



Kirkburton Middle School – Parent Bulletin 17th July 2020

Headteacher Update

It has been a year like no other however we have made it to our final parent bulletin of the year – and what a packed bulletin it is! It seems an absolute lifetime ago when I walked through the door in January as the new Headteacher of KMS. I don't think any of us in our wildest dreams could ever have predicted the times that followed – the word bubble has certainly taken on a completely new meaning of late. That said, time has also seemed to fly by and I can honestly say that despite everything, I've loved every minute (well almost every minute) of my first two terms. I only hope that September brings a little bit of stability and normality to the school and our wider lives.

The final week

The final week has been very busy once again. We had our final groups of Year 7 pupils return for their tutorial mornings. All those involved, both pupils and staff, were genuinely very pleased to be back in school and we were delighted to see them. Our Year 6 and Key Worker bubbles have continued to work extremely hard throughout the week and their efforts were rewarded with a Harry Potter themed 'battle of the bubbles' competition yesterday organised by Miss Sharples and Ms Clark. This was a lovely way to end the school year and the atmosphere was electric when we shared the results across the school via the magic of apparition – well Microsoft Teams. Congratulations to all involved and particularly to those in the winning team from Mrs Kaye's bubble. It has been such a pleasure watching the different bubbles come together over the past six weeks. Many pupils have commented on how much they've enjoyed being part of their bubble and of the new friendships that they've made. I'm sure these will carry forward into the new school year. Well done everybody.

We are also very grateful to those working at home who have also continued to work very hard right up until the end of term. Your efforts have been genuinely appreciated by all staff. We recognise it has been a very difficult time at times for those at home however your efforts will most certainly pay off on the return to school. You have done yourselves, the school and you families proud.

I visited two more of our feeder First Schools this week to talk to pupils about their move to KMS. Having visited all but one of our main feeder schools, I am now utterly convinced that we will have one of the best Year 6 cohorts the school has ever seen when we return in September.

And finally to our wonderful Year 8 cohort. Once again we're desperately sorry your time at KMS ended the way it did. Make sure you have a restful summer as you will need all your energies in September with your move to High School. Cherish the memories you've had during your time with us and make sure you throw yourself into everything the High School has to offer you as you make lots and lots of new memories. Good Luck!

Staffing

We say goodbye to two very longstanding members of the KMS staff group today. Mrs Crowther is retiring after dedicating an amazing 43 years to the teaching profession, 11 at KMS, whilst Mr Papworth is retiring after a staggering 33 years of service at KMS. I know many parents and ex-pupils will have

fond memories of being taught by Mrs Crowther and Mr Papworth and I'm sure you would like to join us in wishing them both a long and very happy retirement.

In September we have two new colleagues joining the school. Mrs Donkersley will be joining us as our new SENDCO and Ms Clark will be joining us as Head of Year 7 and a teacher of English

We have also made the following internal appointments for September-

Mrs Senior –Deputy Head across KMS and Scissett

Mr Parker – Head of Year 6

Miss Sharples – Strategic Leader for Science across KMS and Scissett

Miss Wigglesworth –ETA classroom support & pastoral / well-being

Another successful year

Despite all the challenges the year has thrown at the school, there have been many things to celebrate. Our new Year 6 cohort have settled in amazingly well and have survived the transition to Middle School in style. We have had the usual successes in the world of sport, music and the arts. Pupils have continued to impress with their ongoing commitment and dedication toward their studies. We have also managed to pack in a number of trips, visits and extra-curricular activities prior to the national lockdown. We even managed to cycle 818 miles as team KMS for sport relief. Well done to everybody who has achieved great things this year. The list is far too big to mention individuals however a quick (or maybe not so quick) look through out Twitter feed will remind you of just how great our pupils and school are.

September

I trust you will have seen the letter we emailed out yesterday with our arrangements for September. If you didn't receive a copy, please contact the school office. We hope the letter provides you with all the information you need in relation to the return to school. If not, please let us know. We may not reply to all emails directly but instead put together a frequently asked questions document which we will share with you towards the end of the holidays. One question we have received already is whether or not the end of the school day will be staggered. The answer to this is yes but only very slightly. The large stagger at the start of the day is because every pupil must wash their hands before coming into school – that's a lot of 'Happy Birthdays'. This isn't the case at the end of school so we don't need as large a stagger. Those pupils who arrive in the first cohort to school will be released from school just after 3.30pm whilst those who arrive slightly later will be released at 3.35pm. All pupils are expected to leave the school site by the same way they entered.

Thank you

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents for the welcome they have given me to KMS and for all your ongoing support since January. It has been great to meet so many of you and I look forward to catching up with you after the summer break. I also very much look forward to welcoming those families who join the school community for the first time in September as their child enters Year 6. I wish you and your family all the very best for the summer break. It won't be long now before we are all back together again in school '**enjoying, achieving, succeeding together**' as team KMS.

School safeguarding support

Although school is closed over the summer, we remain here to help wherever we can. Key staff will be checking emails periodically throughout the holiday however we ask you only contact us in an emergency. Please be aware that our response times will be slower than normal however somebody will get back to you.

