



# Holy Trinity Catholic School

## Reading Newsletter

Autumn 2020

Welcome to our first reading newsletter of the new academic year. Whether your child hasn't been able to put a book down during lockdown and summer, or if you've struggled to get them to pick one up, this newsletter is for you!

What a wonderful first half term we have had! It has been brilliant having the whole school back and having conversations with children about what they are enjoying reading.

In the midst of this pandemic and with so much uncertainty ahead about Christmas and the world in general, I have collated some of the best books to support children with any worries or anxiety and to promote their mental health and wellbeing. This is such an important issue and books can be a wonderful opportunity to open up discussions about feelings and concerns with children, as well as what they are feeling happy and optimistic about, too!

Mrs McGeehan

## The Importance of Reading for Pleasure

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF  
**READING 20**  
MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

**20:00**

minutes per day

will be exposed to  
**1.8 MILLION**  
words per year  
and is more likely  
to score in the  
**90th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

A student who reads

**5:00**

minutes per day

will be exposed to  
**282,000**  
words per year  
and is more likely  
to score in the  
**50th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

A student who reads

**1:00**

minute per day

will be exposed to  
**8,000**  
words per year  
and is more likely  
to score in the  
**10th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

Source: Nagy, Anderson and Herman, 1987



There is overwhelming evidence that literacy has a significant relationship to people's life chances. Reading for pleasure is more important than either wealth or social class as an indicator of success at school.

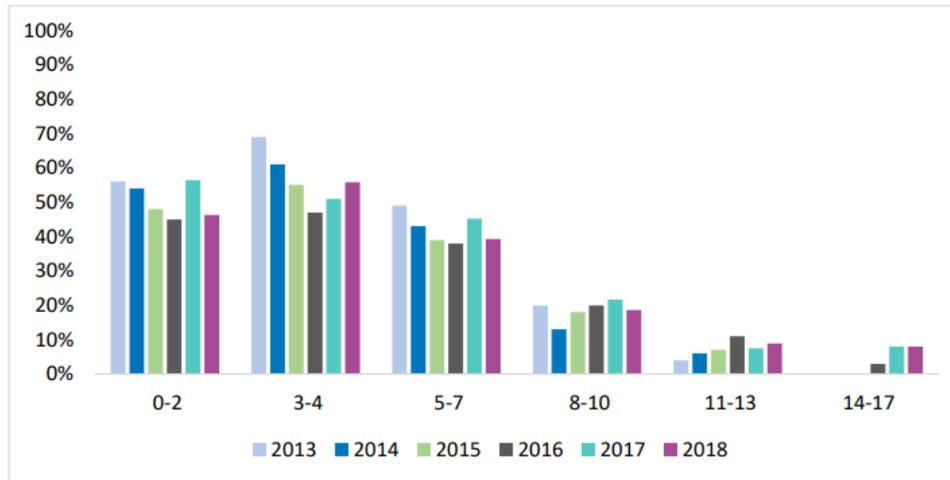
If your child isn't a 'book worm' yet, don't worry! There are so many wonderful and exciting authors out there, that there's a book to engage and inspire your child out there... they just may not have discovered it yet!

# Bedtime Stories

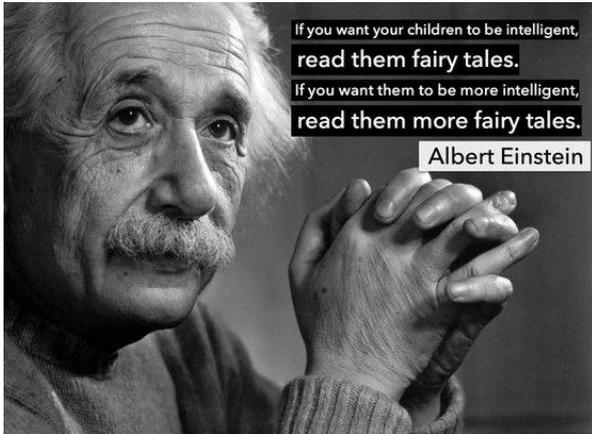
## Parents are reading to children less often (nationally)

Reading to children is in decline. 2018 data reveals a year-on-year decline in reading to 0-2s and 5-10s. There was a small uplift with 11-13s.

### Daily reading to children: 6-year trend



Source: Nielsen's Understanding the Children's Book Consumer, 2013-2018



Children are never too old for a bedtime story! Find a high quality book with your child (perhaps search our school website for 'reading newsletter' to find previous editions to browse, too!) and try to build it into a bedtime routine. Having that quiet time together to share a story is magical and a lovely, calm way to end the day. Plus, you also get to enjoy the story, too! Before long, your child will soon be hooked on books (if they're not already) and will be absorbing a wealth of rich vocabulary that they, in turn, can then try using in their own writing.

