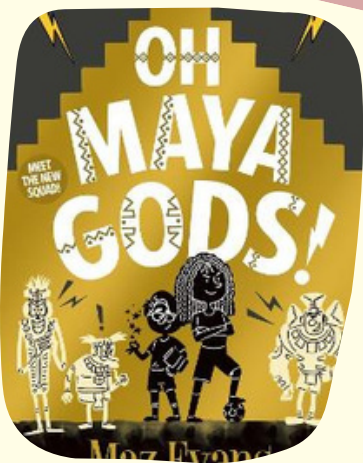


11th in the series and still the most popular book amongst a chunk of our pupils. I had to see what the fuss was about and I get it. The crazy plot and brilliant illustrations instantly grab you. Is it the most academic? No. Will it get your child excited about picking up a book? Definitely.

**LKS2**

**MAZ EVANS**

Meet the children of Elliot and Virgo, beloved heroes of Who Let The Gods Out? It's the turn of football-loving Vesper and super bright Aster to take on the world's worst-behaved immortals. Beginning with Maya bad boy, Kizin, and his Lords and Ladies of Death ... Superstar author Maz Evans's hilarious new adventure is a welcome return to the bestselling world of the Who Let the Gods Out? series. Packed full of edge-of-your-seat adventure, belly laughs and Maya mythology - as well as a brand-new Gods Squad led by Vesper and Aster - your favourite characters are back.



Maz Evans understands how to write for children: she blends higher-order vocabulary, stimulating plot-lines and funny characters incredibly well to produce great reads for all. I was very excited to read this and it did not disappoint.

**UKS2**

# WHAT'S COMING UP?

A great selection of books are due to be published in the upcoming months so pre-order or keep an eye out but do not miss out on these highly-anticipated new titles:

KIDS



The Crayons love our planet and are proud of their contributions. White ice caps, Green trees, Blue oceans and skies, Brown soil . . . and more! Even Beige is proud of his contribution: Wheat! This funny book shows the beauty of our planet – and why it needs our help.

Release date: Feb 15



On the day they are born, each Swift is given a name and a definition, and it is assumed they will grow up to match. Unfortunately, Shenanigan Swift has other ideas. Which is lucky, really, because when one of the Family tries to murder Arch-Aunt Schadenfreude, someone has to work out whodunit.

Release date: Jan 4



A new instalment of the popular 'Inheritance Games' saga arrives. The setup focuses on billionaire Avery Grambs and the Hawthorne brothers as they ramp up a new gauntlet of puzzles for the next generation.

But with fame and fortune on the line, not everyone is playing fair. Release date: July 30

YA

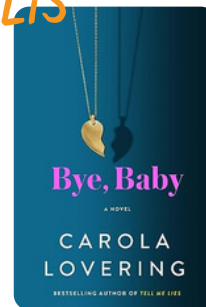


Prepare for the exciting return to the sprawling world of Elfame; home to adventure, romance, ancient relics, scheming fae, palace intrigue, and the occasional psychopathic storm hag. Advance word suggests much to discuss in this concluding chapter of this acclaimed Duology. Release date: April 2

ADULTS



Set in Prohibition-era Chicago, is a kind of crime-fiction love story: Born into the Black upper class, reporter Nelly Sawyer is dedicated to exposing injustice. Teaming with biracial speakeasy manager Jay Shorey, she aims to take down a notorious crime boss. Things get rough. Release date: January 30



Billie and Cassie, best friends since seventh grade, have grown apart in recent years. When Cassie's infant is kidnapped, Billie is deeply concerned—for all the wrong reasons. Using alternating POVs, Lovering digs into the dark-side of female friendships. Release date: March 5

## READING CHALLENGE

The end of autumn term can only mean one thing: it's nearly 2024. And what better way to start the new year than with a new reading challenge? A couple of years ago, I invited you all to complete a reading challenge with me and this year it returns. Each month, I will post the month's reading 'theme' on Facebook. All you have to do is reply with a picture of you and/or your child reading a book linked to the theme.

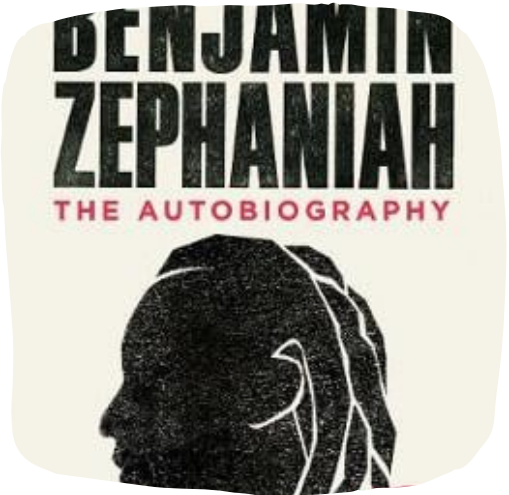
Every entry will receive a bookmark and a raffle ticket to be entered into our big prize draw. Feel free to enter separately (adults and children) as more entries mean more raffle tickets.

**THEMES:**  
JAN - NEW  
FEB - BOOK ADAPTED  
TO THE SCREEN  
MARCH - PICTURE BOOK

# MRS W'S TOP PICKS




## ONE FOR THE ADULTS



I have been a fan of Zephaniah's since I read 'Face' in high-school and have always admired his political stance outside of his writing. He has inspired so many through his writing and activism work so I couldn't wait to read this book. Now I admire him more. A great piece of work for a truly great writer and man.

In the early 1980s when punks and Rastas were on the streets protesting about unemployment, homelessness and the National Front, Benjamin's poetry could be heard at demonstrations, outside police stations and on the dance floor. By the early 1990s, Benjamin had performed on every continent in the world (a feat which he achieved in only one year) and he hasn't stopped performing and touring since. Nelson Mandela, after hearing Benjamin's tribute to him while he was in prison, requested an introduction to the poet that grew into a lifelong relationship, inspiring Benjamin's work with children in South Africa. The Life and Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah is a truly extraordinary life story which celebrates the power of poetry and the importance of pushing boundaries with the arts.



## ONE FOR THE KIDS/ YA

Do you even need my opinion when this book has been publicised everywhere for how amazing it is?! Winner of Waterstones' 'Book of the Year', Rundell manages to create a world so enchanting in a story that's so unputdownable that I cannot recommend it enough. The first in what I know is going to be an extremely popular series.



'It was a very fine day, until something tried to eat him.'  
A boy called Christopher is visiting his reclusive grandfather when he witnesses an avalanche of mythic creatures come tearing down the hill. This is how Christopher learns that his grandfather is the guardian of one of the ways between the non-magical world and a place called the Archipelago: a cluster of magical islands, where all the creatures we tell of in myth, live and breed and thrive alongside humans. They have been protected for thousands of years from being discovered; now, terrifyingly, the protection has worn thin, and creatures are breaking through.

Then a girl, Mal, appears in Christopher's world. She is in possession of a flying coat, is being pursued by a killer, and is herself in pursuit of a baby griffin. Mal, Christopher and the griffin embark on an urgent quest across the wild splendour of the Archipelago, where sphinxes hold secrets and centaurs do murder, to find the truth – with unimaginable consequences for both their worlds. Together the two must face the problem of power, and of knowledge, and of what love demands of us.