Mr Taylor – Headteacher

c.taylor@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Mrs Senior – Safeguarding Lead

g.senior@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Mr MacIntyre – Deputy Safeguarding Lead

a.macintyre@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk

Year 6

Well Year 6, here we are. The last message from me and the last time someone will officially call you Y6! From next week you are Year 7's. Worldly wise and veterans of KMS. Think back to last year when you left your first school. How were you feeling? How do you think the new Year 5's may be feeling? What advice would you give them about joining the KMS family?

Now to the summer holidays. What exciting adventures might you have? I am hoping to visit Norfolk with my friends and sort out some decking in my garden. As you can tell I have a very glamorous lifestyle.

Whatever you get up to for the next 7 weeks, please allow me to declare how proud I am of how you have handled being in and out of school. I am proud to have been your head of year. A big thanks to your fantastic form tutors, the ETA's, Mrs Senior, the office and support staff as well as Mr MacIntyre for their kindness and guidance for you all. Another big thank you to your parents and guardians for helping to support you and all of us at KMS. I wish you all a very happy and safe school holiday and continued success in Y7. Keep being the best you can be and always remember as the great Howard Sharples always told me as a child, 'Kindness costs nothing'. Take care - Miss Sharples.

Welcome message for all Year 5 pupils

Hello to all new Year 6 pupils!

I am just writing a short message to you to introduce myself to you as I am going to be the new Head of Year 6 for September 2020.

My name is Mr Parker and I have been a teacher at KMS for the last 5 years. I currently teach RE and Geography in the school as well as my new role as the teacher responsible for Year 6. I am extremely excited about becoming your new Head of Year and I cannot wait to meet you all in September!

As Head of Year 6, my job is to work with your form tutor to help look after you in school. I know that the form tutors have already written a message to you, introducing themselves. Having worked with these teachers for the last five years, I know how well they will care and support you in school.

We know that the last few months have not been easy for everyone and we recognise you have missed the last part of your first school, as well as missing time with friends. However, we are creating plans and ideas to welcome you into the school and quickly make you a full member of our school community.

I am really looking forward to meeting you all in September when we open the school and you join us for your first day. I know that the first day at a new school can be a nervous experience but please be reassured you will be greeted warmly and shown everything you will need to know on the first day/week.

It is a very exciting time to be joining KMS as Mr Taylor, our new Head Teacher, has just started with us and there are many enjoyable times ahead for the school. We want all of you to play a full part in the life of the school both inside and outside of the classroom.

I hope you have a lovely summer and enjoy it as much as possible. I know that joining a new school can be a nervous experience, particularly at this moment. Please do enjoy the summer break with your family & friends.

I look forward to meeting all of you as you join our school community at KMS.



Best wishes

Mr Parker

Head of Year 6

Farewell

Dear pupils and parents,

As I look forward to my retirement, I didn't want to let this year finish without saying a final goodbye to you all. I am sure that like me, you will agree that this has been a year like no other; one that we are unlikely to forget for a long time. As always, KMS pupils have risen to the many challenges of the last few months and shown resilience, inventiveness and determination to continue doing the very best that they can so that they can feel proud of their achievements.

I consider myself very lucky to have enjoyed a fulfilling teaching career; the last 11 of them spent at KMS. I can honestly say that for me, the time has literally flown by and I have many happy memories. However, after 43 years as a teacher and 13 as a pupil at school, not to mention the time at university, it is definitely time to leave the formal education establishment to spend more time with my family and friends and enjoy new adventures with my grandchildren.

I wish you all well in the future and thank you for making my time with you so fulfilling.

Mrs Crowther

Staffing and Tutor Groups

Due to the present Covid19 situation and our ongoing work in preparation for September 2020, I would like to update you with some changes to our new Form Tutor Classes. Apologies to those pupils and parents in Year 6 who received the information relating to new Y7 form tutor classes for September on the recent school reports. Please note that the Teaching Group highlighted on the school report has not changed. The changes to some of the groups have been made in light of further internal appointments made in school and organisational aspects associated in preparing for the new academic year. As you are aware for the past few years we have vertically grouped our Key Stage 3 pupils into Tutor Groups made up of both Year 7 and 8 pupils. The organisation for September will not allow this as we will be working in year group bubbles. Please find the updated information in the tables below.

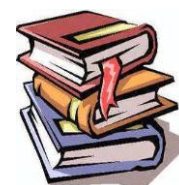
| Current Year 6 entering Year 7 | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Teaching Group | Form Tutor(s) | Room |
| 7A | Miss Charlesworth/Mr Barry* (until December 2020) | Pavilion |
| 7B | Miss Winstanley | B1 |
| 7C | Mrs Aaron/Mrs Stratford | B2 |
| 7D | Mrs Waterhouse/Mr Turner | B3 |
| 7E | Mr Sallu | B4 |
| 7F | Mrs Davies | B5 |

| Current Year 7 entering Year 8 | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Former Group | New Y8 Teaching Group | Form Tutor(s) | Room |
| 7A | 8A | Mr Townend/Mr Bennett | C1 |
| 7B | 8C | Mr Tyson | C3 |
| 7C | 8F | Miss Kaye | Music |
| 7D | 8D | Mrs Charlesworth | C4 |
| 7E | 8E | Mrs Sharples/Mrs McEwen | C5 |
| 7F | 8B | Mr Smith | C2 |

KMS reading suggestions

We are passionate about reading at KMS and know that reading can make a significant difference in pupils' ability to succeed in all areas of study and indeed life! The right book can inspire and motivate us and allows us access to people and places we might otherwise never meet. We hope the Key stage 2 and key stage 3 reading list at the end of this bulletin will enable your child to have a fun filled summer of reading!