Books to support and promote children's  
mental health and wellbeing

**THE READING AGENCY**

Free at your library

Books to help you feel better

# READING WELL

for children

All books are recommended by children and health professionals

reading-well.org.uk

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Libraries Connected

**READING WELL**

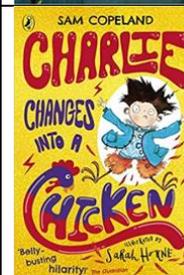
**After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again) By Dan Santat**

A wonderful book on overcoming fears and anxieties after a difficult experience! It does so well showing how your feelings towards things you used to enjoy can be affected, but how little steps can help you heal.



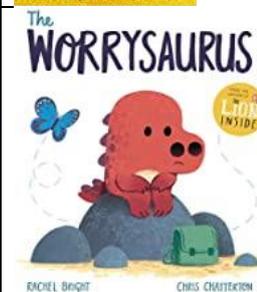
**Charlie Changes into a Chicken By Sam Copeland**

Shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. Charlie Changes into a Chicken is a humorous book, which also sparks a great discussion over how worry presents itself.



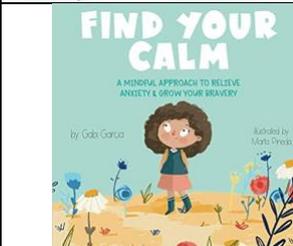
**The Worrysaurus By Rachel Bright and Chris Chatterton**

A fun and reassuring tale about dealing with worries. This book is beautifully illustrated and will help to open up conversations in a gentle and approachable way.



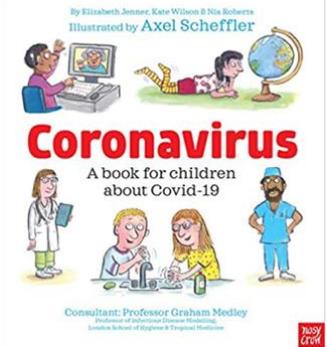
**Find Your Calm By Gabi Garcia**

A practical support book which children can follow along, as the young narrator practises what helps her so that the anxiety doesn't take over.



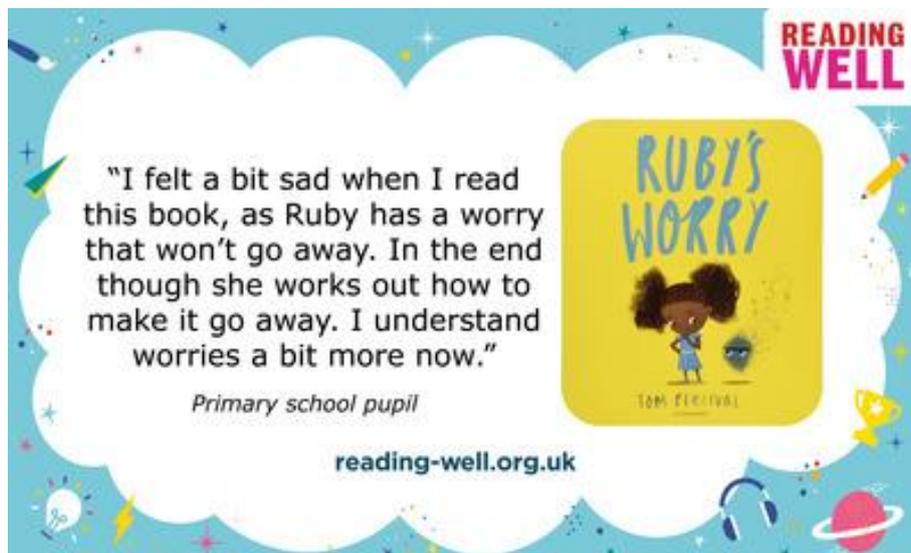
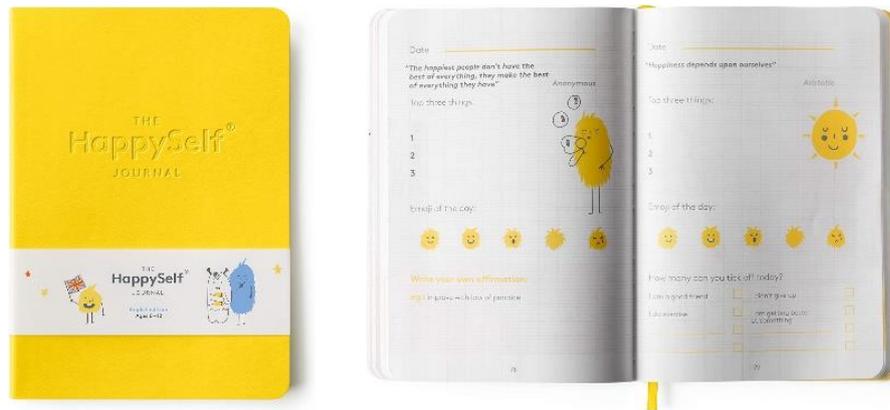
## Coronavirus: A book for children about Covid-19 By Elizabeth Jenner, Kate Wilson & Nia Roberts

