Guyhirn Church of England Primary School and Pre-School

Reading Newsletter

Spring Term 2025

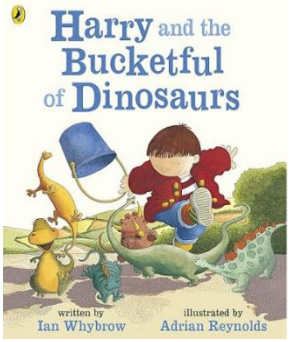
Welcome to the latest edition of our Reading Newsletter. We hope you will really enjoy reading all about what we are doing to promote reading for pleasure at school and at home. You will find updates on everything that is happening regarding reading at school, our reading awards and achievements presented at school in our celebration assembly.

Reading Challenge

It has been lovely to see so many children engaging in the reading challenge! The children have been writing some lovely book reports to go with their reading – well done! The reading challenge is exactly that – a challenge! Lots of different genres to read, some classics and some brilliant authors. Again, we are encouraging you to read with your children – there may be some texts they find a little challenging!

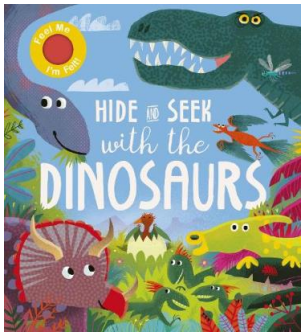
Books being used this term

Nene Class – Pre-school



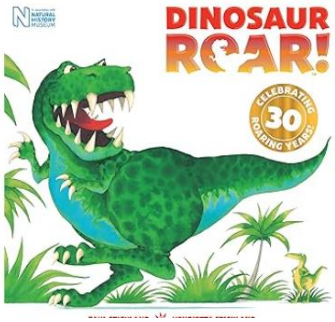
Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs by Ian Whybrow

Harry finds some dusty plastic dinosaurs in Nan's attic. He cleans them, finds out their names and takes them everywhere - until, one day, the dinosaurs get lost! The lost property man gets a surprise when Harry proves the dinosaurs are his by calling them over to him.



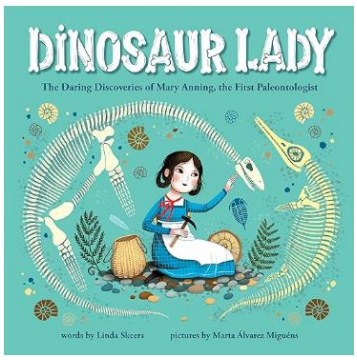
Hide and Seek Dinosaur by Rosamund Lloyd

Look out, there's a T-rex about! Can you find the dinosaurs before they find you?



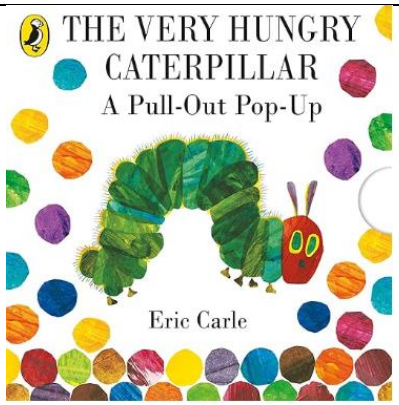
Dinosaur Roar by Henrietta Stickland

Join in the dinosaur fun with this rhyming modern classic, Dinosaur Roar! Discover colourful dinosaur characters on every page! With a simple, rhyming text that is perfect for reading aloud, coupled with bold and charming illustrations, this much-loved picture book classic has been delighting young dinosaur fans for over twenty-five years.



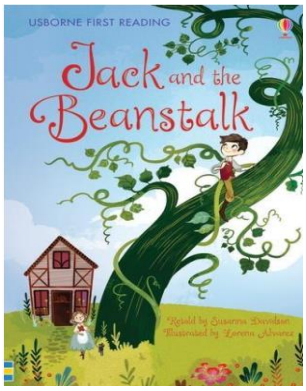
Dinosaur Lady by Linda Skeers

A beautifully illustrated picture book biography of Mary Anning that will enlighten children about the discovery of the dinosaurs and the importance of female scientists, perfect for fans of The Girl Who Thought in Pictures