While in Years 7, 8 and 9, you should try to read a wide variety of types of books. Don't just stick to one author, or one genre. Experiment with something new. That is one reason why this list is arranged in genre-based sections. As well as reading books, don't forget that **newspapers and good magazines** are also excellent reading material and will get you used to a range of reading experiences that will set you up well for GCSE and beyond, as well as broadening your knowledge and understanding of the world in which you live.



The following **websites** are recommended and feature news and views about all types of books written for young people. So, as well as using this reading list, why not check the websites out too and see what other people are recommending? They will also give information about brand new books.



<http://www.readingmatters.co.uk/>

<http://www.booktrustchildrensbooks.org.uk/Teenage-Books>

<http://www.cool-reads.co.uk/>

<http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

<http://www.ukchildrensbooks.co.uk/>

Music

Please find below our second 'Instrumental Update' worksheet created to help pupils with their home practice routine.

It's full of useful tips and ideas to inspire pupils to continue to build their skills and explore new areas in their music-making. You can find lots more activities on the [Musica Kirklees website](#) and [YouTube channel](#) including some fun challenges, exercises and pieces to learn.

The worksheet is mainly focussed on beginner to intermediate players; advanced players can still enjoy the activities alongside their own choices of repertoire.

Thank you for your support and best wishes for happy music-making!

Family First - information for families supported by the DfE

Here is your free e-copy of Family First, the UK's largest family title - Enjoy
https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff_issue_6_digital130720

FAF

Bikeability

All completed the Level 1 and 2 Bikeability Course over two days. Level 1 took place in the playground and taught the riders how to control their bikes while riding with others. They also practiced the skills they would need to ride on the road. Level 2 then gave the riders some on road experience riding in traffic to help them make short journeys by bike. They learnt the rules of the road that all users adhere to.

Bikeability is a national cycling programme supported and funded by the Department for Transport. It was very successful and all participants thoroughly enjoyed it. This opportunity will become available again next year for those who missed out this time.

Mrs Joyce, Mr Killock and Mr Martin



KIRKLEES HOCKEY ARE
OFFERING
**FREE SUMMER
HOCKEY CAMPS**

Monday 24th August 2020 10am -12pm and 1pm –3pm
Tuesday 25th August 2020 10am - 12pm and 1pm-3pm
Wednesday 26th August 2020 10am – 12pm and 1pm-3pm
Thursday 27th August 2020 10am - 12pm and 1pm to 3pm

AT KIRKBURTON MIDDLE SCHOOL



**8 to 12
year old
Girls**

To book a place click below

**For any queries contact Mrs Joyce at
v.joyce@kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk**

Sticks can be provided if required!

[Click here to book](#)

**All Covid
Risk
assessed!**

Do you have any unwanted school uniform items you could donate?



Uniform Exchange is a Kirklees based charity who recycles good school uniform, passing it from one family to another... we would like your help to support them!

If you need help accessing school uniform from Uniform Exchange please get in touch for a form...

or email: info@uniform-exchange.org



Please follow us for news & collection box locations...

[f /uniformexchange](https://www.facebook.com/uniformexchange) [@uniformexchange](https://twitter.com/uniformexchange)



We need donations of:

**Polo / Cotton Shirts
Jumpers / Cardigans
Blazers
Trousers / Shorts
Skirts / Pinefores
Summers Dresses
PE / Sports Kits
Shoes / Trainers
Socks / Tights
Vest / Underwear
Bags
Coats**