Available free as a digital copy, or only £1.99 for a paperback copy, this is an approachable book that provides clear explanations about Covid-19 and its effects – both from a health perspective and the impact it has on a family's day-to-day life.



## The 'Happy Self' Journal

More of a 'writing' book than a 'reading' book, but this 'journal' can be a powerful tool for children aged 6 to 11, to focus on the positives.



For a HUGE range of quality books on a range of issues including hope, togetherness, fear, kindness, lockdown, social distancing, positivity, coronavirus and so much more, please do take a look at this stunning site:

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/returning-to-school>

**Author Spotlight**  
**Nizrana Farook**



## *A special message from Nizrana...*

I hope you had a lovely and restful summer and are ready for the new term ahead. I've been enjoying the sunshine, summer fruits and lots of books!

A new year in school brings so many changes, and this one especially so. But some things always remain constant, and for me, reading is one of them. It's an escape into different worlds that are always there for me, and I find that so comforting.

Some of the new books I've read are *Moonchild*, *Voyage of the Lost and Found* by Aisha Bushby, *The Beast and the Bethany* by Jack Meggitt Phillips, *The Unadoptables* by Hana Tooke, *Sky Pirates* by Alex English, *The Ship of Shadows* by Maria Kuzniar, and *Glasheart* by Katharine Orton. Every one of them had a new world just waiting to be discovered.

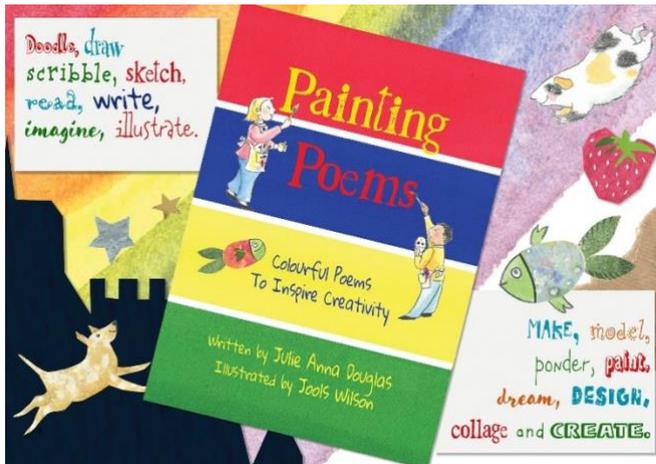
In addition, I've been writing my next book, and that's taken me to a different world too. My first book, *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant*, is about a girl who steals from the rich to help the poor – getting herself, and her friends, into a lot of trouble over it! And yes, she does steal an elephant. The second, which I'm editing now, is set in the same world and has some great new characters, including another gigantic animal...

I hope your term is filled with lots of good things – seeing your friends and teachers again, immersing yourself in your school activities, and I hope lots of new discoveries through your reading and writing.



### Poet Julie Anna Douglas shares a special message...

I love creating poems full of colourful characters and places. I have always enjoyed drawing, sketching, collage and painting and wanted to create a book of poems that would inspire readers to design their own artwork based on their interpretation of the poems. I love the way artist Jools Wilson has illustrated our book and hope you enjoy 'Painting Poems' of your own!



### The Reading Dance, by Julie Anna Douglas

**Flamenco with a fiery phoenix in a forest faraway.  
Quickstep with the Queen of Hearts for a year and a day.  
Shimmy a swashbuckling salsa on a flying pirate ship  
and enjoy a jolly, jungle-jiving, tree-swinging trip.**

**Tango with a tiger in search of a teatime treat.  
Can-can into a candy cottage, which looks good enough to eat.  
Rumba with a rabbit in a jacket, halfway down the stairs  
and have a disco in a deep, dark wood while hunting for bears.**

**Samba with a spinning spider, hip hop with a horrid pest  
and conga across Middle Earth on an epic quest.  
Whether you are looking for adventure, fun or fairytale romance,  
just pirouette through the pages and join the reading dance.**

from Julie Anna Douglas

## Word Origin WOW-er!

Did you know that the Old English word 'aeppel' (apple) was used to describe any kind of fruit? Peach was 'persicum' in Latin (Persian apple). Pomegranate was 'apple with many seeds.' Pineapple was named as a 'fruit' that looked like a 'pinecone.'