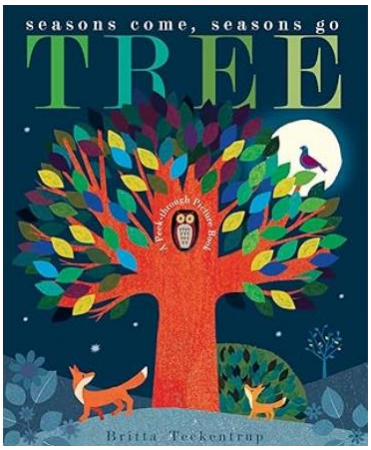
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

The Very Hungry Caterpillar is one of the most beloved children's stories of all time and is the essential first book for babies. This bright and beautiful fold-out pop-up book follows the Very Hungry Caterpillar's journey from tiny caterpillar to beautiful butterfly.



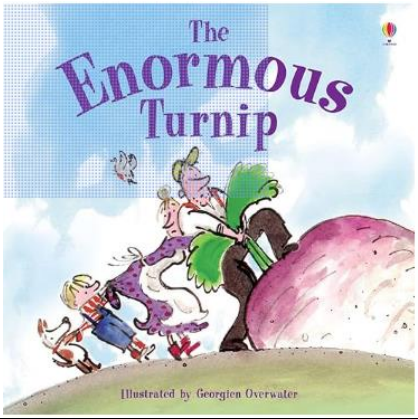
Jack and the Beanstalk by Susanna Davidson

When Jack climbs up an enormous beanstalk, he discovers a giant's castle high up in the clouds. But the giant likes to eat little boys... How ever will Jack escape?



Tree by Britta Teekentrup

Explore the beauty of the changing seasons in this timeless peek-through book with gorgeous artwork by Britta Teckentrup and lyrical text by Patricia Hegarty. Following the life-cycle of a tree through spring, summer, autumn and winter, your little one will be immersed in the rhythm of the seasons with this striking picture book. Die-cuts let you peep through the pages and vibrant artwork is paired with gentle text to capture the nuances of the changing seasons.

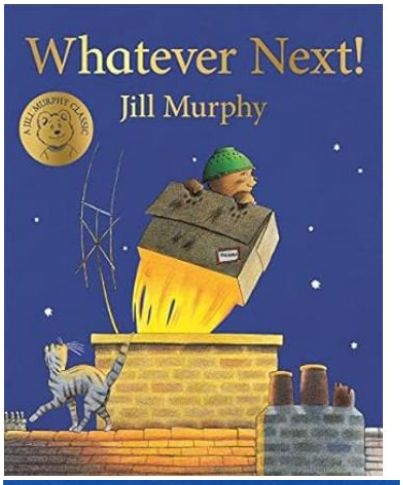


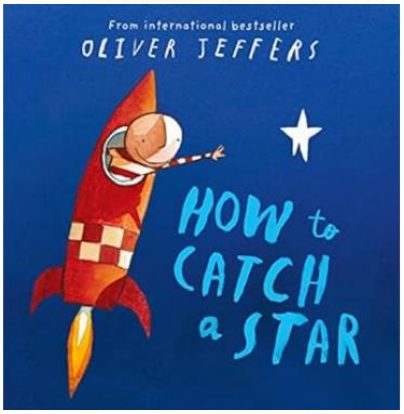
The enormous Turnip by Katie Daynes

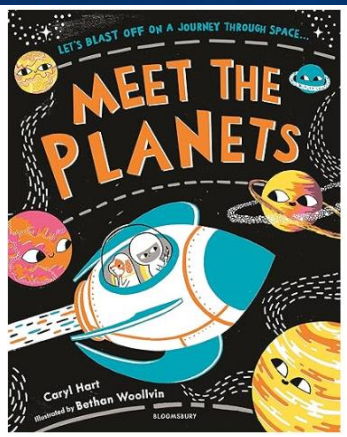
When the farmer can't pull a turnip out of the ground, he enlists his entire family to help him. In this book, the moral is that it takes everyone working together to unearth the enormous vegetable.

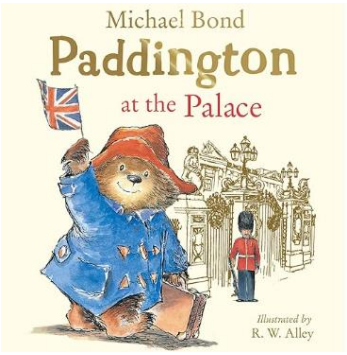
Moreton Class

EYFS









Reception children will be having any stories read to them to help them develop a love of stories.