...any school items really

Key Stage 2 Reading List

| Author | Title | Author | Title |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Richard Adams | Watership Down | Malorie Blackman | Pig Heart Boy |
| Joan Aiken | The Wolves of Willoughby Chase | | Tell Me No Lies |
| | Midnight is a Place | | Hostage |
| David Almond | Skellig | Jon Blake | The Last Free Cat |
| | Heaven Eyes | John Boyne | The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas |
| Nina Bawden | Carrie's War | Tony Bradman | The Dirty Dozen |
| Theresa Breslin | Starship Rescue | Joe Craig | Jimmy Coates series |
| Melvin Burgess | An Angel for May | Sharon Creech | Walk Two Moons |
| Georgia Byng | Molly Moon books | | The Wanderer |
| Dinah Capparucci | Aliens Don't Eat Dog Food | Gillian Cross | The Great Elephant |
| | Lucky Star, Scarlet | | The Demon |
| Cathy Cassidy | Artemis Fowl series | Chris D'Lacey | Headmaster series |
| Eion Colfer | The Supernaturalist | Roald Dahl | Icefire |
| | Half Moon | Annie Dalton | Witches |
| Arthur Conan Doyle | The Lost World | | Angels Unlimited |
| Susan Cooper | The Dark is Rising sequence | Anita Desai | Friday Forever |
| | Lionboy | | Village by the Sea |
| Zizou Corder | Boyce Millions | Narinder Dhami | Bindi Babes |
| Frank Cottrell | Framed, Cosmic | Anne Frank | The Diary of Anne Frank |
| | The Kin | Anne Fine | Flour |
| Peter Dickinson | | | Up on Cloud Nine |
| | | | Madame Doubtfire |
| | | | Goggle Eyes |
| Berlie Doherty | Street Child | Catherine Fisher | The Oracle |
| Paul Dowswell | Powder Monkey | Cornelia Funke | The Thief Lord |
| Alexandre Dumas | The Three Musketeers | | Inkspell |
| | Ingo | | Inkheart |
| Helen Dunmore | The Breadwinner series | Alan Garner | The Owl Service |
| Deborah Ellis | Charlotte Sometimes | Charlie Higson | The Young Bond books |
| Penelope Farmer | Killer Mushrooms Ate My Gran | Frances Hodgson Burnett | The Secret Garden |
| Susan Gates | The Blood Stone | | The Little Princess |
| Jamila Gavin | Surya Trilogy | Mary Hoffman | Virtual Friend |
| | Warriors of the Raven | Belinda Hollyer | Everything I Know About You |
| Alan Gibbons | Little White Horse | Anne Holm | I am David |
| Elizabeth Goudge | Broken Glass | Mary Hooper | The Genie |
| Sally Grindley | Hoot | Anthony Horowitz | The Power of Five series |
| Carl Hiaasen | Warrior Cats series | | Alex Rider series |
| Erin Hunter | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Eva Ibbotson | Journey to the River Sea | Polly Horvath | Everything on a Waffle |
| Laura Ingalls Wilder | Little House on the Prairie | Rosalind Kerven | Grim Gruesome Viking Villain |
| Brian Jaques | Redwall | | The Cursed Sword |
| Pete Johnson | Trust Me I'm a Trouble maker | Michael Lawrence | Young Dracula |
| Terry Jones | Saga of Erik the Viking | Caroline Lawrence | The Roman Mysteries |
| Ann Jungman | Resistance | Robert Leeson | Tom's War |
| Norman Juster | The Phantom Tollbooth | C. S. Lewis | Narnia |
| Judith Kerr, | When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit | Jack London | White Fang, Call of the Wild |
| Michele Magorian | Goodnight Mr Tom | Michael Morpurgo | Out of the Ashes |
| Lynne Markham | Cinderalf | | Private |
| Anthony Masters | Tod in Biker City | | Peaceful |
| Geraldine McCaughrean | Stop the Train | | Alone on the Wide Sea |
| Sophie Mckenzie | Girl Missing | | Adolphus Tips |
| | | | Why the Whales Came |
| Barbara Mitchelhill | Storm Runners | E. Nesbit | The Railway Children |
| Linda Newberry | Blitz Boys | | |
| William Nicholson | The Wind on Fire Trilogy | Terry Pratchet | Johnny and the Bomb, Diggers |
| Jenny Nimmo | The Noble Warriors | | The Amazing |
| | The Snow Spider Trilogy | Willard Price | Volcano Adventure |
| | Charlie Bone series | | |
| Mary Norton | The Borrowers | Alison Prince | Screw Loose |
| Christne Nostlinger | Fly Away Home | Philip Pullman | His Dark Materials Series |
| Ian Ogilvy | Measle and the Mallockee | Arthur Ransome | Swallows and Amazons |
| Christopher Paolini | Eragon | Lynne Read | Banks The Indian in the Cupboard |
| | Eldest | | The Mum Hunt |
| Jill Paton Walsh | Dolphin Crossing | Gwyneth Rees | The Making of May |
| Michele Paver | Wolf Brother | | Mortal Engines |
| | Spirit Walker | Philip Reeve | Mighty Fizz Chilla |
| | Soul Eater | Philip Ridley | Percy Jackson series |
| Phillipa Pearce | Tom's Midnight Garden | Rick Riordan | |
| Jill Paton Walsh | Dolphin Crossing | Rosie Rushton | Life Line |
| Paul Stewart | The Edge Chronicles series | Chris Ryan | Alpha Force series |
| Barrington Stoke | For Older Readers | Anna Sewell | Black Beauty |
| Jeremy Strong | Mad Iris | Matthew Skelton | Endymion Spring |
| Jonathan Stroud | Golem's Eye | Justin Sompter | Vampirates series |
| Robert Swindells | In the Nick of Time | Ali Sparkes | Shapeshifter series |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | The Thousand Eyes of Night | R. L Stevenson | Treasure Island |
| G. P. Taylor | Shadowmancer | Mark Twain | The Adventures of Tom Sawyer |
| Alan Temperley | Harry and the Wrinklies | Eleanor Updale | Montmorency series |
| Ruth Thomas | The Runaways | Jules Verne | Around the World in 80 Days |
| Kate Thompson | The Switchers Trilogy | Sylvia Voight | The Homecoming |
| J. R. Tolkien | The Missing Link | | |
| | The Hobbit / Lord of the Rings | Mark Walden | H.I.V.E series |
| Hazel Townson | Lift Off | Robert Westall | Blitzcat |
| | The Secret Room | | The Machine Gunners |
| Jacqueline Wilson | The Illustrated Mum | Henry Williamson | Tarka The Otter |
| | Vicky Angel | Jacqueline Wilson | The Illustrated Mum |
| | My Sister Jodie | | Vicky Angel |
| | | | My Sister Jodie |
| Jeanette Winterson | Tanglewreck | | |
| | | Mark Twain | The Adventures of Tom Sawyer |

Key Stage 3 Suggestions

Non-fiction

Bill Bryson, **Notes from a Big Country (and other travel books)** - An American's very funny perspective on Britain and British culture.

