



# Love to Read

February 2023 · Reading for Pleasure  
Newsletter 1



## Hello!



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

This newsletter will be updated half termly to include teacher recommendations, new releases, your recommendations, an author interview and more!

There are some exciting events coming up including World Book Day, which we are celebrating on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, and an author visit from David Fuller (author of 'Alfie Jones') – read more about David in our 'How do you do?' section.

Happy Reading,

Mrs. Wellby

**Upcoming Events**



20-26<sup>th</sup> March

## Book Review Competition

**We would like to kick start our first edition by letting you know about a book review competition you can enter.**

Choose any type of book you want, one you are reading for pleasure or one you are studying - it's up to you! For example: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or a graphic novel. Make sure the entire book is read and reviewed as a whole.

The competition is open to students in Key Stage 2.

The word count for Key Stage 2 should be 300 words.

Write your review in your own words and from your own point of view.

If submitting a handwritten entry, this should be in blue or black ink (not pencil). Please ensure it is legible.

Enter using the online form, download an entry form and email to [psma@theportico.org.uk](mailto:psma@theportico.org.uk) or post to: Ruth Estevez, Project Coordinator, The Portico Library, 57 Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3YH

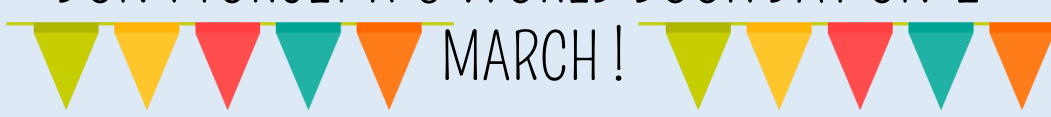
Don't skip the small print! Make sure you [read the rules](#) before you decide to enter and remember to paste your entry into the message box.

Here is a link to the website in order to make an online entry: <https://www.theportico.org.uk/portico-sadie-massey-awards>

## WHAT'S INCLUDED THIS MONTH

How do you do?	New Releases!	Teacher Picks !	What are YOU reading?
A special interview with author David Fuller	A mixture of fiction, non-fiction and picture books released during January and February 2023	<b>OUR</b> book recommendations. This month's are from Mrs Stoner, Mrs Wellby and Miss Cove.	Book Reviews from children in Years 5&6

DON'T FORGET IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY ON 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH!





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Newsletter 1



## Who is David Fuller?

### Have you always enjoyed reading?

Yes. I used to love reading Roy of the Rovers comics and annuals when I was younger, and there was also something called Football Picture Monthly. I'd spend hours reading these. I was also a massive fan of Roald Dahl books (still am) and enjoyed Enid Blyton's Secret Seven.

### Favourite author?

Roald Dahl

### Type of books you like reading?

Anything to be honest, although I prefer fiction to non-fiction.

### Do you have good handwriting?

NO! I have a mild case of something called dyspraxia. No one - and I mean no one - could read my writing until I was about ten years old. I still loved telling stories, though.

### Do you have somewhere special to write your books?

I have an office in my house. I love the idea of being able to take my laptop, or a pen and paper, and head off to a park or cafe and write. The truth, though, is that I'm too easily distracted and wouldn't actually end up getting anything done!

### Website:

<http://www.alfie-jones.co.uk/home>

Follow @08DavidFuller



### How long do you spend writing a day?

When I'm in book writing mode, I generally spend around six or seven hours a day in my office. Most of the day will be set aside for writing, with maybe an hour or two of editing.

### Have you always wanted to be a writer?

Since I was about 13 or 14. Originally I wanted to be a professional footballer, but I was nowhere near good enough. When I was halfway through secondary school I decided I'd one day like to be a sports journalist, and from that moment on I aimed to become a writer one day.

### Were you good at school?

Average. I was never really naughty, but did talk a lot and only really concentrated on things that interested me. I was a little bit lazy to be honest, and didn't always put in an awful lot of effort. Looking back on it now I could have done a lot better!

### Favourite football team:

Liverpool

### Favourite current player:

Lionel Messi - a genius

### Favourite ever Liverpool player:

Robbie Fowler, aka 'God'. Says it all really.

### Favourite music:

Blur are my favourite band, although I like most things from the 1990s Britpop era.



We are really pleased to announce that David Fuller is visiting St John the Baptist on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March. We are really looking forward to meeting him and learning more about his writing and his character 'Alfie Jones'.