They will use the stories to help them talk about the story, re-tell the story, draw pictures and create art work as well as to start the process of writing simple words.

Whatever Next! by Jill Murphy

The moon and back before bath time? Whatever next

Baby Bear wants to go on one more adventure before bed – a quick trip to the moon. Mrs Bear isn't pleased, and anyway, she says, Baby Bear doesn't have a rocket. Luckily, there's one under the stairs . . .

How to catch a star by Oliver Jeffers

There once was a boy who loved stars so much that he wished he had one of his very own. Every night he watched the stars in the sky from his bedroom window and dreamed of how he could be their friend and how they could play hide-and-go-seek together

So, one day, he decided to set about catching a star of his very own…

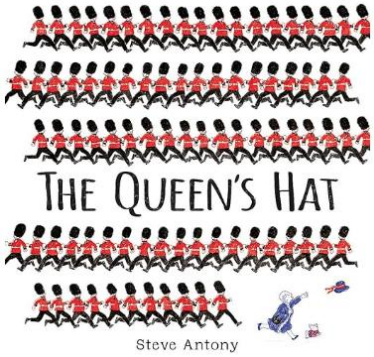
Meet the planets by Caryl Hart

Zooooooooom! We're off on an exciting space adventure in our rocket to meet all the planets of the solar system.

Join in with the rhymes and spot all the smiley-faced, friendly planets, from shimmering Saturn to mighty Mars. Little ones will have a blast (and be back in time for bed!) in this striking, read-aloud, story-led picture book.

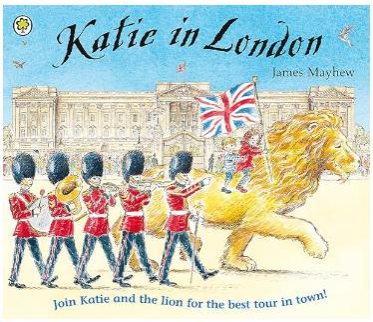
Paddington at the Palace

When Mr Gruber takes Paddington to Buckingham Palace to watch the Changing of the Guard, there are so many people in the way he can't see a thing. Luckily, a mysterious someone 'on high' appears to like small bears…



The Queen's Hat by Steve Antony

A sudden gust of wind sets off a marvellous London adventure for the Queen, the Queen's men and one very special hat. So let's follow one determined, daredevil queen through the zoo, over Tower Bridge and up Big Ben... just where will that hat land?



Katie in London by James Mayhew

Katie has the best tour of London in town when a friendly lion shows her the sights.

When Katie and her cousin Jack visit London with Grandma, they don't think there's much to see and do. At Trafalgar Square they meet a talking stone lion, and he takes them on a wonderful tour of the city taking in such sights as The Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and the London Eye!

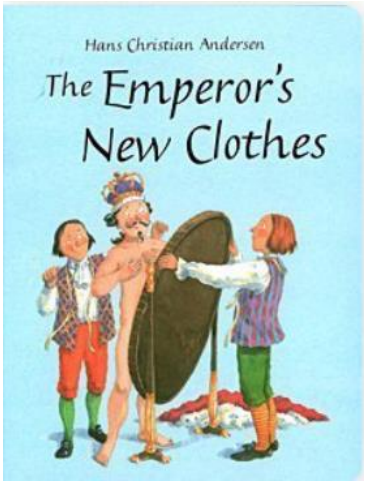
Year 1

Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

The Tale of Peter Rabbit is a children's book written and illustrated by Beatrix Potter that follows mischievous and disobedient young Peter Rabbit as he gets into, and is chased around, the garden of Mr. McGregor. He escapes and returns home to his mother, who puts him to bed after offering him chamomile tea.

We will be reading the story as part of our whole class reading lessons and then re-telling the story over the next few weeks. Finally we will write a set of instructions to help the children escape from Mr McGregor.