Terry Deary, **Horrible Histories** – The gory aspects of history.

Gerald Durrell, **My Family and Other Animals** - A young boy, fascinated by wildlife, and his crazy, funny family move to Crete.

Anne Frank, **The Diary of a Young Girl** – Anne, a Jewish Dutch girl, has to hide from the Germans in a tiny secret room with her family and another family for two years.

Bear Grylls, **Mud, Sweat and Tears** - The autobiography of the famous adventurer/risk- taker.

Laurie Lee, **Cider with Rosie** – The funny and moving autobiography of a young boy growing up in Gloucestershire just after the 1st World War.

Adeline Yen Mah, **Chinese Cinderella** - Adeline grows up in China during the Second World War in a family which does not seem to love her. A moving story of individual survival

ACTION AND ADVENTURE

Malorie Blackman, **Noughts and Crosses** - Set in a society with two types of people: 'Noughts' and 'Crosses'. Can friendship overcome the divisions between the two?

NM Browne, **Basilisk** - Myth, history and archaeology, set against the background of the caves of a dark world.

William Golding, **Lord of the Flies** - Boys stranded on a desert island turn to savagery.

SE Hinton, **Outsiders** - Hate, violence, loyalty and friendship in the gang-lands of New York. Michael

Morpurgo, **Private Peaceful** - A moving story about a soldier's experiences set in the 1st World War.

Robert Muchamore, **CHERUB-series** - Big adventures and excitement as the teenage recruits at CHERUB battle the underworlds.

William Nicholson, **Wind on Fire Trilogy** - What happens if you rebel against a society governed by exams?

George Orwell, **Animal Farm** - Animals on the farm rise up against their powerful owners.

Alex Shearer, **Bootleg** - Chocolate is made illegal. A resistance movement forms.

Nevil Shute, **A Town like Alice** – The heroics of a young English woman during World War 2.

R.L. Stevenson, **Treasure Island** - Sea adventure and the search for lost treasure.

J. Vance Marshall, **Walkabout**- Two children, survivors of a plane crash, journey across the Australian desert helped by an Aboriginal boy.

Jules Verne, **Journey to the Centre of the Earth** - Explorers climb down an extinct volcano and into the centre of the earth

FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Louisa M Alcott, **Little Women** - Four sisters grow up in the 1860s. Narrated by Jo, who desperately wants to be a writer.

Terence Blacker, **Boy2Girl** - A cross dressing dare starts as a joke but goes further.

Charlotte Bronte, **Jane Eyre** - Jane falls in love with her rich employer, only to find out he has a dark secret.

Alyssa Brugman, **Walking Naked** - Girls in a secondary school clash with the new girl with startling consequences.

Meg Cabot, **All American Girl** - Teen rom-com about a girl who accidentally saves the life of the President and life is never the same again!

Jenny Davis, **If Only I'd Known** - Sensitive novel about teenage pregnancy.

Charles Dickens, **Oliver Twist** - Classic Dickens tale of the young orphan's dramatic move through life.

Jamila Gavin, **Coram Boy** - Two boys, from very different backgrounds, end up in a home for parentless children. A challenging story set in the 18th century.

Mark Haddon, **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time** - A boy with Asperger's Syndrome tries to find out the truth about his family.

Lesley Howarth, **Carwash** - Set in Cornwall, told over a long, hot teenage summer.

Elizabeth Laird, **The Garbage King** - A moving story set in the slums and streets of Ethiopia.

Michelle Magorian, **Goodnight Mister Tom** - An evacuee with terrible family experiences is housed with a grumpy old man – will they manage to get on?

Beverley Naidoo, **The Other Side of Truth** - Two children have to leave Nigeria when their mother is killed. They end up in London, abandoned to their fate.

Louise Rennison, **Georgina Parks** (series) - The teenage Bridget Jones! Often hilarious diaries of a confused teenager.

Alex Shearer, **The Crush** - How far would an obsession with a boy band take you in the drive to meet the love of your life?

Dodie Smith, **I Capture the Castle** - Novel about first love featuring with an eccentric family of sisters living in a dilapidated castle.

Jerry Spinelli, **Stargirl** - A teenager at an American high school dares to be different.

Mildred Taylor, **Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry** - Tale of family loyalty set against the racist background of 1930s America.

FANTASY

Richard Adams, **Watership Down** - Rabbits are threatened with losing their homes and have to find ways of surviving.

