



Love to Read

Summer 2023 · Reading for Pleasure
Newsletter 2



Hello!



Welcome to our Summer edition of 'Love to Read', our reading for pleasure newsletter!

We have had some super events to celebrate reading including World Book Day and our author visit (it is still not too late to order a book written by David Fuller). Please contact the office if you need an order form.

For further children's book ideas, go to Just Imagine Book Blast (YouTube). This link takes you to March [Just Imagine Book Blast](#) (as soon as April comes live, I will send you a link).

I would like your feedback on whether to include an adult fiction section. Please email the office with your thoughts.

Happy Reading,
Mrs. Wellby

THE HENRIETTA BRANFORD WRITING COMPETITION

Writers aged from 8 to 18 are invited to submit a story of up to 900 words on the theme of 'making an unexpected friend'.

You can write as though you are the main character or create your own set of characters in your story. 'Making a friend' might involve meeting between people of your own age, or people from history, animals, fictional characters, or even space aliens! It's completely up to you. The judges are looking for stories that will capture and hold their attentions, so ask yourself, 'Will my story grab a judge's attention, how will I keep them interested right to the end?' There are interviews with authors and editors shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award on [the website](#) so have a read and pick up their writing tips.

When your story is ready to send, make sure you have proofread it and given it an eye-catching title. Present it in an MS Word document (.doc or .docx) with your name, age and your supporting adult's name and contact information at the top of the first page to Branford.boase@gmail.com. Please include in the subject line: *Tell Us a Story competition entry*. The winners will receive signed copies of each of the books shortlisted for the 2023 Branford Boase Award. **Entries must arrive before 9am (GMT) on Tuesday 30th May 2023.**



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY – GROUPS AND EVENTS

Findon Valley Library – 01903 872213
(Please contact the library for further information)

Adults Book Club

Meet up with others to talk about books and reading on the **third Tuesday** of every month 2.00-4.00pm.

Knit and Natter!

Pop in for a session of knitting and nattering, **every Wednesday** 2.00-4.00pm.

Rhyme Time

Drop in to join other families with young children for songs and nursery rhymes, **every Friday 11.00 - 11.30am.**

Swashbuckling Storytime & Craft (Ages 4-8)

There will be a special story time and craft adventure at the library during May half-term. This is a free event but **pre-booking is essential.** **Tuesday 30 May 1.30-2.30pm**





Love to Read

Summer 2023 · Reading for Pleasure
Newsletter 2



Who is Abi Elphinstone?

Which writer do you most admire and why?

Kate DiCamillo for humour. Katherine Rundell for beautiful sentences. Michelle Paver for plot and atmospheric settings. David Almond for making the ordinary extraordinary.

What was the first book you remember loving as a child?

The Worst Witch series by Jill Murphy. I loved that the heroine, Mildred Hubble, was hopeless at the things that don't really matter (brushing her hair, tying her shoelaces, and being on time) but brilliant at the things that do (being brave and loyal and saying yes to adventures).

What was your favourite book as a teenager?

At secondary school, I giggled and chatted my way through every single lesson; the teachers claimed I was 'unteachable' and 'prone to spasmodic outbursts of silliness'. But my English teacher, Mrs Johnson, was entralling. She brought stories to life for me and one, in particular, blew me away as a teenager: *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë. The heroine was unhinged but brilliant, the setting was beautiful but wild and the plot was, for the most part, deeply tragic which probably appealed to my teenage sense of melodrama.

Tell us a book that changed your life's path.

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman, which I read as a child. The heroine, Lyra Belacqua, showed me that girls can be just as courageous as boys, adults, and even armoured polar bears.



What's the best piece of writing advice you've ever been given?

Don't look sideways. There will always be writers doing better than you and writers doing worse so looking sideways will either make you feel inadequate or arrogant. Look ahead, write the best book you can, and don't spend too much time on social media. And never give up in the face of rejection. It took me seven years, three failed books, and a whopping 96 rejection letters from literary agents to get my first book deal.

Tell us about a book you've reread many times (and why).

