

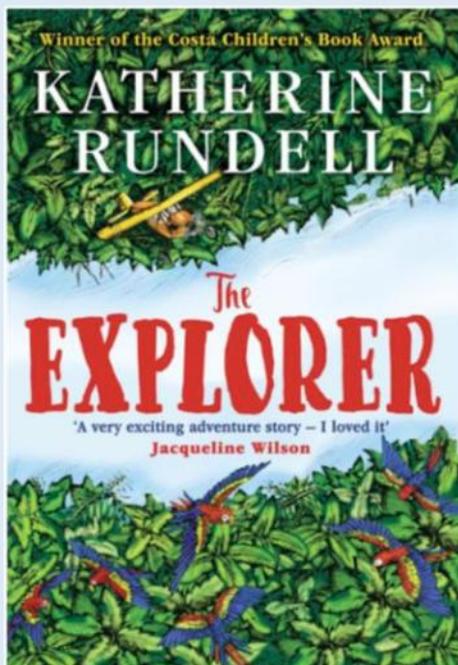


School Bulletin



Recommended Reads

Yr6 Recommended Read



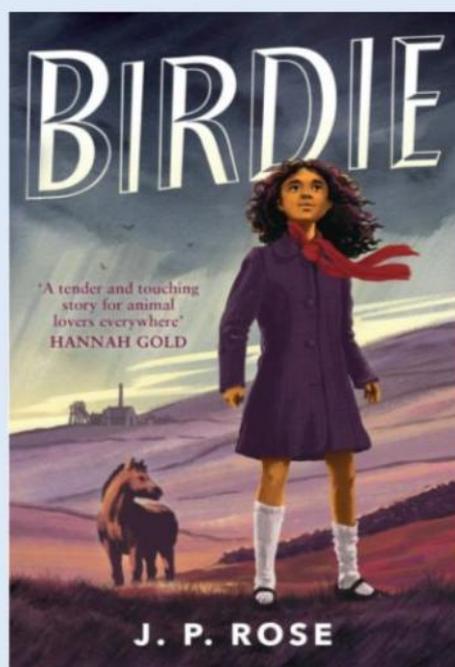
Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award, *The Explorer* is a gripping adventure set deep in the Amazon. The story follows Fred, a boy whose life changes forever when his plane crashes into the rainforest canopy.

From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watched the mysteries of the jungle pass by below him. He had always dreamed of becoming an explorer — of making history and seeing his name alongside the world's greatest discoverers. Now, he is suddenly left without a choice.

He and three other children are alive, but they are stranded in a vast, untamed wilderness. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small.

Except, it seems, someone has been there before them...

Yr7&8 Recommended Read



When Birdie is sent to live with her great-aunt in 1950s Yorkshire, she befriends the village's last remaining pit pony. A story of hope and courage, exploring themes of family, racism and identity.

Birdie Bagshaw has never known her parents. Having grown up in a children's home for mixed-race children in 1950s Leeds, now she has come to live with her great-aunt in the Yorkshire Dales. From her arrival, Birdie is treated like an outsider by the local children. When their bullying drives Birdie to hide in the nearby coal mine, she finds an unexpected rescuer in the form of Mr Duke, the last remaining pit pony in the village. As the weeks pass, Birdie forms a special bond with the spirited little pony. But his future is in danger, and Birdie comes up with a daring plan to save his life in return.

World Book Day

On **Thursday 5th March**, Scissett Middle School will join schools across the country to celebrate **World Book Day**. We see this as a vital opportunity to promote reading for pleasure - a key factor in both academic success and student wellbeing.

To mark the occasion, we have a range of engaging literacy activities planned throughout the day. We are encouraging all pupils to join staff in dressing up as a favourite book character. We aim for this to be an inclusive event; if pupils prefer not to wear a full costume, they are welcome to wear a small prop or accessory that represents a literary character.

Book Fair

Scholastic Book Fair: Week Commencing 9th March

Following our World Book Day celebrations, we are delighted to host the **Scholastic Book Fair** for the second time this academic year.

Access: All students will have scheduled time to browse the fair during the school day.

Purchasing: Books will be available for purchase during break and lunch periods. We will be showcasing a wide variety of titles, from the latest releases to timeless classics, ensuring there is something to challenge and inspire every reader.

Impact: Every book purchased earns rewards for the school. These funds are reinvested directly into our library and classroom resources, allowing us to expand our collection of high-quality texts for all pupils.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a vibrant reading culture at Scissett Middle School.

Careers Education

As part of our students ongoing careers education, we are looking to develop opportunities for students to hear first hand from adults in a wide range of industries and roles. Please would you consider volunteering your time as *Middle School Community Career Champion*, coming to talk to our students about your job? This could take the form of an assembly, a working lunch or a pre-recorded interview.

We'd love for students to hear about your career path, progression, training, qualifications and your insights to what it is like to work in your field. Whether you work for a large or small company, are self-employed, a business owner, a tradesperson, and everything in between, our students will benefit massively from hearing your story.

If you or your friends or family are able to support us with this initiative, please can you/they complete the Microsoft Form below, by the 31st March.

<https://forms.office.com/e/tpbGKAxwg6>

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Osborne at mosborne@themast.co.uk

Thank you in advance for considering volunteering your time to inspire our students.