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Newsletter 1



## NEW RELEASES.....

Suitable for children aged 3-7



In a world where everything has to be blue, what happens if you like yellow? A joyous celebration of being individual.

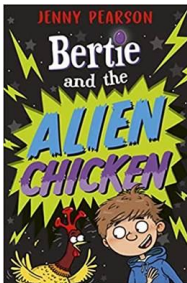


Dad is putting his young daughter to bed, and as he tucks her in, they both start to imagine all of the adventures they could have together the next day. They could be dragons, or walk with giants in the woods, or fly to the moon and then swim with huge whales in the oceans.



Gertie, the littlest yak, is thrilled to learn that she will soon be a big sister but worries that there won't be enough room in Mummy's heart for two little yaks. This humorous picture book is perfect to reassure young children who are expecting their own new sibling.

Suitable for children aged 6-8



Bertie must help Nugget the alien chicken find Earth's most valuable resource - before the aliens blow up the planet! A brilliant humorous, dyslexia-friendly story.

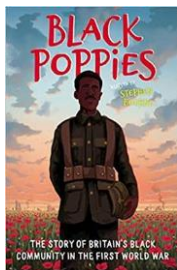


Luma's best friend in the world is Timir, a very cute puppy-like creature who sometimes turns into a baby dragon. Yet, when Timir gets the hiccups, purple flame starts bursting out of his nose! What will Luma do?



This would make a lovely addition particularly to a school library, or a great gift for a young science enthusiast with lots of questions.

Suitable for children aged 9-11



This informative and thought-provoking collection of true stories shines a light on the contributions made by Britain's Black community during the First World War.



Ella Durant is the first Conjurer to attend the Marvellor school in the sky, but not everyone is welcoming. And then her favourite teacher goes missing... Magical fantasy adventure in an intricately detailed world.



When Peijing's family move from Singapore to Australia, everything is different. Will they ever adjust to a life so unlike the one they have left behind?

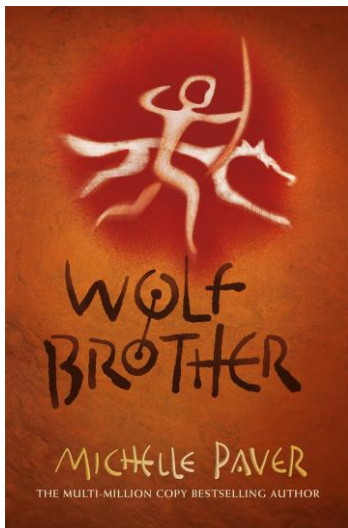


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Newsletter 1



## TEACHER PICKS !



I love a good book series; a book series where I wait avidly for the next volume to be published. Harry Potter was the first collection of books that I became ensnared by, but there are two other sets of books that have kept me captivated for years: *The Chronicles of Darkness* series by Michelle Paver and *The Fire Within* books by Chris d'Lacey (which will be featured in the next edition of 'Love of Books').

### *The Chronicles of Darkness* by Michelle Paver

*Wolf Brother*, the first in the collection, caught my attention about 15 years ago, when I bought it as an Oak Class Guided Reader. The book introduced Torak, a 12 year-old boy, battling his way through life in the Middle Stone age. He is accompanied by Wolf, a cub who he saves towards the beginning of book and Renn, also 12, who is determined to show that girls, even 6000 years ago, are a force to be reckoned with. The chapters are told from the viewpoints of each of the characters and Wolf's own language for the world around him is enchanting. This is a book for all, as each volume presents Torak and Renn growing up together, facing mysterious dangers, keeping the reader on the edge of the seat throughout.

Having shared *Wolf Brother*, as a class reader during lockdown, one pupil, in particular, became hooked and read the whole series in quick succession. He went on to write to the author. As a result, his question and Michelle's response became part of a video chat online. There are now nine books in the series, each as good as the others.