THE journey  
OF A lifetime  
STARTS WITH THE  
OF A turning  
page.  
-RACHEL ANDERS

## Chipping Norton Library

### Chipping Norton Library

Opening hours, contact details and more information about Chipping Norton Library.

#### Opening hours

<b>Monday</b>	9.30am - 1pm and 2 - 5pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am - 1pm and 2 - 5pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am - 1pm and 2 - 5pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Closed
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am - 1pm and 2 - 5pm
<b>Saturday</b>	9.30am - 4pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Closed

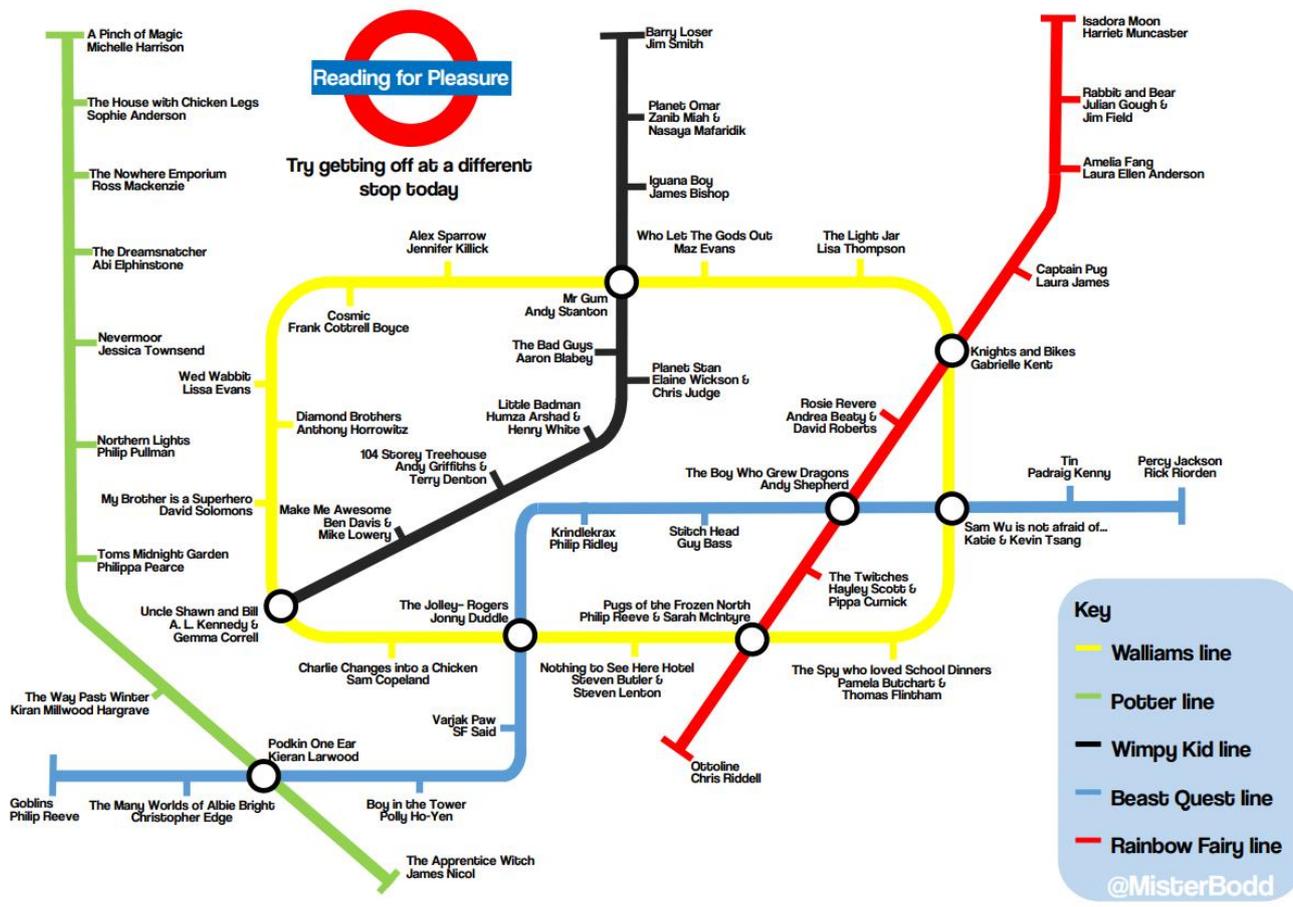
## Supporting our Local Bookshops

Can you recommend another local bookshop? Get in touch with Mrs McGeehan via e-mail and it could be mentioned in our next edition!