Magna Trip

A reminder that the Year 7 trip to the STEM Careers fair at Magna, is taking place on Thursday 19th March. This fantastic annual event gives students insight into a huge range of interesting careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, with chances to speak to professionals in those fields.

The deadline for payment and consent is **Monday 2nd March**. Full details are on Parent Pay and in the letter from Mr Osborne sent recently to Year 7 parents.



Well done to Joseph

Well done to Joseph, Year 8, who represented Wales in a Futsal match in January. What a fantastic achievement!



James Dasalou visit

We were inspired earlier this month by a VIP visit from Olympic sprinter James Dasalou. James represented Team GB at two Olympic games and became the second fastest Briton in history across 100m in 2013. The day started with an inspiring assembly about his career and then every student took part in a sponsored fitness challenge overseen by James, assisted by some of our Year 8 sports leaders. The £2,300 raised will be split between Sports For Champions - an organisation which supports young emerging athletes on their journey to becoming professional - and our school, to be invested in sports equipment for our students!



NSPCC Number Day

On Friday 6th February, pupils at SMS joined thousands of schools across the country raising money for the NSPCC. Number Day is the NSPCC's mega maths fundraising event; pupils were encouraged to 'Dress Up for Digits' by making a donation to wear an item of clothing with a number on it. As well as raising money for a worthwhile cause, other departments celebrated Maths within their subject area by doing a short Maths related activity on that day. Pupils also took part in a TT Rockstars battle. Thank you for your support with this event; we raised £557.85



Musical Achievements

A huge congratulations to Ryan, Year 7, who is celebrating major success at the prestigious Mrs Sunderland Music Festival earlier this month. He won two categories; Class 7 Solo Piano (Grade 6 standard) and Class 28 Solo Woodwind (Year 9 and under). This is an outstanding achievement with Ryan competing with musicians several years older but he has shown once again what a fantastic pianist and flautist he is. We're very proud, well done Ryan!



More recent success came from Freya, Year 6, who passed her Grade 1 LAMDA Musical Theatre exam with distinction, with very complimentary feedback from the examiner!

Please let us know any more exam successes for inclusion in future bulletins!

Music Mark

We were very pleased to have been once again this year awarded Music Mark status, in recognition of 'providing excellent musical opportunities for all our pupils'. We were first awarded this in 2018 and are very pleased to have been recognised each year since.



Battle of the Bands

We have currently got lots of students spending their break and lunchtimes rehearsing hard for this great annual competition. The first prize is a trip to a professional recording studio to record the winning song! Before tickets go on sale we will be holding a semi-final round in school, where staff will watch video recordings of each band and cast their votes. Then, on 23rd March students will be told which bands have been voted through to the live final.



**APRIL 16TH
2026. 6.30PM**
SCISSETT + KIRKBURTON
MIDDLE SCHOOLS

**BATTLE
OF THE
BANDS**

FEATURING 13 FANTASTIC BANDS!

PLUS A SPECIAL GUEST
APPEARANCE FROM
"THE FIRST ONES"
[SCAN TO LISTEN TO
THEIR NEW SINGLE,
REVERIE]



VENUE: SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL
TICKETS £4
ON SALE FROM 23/03 ON PARENTPAY
OR CONTACT SCHOOL OFFICE

Logos on the left: Scissett Middle School tree logo, Kirkburton Middle School crest, and #MUSICA KIRKBURTON logo.

National Careers Week

It is National Careers next week (w/c 2nd March)

BBC Bitesize has lots of great tips and advice on Careers - [see link](#).

National Careers Week 2026 | What's on offer on Bitesize Careers? - BBC Bitesize

Job of the week

[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #261 - ART CONSERVATOR](#)

Mrs Thornton

As many of you will know, we have been deeply saddened by the passing of our much-loved colleague and friend, Mrs Thornton. Her loss has been felt profoundly across our whole school community and beyond. It has been a difficult week in school; however, our pupils have shown remarkable maturity, resilience, and compassion in responding to this sad news. Additional support has been provided wherever needed, but if you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Some pupils have asked if they may write about their memories of Mrs Thornton or create drawings in her honour - with *Larry the Lizard* artwork proving especially popular. Form tutors will collect these pieces, and we will ensure they are shared with Mrs Thornton's family.

Mrs Thornton's funeral will take place on Monday 9th March. School will be open as normal but to allow staff to attend, there may be some minor adjustments to the internal timings of the school day, and we thank you in advance for your understanding. **Please note that the school office will be closed from 12 noon on that day. We kindly ask that you only contact school in an emergency during this time.**

At the request of Mrs Thornton's family, donations to Smile Train are being welcomed in lieu of flowers, should any parents wish to contribute. [Fundraiser for Smile Train in memory of Frances Thornton](#).

Although this has been an incredibly challenging week, it has been a privilege to witness our school community come together with such strength and kindness - just as we knew it would. We are immensely proud of your children, and we know you will be too.

Mr Taylor

Dates For The Diary

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Tuesday 17th March - Year 7 Parents Evening (face to face) (Booking information to follow)

Thursday 19th March - Year 7 Magna Trip

Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day / Year 7 Charity Day (More information to follow)

Tuesday 24th March - Year 7 Parents Evening (online) (Booking information to follow)

Friday 27th March - Last day of term

Monday 13th April - First day back following the Easter break