Tell Me A Dragon by Jackie Morris – because my kids beg me to read it every night at the moment! They love the idea that every child in the world has a dragon of their own and every dragon is different.

What's the best book you've read in the past 12 months?

O Caledonia by Elspeth Barker.

If I didn't become an author, I would be...

A Blue Peter presenter. Apparently, you get to bounce on a trampoline while answering interview questions.

What makes you happiest?

My family. And the wild.

What's your most surprising passion or hobby?

Swimming in really cold water. I live on the east coast of Scotland and the sea here is freeeeeeeeezing but plunging in makes you feel great (afterwards).

What is your ideal writing scenario?

My husband's ancestors are Norwegian (apparently one of them invented the fish finger...) and every summer we go out to a hut in the Norwegian fjords. We eat what we catch: crabs, mussels, cod, and mackerel – and I love writing on the rocks there, looking out at the sea.

What is the best book you've ever read?

Skellig by David Almond is up there.



This is Abi's latest book

– a modern sequel to Peter Pan
“Number 14 Darlington Road, looks like a perfectly ordinary townhouse - at first glance, anyway, but magic is good at hiding ... when it's waiting for the right person to discover it ...”



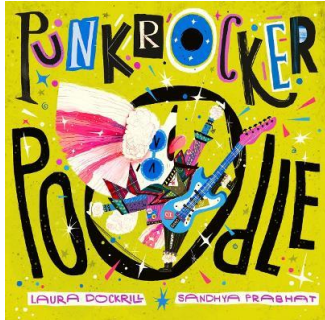
Love to Read

Summer 2023 · Reading for Pleasure
Newsletter 2

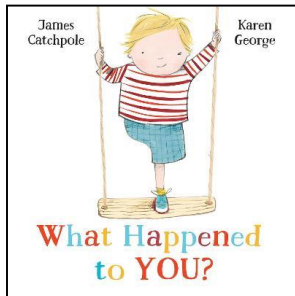


NEW RELEASES.....

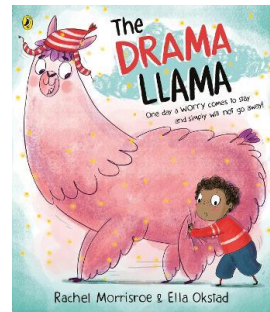
Suitable for children aged 3-7



Laura Dockrill's inimitable style of poetic rap is brilliantly suited to this romp through the house and round and round the playgroup, as one little poodle demonstrates what fun it is to stomp and stamp and pout . . . that is until naptime, when all she really wants is a . . . CUDDLE!

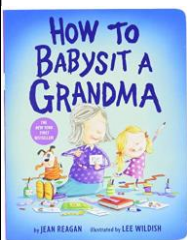


A little boy is engrossed in his game of pirates. He's busy tackling crocodiles and dodging sharks when some new children arrive in the playground. Noticing that he only has one leg, the inevitable questions begin – where is the other leg? Is he hiding it? Was he attacked by lions? Or did it fall down the toilet? Joe has to fend off a barrage of interrogations before the kids all finally get on with the important job of avoiding being eaten by sharks.



This hilarious yet heartwarming rhyming tale from incredible new picture book talent Rachel Morrisroe and bestselling illustrator Ella Okstad offers practical advice about dealing with worry whilst taking you along on the wonderfully riotous adventures of Alex and his mischievous llama.

Suitable for children aged 6-8



The perfect story to make the distance between you and grandma feel a little smaller whilst you're stuck at home . . . When you babysit a grandma, if you're lucky it's a sleepover at her house. With the useful tips found in this book, you're guaranteed to become an expert grandma-sitter in no time. Be sure to check the sections on: how to keep your grandma busy, things to do at the park and what to do when you're both snugly tucked in at bedtime.