Year 1



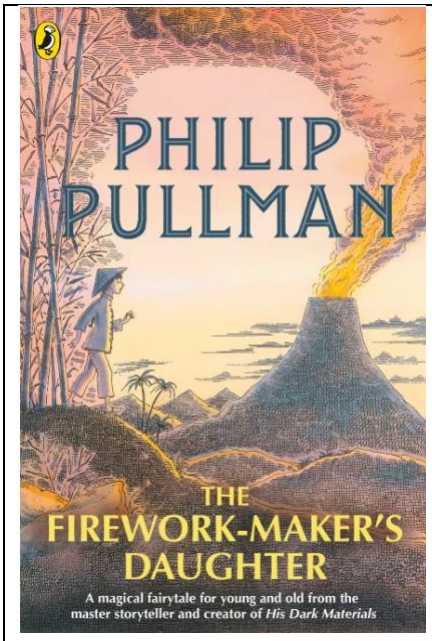
<u>The Emperors New Clothes by Hans Christian Anderson</u>

Two dishonest tailors dupe a vain emperor into believing their imaginary "fabric of dreams" really exists. Because the tailors have said only the wise can see the cloth, no one will tell the truth. Just one child innocently blurts out the fact that the emperor isn't wearing any clothes.

Children will also be re-telling this story and writing setting descriptions.

The children will also be reading The Little Mermaid.

Marriott Class Year 2, 3 and 4

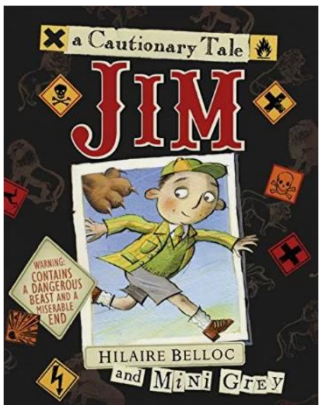


The Firework Makers Daughter by Phillip Pullman

In English this term we will be studying the text 'The Firework Makers Daughter' by Phillip Pullman

This book is fascinating adventure story, about a Lila a girl who has an ambition to be a firework maker herself. Her father does not think this is a suitable choice for her, and so she sets off herself on a journey to complete the final tasks she must do to become a firework maker. The journey is full of risks and dangers and there are moments when it seems that she might not succeed. This is a story about the importance of believing in yourself, and persevering, even when you have to face a number of difficulties, including other people not believing in you. It is also about the inner strengths that we often hold inside ourselves, without realising.

The children will write a biography about the author, Phillip Pullman, write an instructional text as well as a narrative with speech, setting and character description.



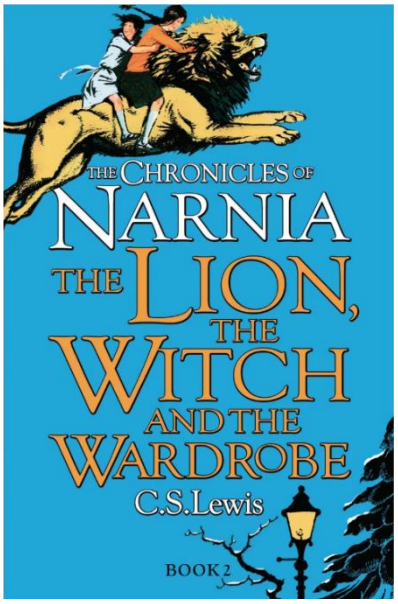
Jim – A cautionary tale by Hillarie Belloc

Award-winning illustrator Mini Grey turns her inimitable hand to Hilaire Belloc's classic cautionary tale of Jim: who ran away from his Nurse and was eaten by a Lion!

First published in 1907, Belloc's wickedly funny poem describing the sad end of Jim is now fabulously illustrated by Mini Grey for an extra-special new edition. This is darkly comic, word of warning about the dangers of being spoiled is the perfect tongue-in-cheek corrective for little ones who have been a little overindulged!

The children will read, analyse and perform the poem.