Frank Beddor, **Looking Glass Wars** - Challenging novel which develops the characters from "Alice in Wonderland" creating a whole new fantasy adventure.

Trudi Canavan, **Black Magician Trilogy** - This is a magical tale of conspiracy and magic which is lost and found.

Katherine Langrish, **Troll Fell** - Dark and hypnotic fantasy novel as an orphan is enslaved by savage and evil trolls.

C S Lewis, **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** - Four children find themselves in another land by stepping through a wardrobe.

Cliff McNish, **Doomspell** (trilogy) - Powerful fantasy series about children snatched from our world to satisfy the evil desires of a witch from a different dimension.

Garth Nix, **Sabriel, Lirael, Abhorsen** - Powerful and complex fantasy trilogy. Sabriel sets out on a quest to avenge the death of her father in the land of dark, dark magic.

Chris Paolini, **Eragon & Eldest** - By a 16 year old author whose main character begins his quest to be a Dragon Rider.

Michael Paver, **Wolf Brother & Spirit Walker** - Charts the lives and adventures of early man's fears, adventures and superstitions.

Philip Pullman, **His Dark Materials trilogy** - Follows the coming-of-age of two children as they wander through a series of parallel universes.

Philip Reeve, **Mortal Engines** (series) - Moving cities trawl the globe. Tom and Hester are

thrown from their beloved “London” and try to get back on board.

J K Rowling, **Harry Potter series** - Set in Hogwarts, a school with a difference, a young boy and his friends battle against evil forces.

Chris Wooding, **Poison** - Poison must rescue her kidnapped sister from the land of the “phaeries”.

J R Tolkein, **The Hobbit/Lord of the Rings** - Start with the adventures of Bilbo Baggins, the reluctant adventurer, then move further into Middle Earth.

GHOSTS AND HORROR

Kate Cann, **Leaving Poppy** - When Poppy moves into a house to help look after her sister, there’s something about her which the house doesn’t like.

Ann Halam, **Don’t Open Your Eyes** - Spine chilling horror novel about a boy killed in a joyriding accident.

Carol Hedges, **Red Velvet** - Nasty things begin to happen to Elly when she finds the skeleton of a dead girl wearing a red dress in an old house.

Edgar Allan Poe, **Tales of Horror** - Stories from the man seen as the first true horror writer.

Celia Rees, **Witch Child** - A girl’s mother is accused of being a witch in 18th century England.

Celia Rees, **Soul Taker** - Jardine is so obsessed with the lovely Lisa that he sells his soul for a chance to be with her.

Marcus Sedgwick, **My Swordhand is Singing** - Chilling vampire tale set in 17th Century Europe.

Darren Shan, **Demonata series** - Can the three main characters, all living in different times, fight against the demonic forces who are attempting to destroy the world?

Chris Wooding, **Haunting of Alaizabel Cray** - Two ‘wychhunters’ search for a beast lurking in the sewers of old London.

MYSTERY, CRIME AND THRILLERS

Terence Blacker, **Angel Factory** - A curious boy hacks into his father’s computer.

Tim Bowler, **Apocalypse** - A young family is shipwrecked on an island.

Kevin Brooks, **Martyn Pig** - Martyn’s life is turned on its head when he accidentally kills someone very close to him.

Kevin Brooks, **Road of the Dead** - Two teenage boys want to avenge the death of their murdered sister.

Anne Cassidy, **Missing Judy** - A six year old vanishes, and her 16 year old sister feels responsible.

Agatha Christie, **The Body in the Library** - Just one of Christie's famous crime novels – there are plenty more!

Arthur Conan Doyle, **Sherlock Holmes stories** - Choose any of Conan Doyle's fascinating tales about a 19th century detective with extraordinary abilities.

F. Cottrell-Boyce, **Millions** - You find £250,000 and have 10 days to spend it before Britain joins the euro. What would you do?

Jennifer Donnelly, **A Gathering Light** - Based on a real-life murder, a girl finds that the story of a drowned girl impacts on her own life.

Valerie Mendes, **Girl in the Attic** - Accessible, spine-chilling ghost/mystery novel set in Cornwall after a family move from the big city.

Nicola Morgan, **Flesh Market** - Set in the dark streets of 19th Century Edinburgh where the body-snatchers Burke and Hare stalk the homeless street urchins.

Philip Pullman, **The Ruby in the Smoke** - A girl tries to find out why her father was murdered.

Alex Shearer, **Tins** - Fergal collects metal tins, until life changes completes when he finds a finger in one tin and the word "help" scrawled in another.

Alex Shearer, **Speed of the Dark** - A scientist disappears into thin air but leaves an intriguing manuscript behind.

Nancy Werlin, **Killer's Cousin** - A 17 year old is acquitted of murder and forced to move to live with distant relatives.

Tim Wynne-Jones, **Boy in the Burning House** - Two friends try to solve a mystery from a previous generation.

SCHOOL STORIES

Robert Cormier, **The Chocolate War** - One small act of defiance starts a chain reaction – a shocking novel about the power of gangs.

Catherine Forde, **Fat Boy Swim** - A misfit will do anything to fit in at school.

Graham Gardner, **Inventing Elliot** - A gang of school thugs called 'The Guardians' rule and bully at Holminster High.