Rowan starts to embrace her gifts as a magical wildsmith who heals and speaks to animals. But saving a young Pegasus brings difficult decisions. Danger comes closer than ever, threatening her family and even

Rowan's own life. When she is betrayed, which friends can she trust? With her family divided and war still raging, where does Rowan belong now? (Aged 7+)



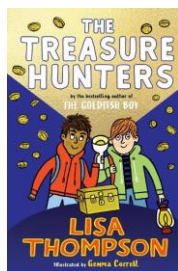
After defeating the evil Grendilock and saving Cadno, the last firefox, Charlie Challinor is looking forward to a well-earned rest. But when a familiar face appears from the realm of Fargone, Charlie's family is once again swept up into adventure.

*The magical sequel to **The Last Firefox**, one of the most exciting children's debuts of 2022. (Aged 8+)*

Suitable for children aged 9-11



Set in the 1920s, this magnificent mystery sees an adventurous orphan traverse the globe to fulfil her mother's quest to discover the Tree of Life. Thrilling, moving and amusing as Wendington outwits multiple enemies while struggling with tremendous grief, this smart, twisty mystery comes recommended for all adventure-loving 9+-year-olds, grown-ups included.



When lonely Vincent is forced to go on an outdoor activity weekend with three other kids from his class, he's counting the seconds until he can escape home. But one of his classmates is hiding a secret: she's convinced there's pirate treasure buried deep within

a nearby mountain. Suddenly, this boring trip becomes an exciting adventure! But a thief is hot on the trail, intent on stealing the loot for themselves... can the Treasure Hunters work together to stop them?



Flick is a magician who needs answers. Her father is still missing, and top illusionist the Great Fox doesn't seem interested in finding him, despite his promises. Meanwhile, she and her friend Charlie must represent the Great Fox in a new competition in the Swiss town of Linth. The Global Order of Magic is electing a new chancellor, and the Fox insists that if he wins, it will help – but Flick isn't so sure.

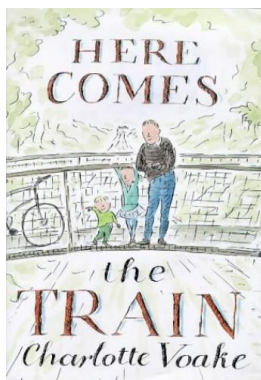


Love to Read

Summer 2023 · Reading for Pleasure
Newsletter 2



TEACHER PICKS !



Here comes the Train by Charlotte Voake

Do you have a weekend routine that you love? Chloe loves to go out for a bike ride every Saturday with her dad and brother, William. They stop on the footbridge over the railway and watch for trains. They get very excited when one comes along!

I love this book because it has beautiful pictures and there are animals and other things in the background that I enjoy spotting. The words have a lovely poetic feel to them and it takes an everyday experience and makes it feel special. You will especially like this book, if you like stories about family or transport.

Book Review written by Ms Lyle

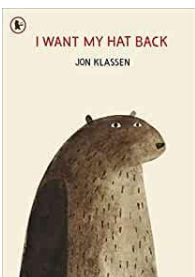
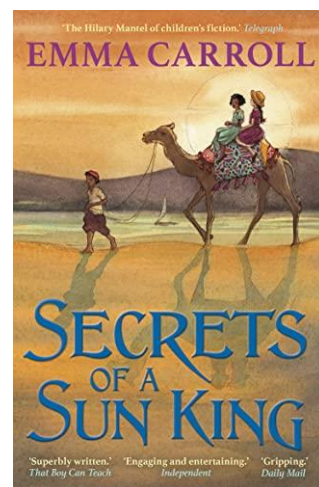
Secrets of the Sun King – Emma Carroll

I discovered this book, whilst researching texts for the Egyptians. Once I started reading, I couldn't put the book down - I loved it! Let me know what you think.

London, 1922. A discovery from ancient Egypt . . . A cursed package . . . The untold story of a young pharaoh . . . When Lilian Kaye finds a parcel on her grandad's doorstep, she is shocked to see who sent it: a famous Egyptologist, found dead that very morning, according to every newspaper in England! The mysterious package holds the key to a story . . . about a king whose tomb archaeologists are desperately hunting for. Lil and her friends must embark on an incredible journey - to return the package to its resting place, to protect those they love, and to break the deadly pharaoh's curse . . .

If you enjoy reading this book, I would also thoroughly recommend Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll.