Magdalene Class Year 5 and 6

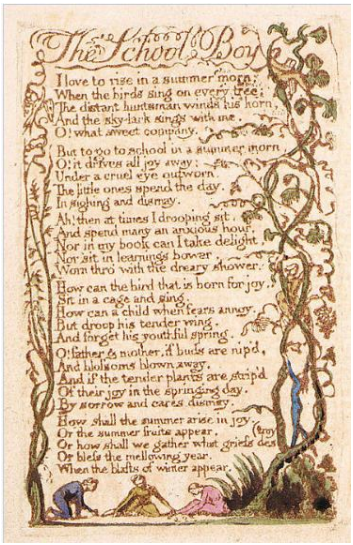


The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

In C.S. Lewis's The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe, we find ourselves in the ordinary life of the four Pevensie siblings, sent to live in a professor's country house to escape wartime London. The youngest, Lucy, stumbles upon a magical world inside a wardrobe during a game of hide-and-seek. This world, known as Narnia, being enchanted by the White Witch, is in a state of eternal winter.

Lucy befriends a faun named Mr. Tumnus, who under the influence of the Witch, initially plans to hand her over to her, but instead ends up comforting Lucy and returning her safely back outside the wardrobe. Lucy shares her discovery with her siblings, but with no physical proof of her adventure, they do not believe her.

The children will be writing a biography about the author, C.S. Lewis, persuasive advert to encourage families to evacuate children out of War time London, a fantasy story with a portal as well as a balanced argument.



The Schoolboy by William Blake

"The School Boy" appears in William Blake's 1794 collection Songs of Experience, which he later gathered into the volume Songs of Innocence and of Experience. The poem is a dramatic monologue in the voice of an 18th-century English schoolboy, who hates being cooped up in his classroom and would much rather play outside in the summer sun. The poem treats his frustration as not only serious but tragic, suggesting that the school system traps students like "bird[s]" in "cage[s]" and prevents them from achieving their full potential. The schoolboy closes with a plea to his parents, warning that his youthful promise may be "nipped" in the "bud[]" if he's not allowed to roam free, play, and enjoy childhood.

The children will read, analyse and perform the poem.

A message from School

Useful links to access books

https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/

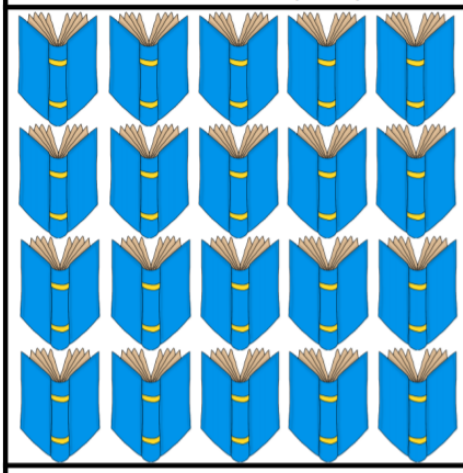
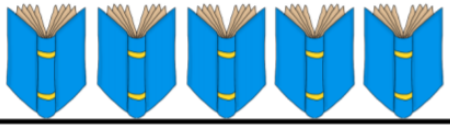
https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/

https://monkeypen.com/pages/free-childrens-books

https://www.amazon.co.uk/free-kids-books/s?k=free+kids+books

https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/free-ebooks/ebooks-nook/kids/_/N-ry0Z8qaZtu1

Reading is an extremely important part of your child's education. Children need to read daily to practise their skills and further develop these, to be able to fully understand a text. Please listen to your children read everyday and write in their reading record. We encourage the children to read a minimum of four times a week, and for this they will receive a regular reader certificate. As they read more books and reach the milestones of 5, 10,15,20,25,30 etc books they will receive further certificates and their name will be placed and moved along the reading display. Children are extremely pleased when they receive these certificates and enjoy seeing their name on the display. PLEASE listen to your child read every day and help them achieve their goals.

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3,600 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year
		
Scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.

BENEFITS OF **READING** to your Child

Parents play an integral part in their children's education and helping them reach their full potential. Here are some benefits of reading to your children:

Creates new bonds.

With a majority of our days spent looking at computer, TV and phone screens, it's important to take a few moments to spend quality time with your children. Reading to your children also can build an emotional connection. It's a win-win.

Teaches them the basics.

Teaching children to read is like building a house — you need to have a solid foundation that you can build upon later in life.

Helps them sleep.

Getting a good night's rest is important for developing children, and reading to them while they are in bed can calm their their minds and bodies.

Improves logical thinking skills.

Reading to children helps their ability to grasp abstract concepts, apply logic, recognize cause and effect, and use good judgment.

Improves communication skills.

When you spend time reading to children, they will be much more likely to express themselves and relate to others in a healthy way.