Roger Green, **Cuckoos** - School bullying begins with a 'whisper'.

Louis Sachar, **The Boy who Lost his Face** - A bully seems cursed and begins to see things from the point of view of the bullied.

SCIENCE FICTION

Douglas Adams, **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** - Arthur Dent is upset because the council has demolished his house to make way for a bypass. Unfortunately the earth is to be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass.

Patrick Ness, **The Knife of Never Letting Go** - Todd Hewitt is the last boy in Prentisstown, a place where everyone can hear other people's thoughts in a constant Noise. Todd finds a gap in the Noise.

Philip Reeve, **Larklight trilogy** - Set in an alternative Victorian-era universe. The nations struggle over who gets access to space technology to travel the solar system.

Neil Shusterman, **Unwind** - Parents fed up with the children can sign them up to be 'unwound' and their parts donated to others. When Connor finds this out, he plots his escape.

Justin Somper, **Vampirates Series** - Twins who live in a lighthouse go on a boat trip in a storm. One gets rescued by a pirate ship, one by a vampire-run ship.

HG Wells, **War of the Worlds** - The Martians invade Earth.

Terry Pratchett, **The Discworld Series (starting with 'The Colour of Magic')** - Comic fantasy novels set in a flat world balanced on the back of four elephants who are standing on a giant turtle.

Scott Westerfield, **Uglies** - In the future plastic surgery is taken to the extreme. Those who reject the process are known as "Uglies".

KS3 CHALLENGING READING SUGGESTIONS

Steve Cole **Young Bond: Shoot to Kill**

Young James Bond is back in an explosive adventure.

Expelled from Eton and determined never to trust again, James Bond's plans for a solitary summer are dashed by the discovery of a gruesome film reel – for which someone is prepared to kill. His friends are put in danger, his life is on the line, James must find his way out of a sinister blackmail plot, or die trying.

Eoin Colfer **Airman**

One dark night on the island of Great Saltee, fourteen-year-old Conor is framed for a terrible crime he didn't commit. Thrown into prison by the dastardly Hugo Bonvilain, Conor is trapped in a sea-swept dungeon and branded a traitor. He must escape and clear his name; he wants his old life back – his family, his friends . . . and his princess. Conor knows there is only one way out. It's an impossible task, which has never been done before. But Conor is determined to do it. He'll have to fly.

Jo Cotterill **Looking at the Stars**

This is the tale of an extraordinary child, whose wild imagination gives the people around her a reason to survive.

This is the tale of Amina, separated from her family and forced to flee the war ravaging her country, who finds hope in the power of stories to never give up on the people she loves.

An emotional tale of love and war, family and friendship.

Sally Gardner **Tinder**

Wounded in battle, Otto Hundebiss defies Death and finds himself on a journey to a realm of dark magic and mystery....

He meets Safire, brave of heart and pure of spirit, and learns the powers of the tinderbox and the secrets of the wolves.

This incredible tale will appeal especially to fantasy enthusiasts. The book is further enhanced by the brilliant illustrations of David Roberts.

Linzi Glass **Ruby Red**

Her opulent Johannesburg neighbourhood with its manicured lawns is a far cry from the streets of Soweto where anger and hatred simmer under the surface.

Ruby can't resist the blue-eyed Afrikaans boy who brings her the exciting rush of first love, but whose presence brings hushed whispers and disapproving glances. She might not see race, colour or creed-but it seems everybody else does.

For Ruby, making some choices means letting others go, and as the darkness begins to descend, she must find a way to follow a brighter path...

John Green **The Fault in our Stars**

Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything other than terminal with her cancer diagnosis. When a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

Elizabeth Laird **The Fastest Boy in the World**

Eleven-year-old Solomon loves to run and dreams of being a gold-medal-winning athlete, in spite of his ragged shorts and bare feet.

When Grandfather announces that he's taking Solomon to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city, Solomon cannot believe his luck. However, when Grandfather collapses following the long journey, Solomon knows that he's the only person who can run for help.

Geraldine McCaughrean **The Middle of Nowhere**

When her mother dies from a snake bite, Comity's life in the Australian outback changes forever.

With her father lost in grief, Comity makes friends with Fred, the Aboriginal yard boy. Then the evil Quartz Hogg arrives, who delights in playing cruel games. When he sets his murderous sights on Fred, it's up to Comity to stop him.

Andy Mulligan **Trash**

Raphael Lives on a dumpsite. Every day is spent wading through mountains of stinking trash. He even sleeps next to it.

Then one unlucky day, Raphael's world is changed forever. He finds a small leather bag - a bag of clues. It's also a bag of hope. It's a bag that will change his life.

Raphael and his friends Gardo and Rat are hunted mercilessly. Wanted by the police, it takes all their survival skills to stay ahead. The boys are chased from filthy gutters to wealthy avenues and as the net tightens, they uncover a dead man's mission to put right a terrible wrong.