Book Review written by Mrs Wellby



I want my Hat Back – John Klassen

'I Want my Hat Back' by John Klassen is a book about a bear who has lost his hat. He is really worried that he is never going to see his hat again, when, wait a minute, he suddenly remembers he has seen his hat after all! It is a short but humorous book and never fails to make me laugh however many times I read it.

Book Review written by Mrs Lorne

Recommendations on purchasing a book – cheaply!

The most obvious way is to order the book through the local library, but if you would like to buy a second-hand copy of the book, here are some websites that I would recommend:

- <https://www.abebooks.co.uk/>
- <https://www.awesomebooks.com/>
- <https://www.wob.com/en-gb>





Love to Read

Summer Term 2023 · Reading for Pleasure
Newsletter 2



What are YOU reading?

THE BLACKHOPE ENIGMA By Teresa Flavin

Genre: adventure, mystery

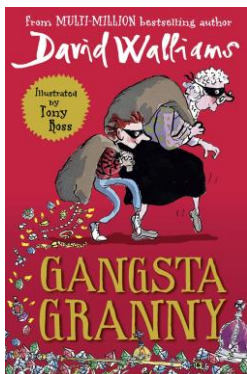
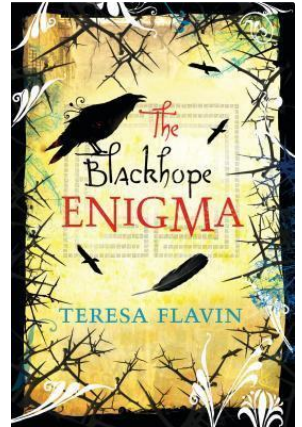
Age: Any from 8 +

Main character(s): Dean, Sunni, Blaise

I love this book and it is really great to read because whenever it gets to a good part in the book, it switches to the other person in the next paragraph leaving you on a cliff hanger.

For centuries, Blackhope Tower has been shrouded in intrigue, centering on a labyrinth and painting in the Mariner's Chamber; when Sunni Forrest's stepbrother accidentally transports himself into a Renaissance painting, she and her friend Blaise set out to bring him back. They encounter odd inhabitants, pirates, monsters, mortal danger, strange world of labyrinths, and lots of interesting people. The mystery of all sorts of adventures is bound to absorb you into the book like you're a part of it.

Written by Hollie (Year 5)



GANGSTER GRANNY By David Walliams

This book is age five plus for girls and boys and is ideal for children who like fiction and fantasy.

It is about a boy called Ben and his granny go on an amazing thief adventure, who try to steal the crown jewels without anyone intervening with the plan that they come up with. They have an awkward incident with the Queen who comes to look for them. But unfortunately they don't get the crown jewels and have to travel home on a mobility scooter. It is quite funny to read about. Also this book is so great and I hope that this will inspire you to read more books and of course to read this one as well!

Written by Harrison (Year 6)

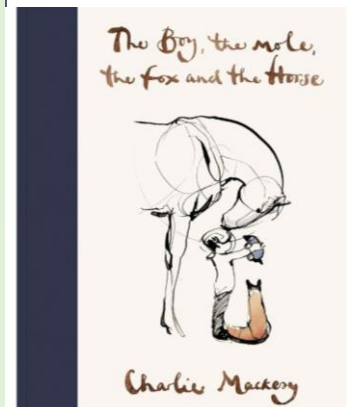
The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse By Charlie Mackesy

This book is really inspirational and it just makes you lose your mind in the words. The storyline is amazingly touching and it just makes you think about lots of things. The characters are creative and I think the author has thought about this book.

The book is all about kindness and friendship like the boy trying to find a home along with all the over animals and how they fox turned from foe to friend. A fun fact about the author is he lives in London and he left books on seats on the tube so I think that this book is about spreading kindness.

It starts off with the boy all on his own and it ends with a team of 4 friends. The book is very imaginative because nearing the end, the horse is sad because he had a difference which was that he had wings, and he showed it to them which probably means that you should not be scared to show your differences.

Written by Oscar, (Year 6)



If you would like your book review published in 'Love to Read', please pass it to your class teacher.