# Guiding Children's Reading Choice

Does your child always read books by the same author or the same genre of book? Children's choice about what they read is really important, but it's also important that they know what's out there to be able to make an informed choice, with adults guiding them towards quality books wherever possible. Any reading is better than no reading, so it's not worth a battle, but children's series can often contain the same sort of style and vocabulary, making children read more passively (especially if the book has been made into a film that they have seen.)

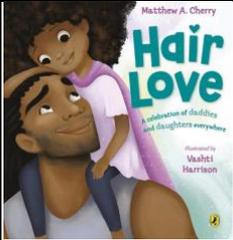
'Banning' books by certain authors can make the problem worse... so why not offer your child one of these alternatives if they have got stuck on one of the most common series of books? Get in touch if you'd like any further support with this and I'd be glad to help.



Reading for Pleasure Tube Map by @MisterBodd

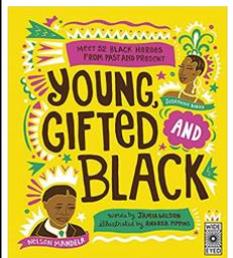
# October: Black History Month

Each year, the whole month of October is dedicated to highlighting the importance of understanding Black History. There are many books available to open up discussions and these are just a small sample. For more about Black History Month, see the official website <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>



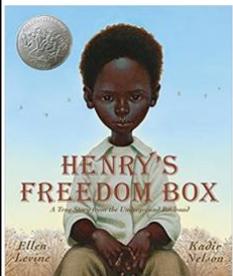
## Hair Love by Matthew Cherry

Zuri's beautiful hair has a mind of its own! It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Mum always does Zuri's hair just the way she likes it, but Daddy is keen to learn to style it for an extra special occasion.



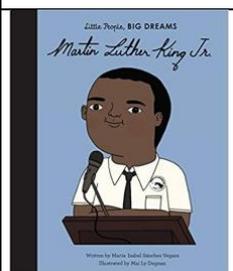
## Young, Gifted and Black by Jamia Wilson

Meet 52 icons of colour from the past and present in this collection of stories about strong, courageous, talented and diverse men and women: the perfect read to encourage, inspire and empower children young and old.



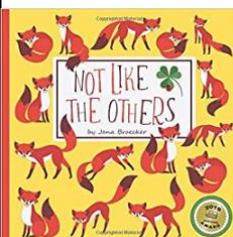
## Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine

Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: He will mail himself to the North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday -- his first day of freedom.



## Martin Luther King, Jr – Little People, Big Dreams

This moving book features stylish and quirky illustrations and extra facts at the back, including a biographical timeline with historical photos and a detailed profile of the inspiring activist's life.



## Not Like the Others by Jana Broecker

This book about diversity promotes acceptance, understanding, and kindness for all by showcasing that each of us, irrespective of our own unique qualities, is an essential part of a bigger picture. Which fox has the fluffiest tail? Where is the squirrel that holds an acorn? Over 250 forest animals fill the pages of this beautifully illustrated book. Little eyes will be eager to spot the one animal that is *Not Like The Others*, little ears will cherish the fun, fact-filled rhymes, and little minds will learn that it's our differences that make us special.

# Exciting dates, events and competitions to get involved with!

## Blue Peter Book Award – Shortlist announced!

Since 2000, the enormously popular and influential Blue Peter Book Awards have been recognising and celebrating the best authors, the most creative illustrators and the greatest reads for children. The Blue Peter Book Awards 2019 celebrates children's books published in the last year in two categories: The Best Story and the Best Book with Facts.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/awards-and-prizes/current-prizes/blue-peter-book-awards/>

November 2020

## Royal Mail Letters to Santa Deadline

Each year, Santa's elves at the Royal Mail can help you get a letter from Santa, if children write to him by early December.

**Click on Father Christmas for a link.**



Early December



<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS2/awanderinthewoods?view=ind>

## Take over our next reading newsletter...

  
**YOUR  
SCHOOL  
NEEDS  
YOU!**

**Be featured in our 2021 January/February edition!**

What book would you recommend to your classmates? It could be fiction, non-fiction or poetry. What is so brilliant about it? Bring a book review to your class teacher (either hand written or typed,) along with the title and author of your book. For younger children, an adult may help you write this. You could even include a photograph, too!