Marcus Sedgwick **Revolver**

1910. A cabin north of the Arctic Circle. Fifteen-year-old Sig Andersson is alone. Alone, except for the corpse of his father, who died earlier that day after falling through a weak spot on the ice-covered lake. His sister, Anna, and step-mother, Nadya, have gone to the local town for help. Then comes a knock at the door. It's a man, the flash of a revolver's butt at his hip, and a mean glare in his eyes. Sig has never seen him before but Wolff claims to have unfinished business with his father.

As Sig gradually learns the awful truth about Wolff's connection to his father, his thoughts are drawn to a certain box hidden on a shelf in the storeroom, in which lies his father's prized possession - a revolver. When Anna returns alone, and Wolff begins to close in, Sig's choice is pulled into sharp focus.

Should he use the gun, or not?

Nikki Sheehan **Who Framed Karis Cliff**

People used to call them friends and said how they were good for your brain, and then a day came when all that changed...When they became the enemy.

Now anyone found harbouring a rogue imaginary person is in for the cosh-an operation that fries your imagination and zaps whatever is in there, out of existence. That's why I wish Klaris Cliff had never shown up!

Jerry Spinelli **Milkweed**

This is the true story of Jews and Gypsies in Warsaw during the Nazi occupation. But it is also the story of a street orphan who survives on quick thinking schemes to find food: who believes in bread, mothers and angels. A tragic, honest but beautiful account through the eyes of an innocent.

Jason Wallace **Out of Shadows**

If I stood you in front of a man, pressed a gun into your palm and told you to squeeze the trigger, would you do it?'

Zimbabwe, 1980s. The war is over, independence has been won and Robert Mugabe has come to power offering hope, land and freedom to black Africans. It is the end of the Old Way and the start of a promising new era.

For Robert Jacklin, it's all new: new continent, new country, new school. And very quickly he learns that for some of his classmates, the sound of guns is still loud, and their battles rage on . . . white boys who want their old country back, not this new black African government.

Boys like Ivan. Clever, cunning Ivan. For him, there is still one last battle to fight, and he's taking it right to the very top.

Rachel Ward **Numbers**

Since her mother's death, fifteen-year-old Jem has kept a secret. When her eyes meet someone else's, a number pops into her head the date on which they will die. Knowing that nothing lasts forever, Jem avoids relationships, but when she meets a boy called Spider, and they plan a day out together, her life takes a new twist and turn. Waiting for the London Eye, she sees everyone in the queue has the same number - something terrible is going to happen.

Markus Zusack **The Book Thief**

Nine-year-old Liesel lives with her foster family on Himmel Street during the dark days of the Third Reich. Her Communist parents have been transported to a concentration camp, and during the funeral for her brother, she manages to steal a macabre book: it is, in fact, a gravediggers' instruction manual. This is the first of many books which will pass through her hands as the carnage of the Second World War begins to hungrily claim lives. Both Liesel and her fellow inhabitants of Himmel Street will find themselves changed by both words on the printed page and the horrendous events happening around them.



Jo Cotterill Recommends:

Books set in other cultures or worlds for readers who enjoy strong original ideas

- **Trash** – Andy Mulligan (film out now!) Phillip
- **Looking at the Stars** – Jo Cotterill
- **Who Framed Klaris Cliff?** – Nikki Sheehan
- **Lockwood & Co** (series) – Jonathan Stroud
- **Firebrand** (Rebel Angels series)– Gillian
- **My Name Is Parvana** – Deborah Ellis
- **Noughts and Crosses** (series) – Malorie Blackman
- **Angel** (trilogy) – LA Weatherly (a must for Twilight fans)

Books that include issues such as romance, sex and violence, set in realistic situations (older teens)

- **The Road of the Dead** – Kevin Brooks
- **Lobsters** – Lucy Ivison
- **Trouble** – Non Pratt
- **Silent Saturday** – Helen Grant (Demons of Ghent series)
- **Adorkable** – Sarra Manning
- **Salvage** – Keren David
- **Starring Kitty** – Keris Stainton
- **Boys Don't Knit** – TS Easton
- **Skin Deep** – Laura Jarratt
- **Grounded** – Sheena Wilkinson

Books that are linked to famous characters

- **Young Bond** series (Charlie Higson and Steve Cole) – latest is Shoot To Kill
- **Young Sherlock** series – Andy Lane
- **Doctor Who** novelisations eg Sting of the Zygons – Steve Cole

Books in which characters go on adventures whilst looking for something

- **Tall Story** – Candy Gourlay Carroll
- **Rooftoppers** – Katherine Rundell Gardner
- **The Girl In The Mask** – Marie-Louise Jensen
- **The Girl Who Walked On Air** – Emma
- **The Door That Led To Where** – Sally

Books for readers who are put off by long novels (consider those published by Barrington Stoke)

- **Brock** – Anthony McGowan
- **Love Bites** – Jo Cotterill

- **Pirates of Pangaea** – Daniel Hartwell & Neill Cameron
- **Vampire Academy** graphic novels – Richelle Mead and Emma Vieceli

Books suitable for younger teens

- **Sweet Hearts** series – Jo Cotterill (romance)
- **Close Your Pretty Eyes** – Sally Nicholls (contemporary issue/ghost story)
- **A Year Without Autumn** – Liz Kessler (timeslip family story)
- **Destination Earth** – Ali Sparkes (alien comes to Earth)