Book Review written by Mrs Stoner

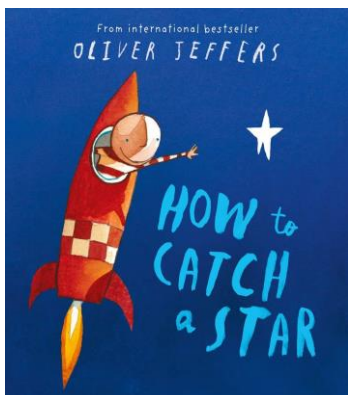
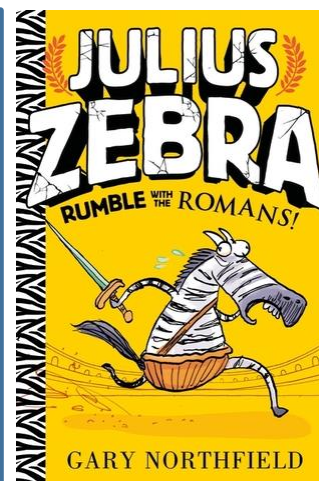
### Julius Zebra – Rumble with the Romans by Gary Northfield

If you are looking for a light-hearted read and enjoy ancient history, then this is the book for you! I came across this book when I taught the Romans a few years ago. It is hilarious, hugely entertaining, AND you get to learn so much about the Roman period. Here is a little snippet about the book.

Set in ancient Rome, this is the funny tale of Julius, a zebra who is seized from his African watering hole and shipped hundreds of miles away to face the gladiators in combat at the Colosseum. The courageous zebra fights valiantly and earns the support of the crowd. Emperor Hadrian demands that Julius and his motley crew of animal friends (a lion, warthog, antelope, giraffe and crocodile) be trained at the finest gladiator school in Rome in preparation for their battle with the mighty gladiators to earn their freedom. But have the group of animals met their match?

Gary Northfield has published a series of book featuring Julius Zebra, including *Entangled with the Egyptians*, *Bundle with the Britons* and *Grapple with the Greeks*.

Book Review written by Mrs Wellby



### How to Catch A Star by Oliver Jeffers

We love Oliver Jeffers in Ash Class and we have recently read a number of books by him and this is one of our favourites.

Oliver Jeffers is a creative and brilliant author; his books are imaginative and engaging for young children. His stories are always so easy to read and his pictures capture the children's attention.

'How to Catch a Star' is about a little boy who is looking at the stars from his bedroom window and the only thing he wants right now is to have one of his own. Trying his best to reach the star and catch it, the story follows him as he spends an entire day looking for a star that doesn't seem to be appearing. Will he catch a star?

A wonderful story about friendship and perseverance, *How To Catch a Star* is one of our favourites.

Book Review written by Miss Cove



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Newsletter 1



## What are YOU reading?

### Once by Morris Gleitzman – a book review written by Ruby (Year 5)

I like this book because it is set on a real person called Janusz Korczak. I would recommend it for both genders from age 9 and above. Once is a book about a boy called Felix who lived in Poland. It is a historical/adventure book set in 1942. Felix is a Jewish boy who lives in an orphanage and a friend called Datu. He was in the orphanage for three years and eight months. Felix goes on a quest to find his parents and their books but on the way, they have to face some hard things...



### Travelling with a Hamster By Ross Welford – a book review written by Austin (Year 6)

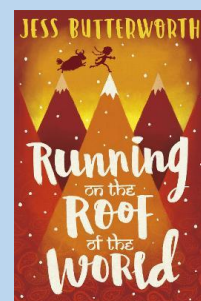
Time Travelling with a Hamster is a book about a boy known as Al Chaudhury, who notices an interesting letter from his dad that was left over, suggesting that in 7 days, he needs to time travel back to 1984. The catch? Not only does he have to do it with his pet hamster Alan Shearer, instead of a huge capsule, or a spaceship-looking device, he notices it's a laptop and a garden centre tub. The way he died (a piece of metal in his throat from a go-kart incident) makes him realise how to save his dad's life. And, he must do it within a week, otherwise this opportunity will slip away from him.



Personally, this might eternally be the best book I have ever read. It made me feel indulged in the story - the anticipation, the suspense, the theories of space. They made me really think, putting my mind on the story, rather than the outside world around me. Even though I prefer non-fiction, the setting, tense and construction of it pieced together a story that although extremely unrealistic, glued to my hands.

### Running on the Roof of the World by Jess Butterworth – a book written by Emijia (Year 6)

The book is about a girl called Tash who lives in a country, where there are a lot of rules. Her parents have been taken away by Chinese police so Tash and Sam flee to India where the parents have been taken. The children get two ox horses to help them travel and hide from the Chinese police. They climb the Himalayas mountain range and encounter life or death situations. There are times that make you cry but I love this book, because it draws you in. It is my favorite book and is really enjoyable - it's beyond words to describe all I can say is it is fabulous and interesting.



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