

# Thurlstone

Primary School

## READING NEWSLETTER

### SPRING TERM 2

Welcome to our spring 2 Thurlstone Primary School Reading Newsletter! Here is another update about what is going on to promote our love of reading across school! The Covid craziness really took its toll on our school last half term, meaning we couldn't get together as much as we would have liked. Fingers crossed we're in for a smoother run this time! I hope you find the newsletter useful, whether it's knowing what's been going on in class, the different events coming up or looking at the author recommendations. I have just started reading a new book, 'The Myth of Race'. My New Year's Resolution was to make sure I read more, even if it's just ten minutes a day, especially as I'm always telling my class to make sure they're reading each day! Anyway, have a lovely half term. Miss Houghton x



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Reading lets you see the world through somebody else's eyes, and that's always a good thing.

### EYFS and KS1:

In our FS class, they are still working really hard on their common exception words and digraphs. They also still LOVE using the library and choosing books from there. The reading area has been filled with fairy tale books to enjoy, and soon they will be moving onto looking at Jack and the Beanstalk! And, to go along with this, they'll even get the chance to do some growing of their own – how exciting! Mrs. Clayton said they absolutely LOVED World Book Day, getting to read with their buddies in Y6 and the Monstars in Y3 too!

EYFS and Y1 have been working really hard on their daily phonics booklets! They even have a dedicated reading page in there too.

Y1 completed their book 'The Queen's Hat' which matched perfectly with their topic based on London. They also looked at 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson – one of my favourites. This half term, they will be looking at the traditional tale 'The blue Jackal'. In story time, they will be reading 'Toto the Ninja Cat' by none other than Dermot O'Leary! As well as reading lots of Mr. Men & Little Miss Books. Mrs. Stokoe said they've been enjoying a beautiful Enid Blyton book that Poppy brought into share, and they've still be sharing lots of poetry, this time based on the seasons to match their science work!

Y2 read the book 'Stardust' by Jeanne Wills. This is a beautiful book encouraging you to shine in your own way and try to achieve your dreams – whatever they may be. Miss Collins said it was a great book to tackle tricky emotions. This half term, Y2 will be looking at different fairy tales – Goldilocks and Little Red Riding Hood in particular. They are still reading 'Daisy and the Trouble with Life' in story time. They have just started doing written reading comprehensions too! This can be quite tricky when you first start, but I know they've been working really hard in their sessions. It's a great build up to KS2 next year!

### KS2:

Y3 have been enjoying reading 'Evie and the Animals' by Matt Haig. Mrs. Smeaton says it talks about current environmental issues, in a kid-friendly way, and includes plenty of interesting facts! Best thing about it? Evie can talk to the animals! Y3 enjoyed 'Jinks and O'Hare Funfair Repair' in guided reading, and have now started reading 'The Street Beneath My Feet' in literacy to write an explanation text. It has some links to their current topic 'Rocks and Rumbles'!

Y4 enjoyed writing poetry based on their book 'The River' last half term, and this half term's book 'Once Upon a Raindrop' has similar links too! It also has some links with their 'States of Matter' topic. In guided reading, they've been enjoying an array of texts – from classics to modern novels! One book's extract Mr. Hughes says they particularly enjoyed was 'Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties'! Mr. Hughes was that buzzing about it; he told me we have to get it for the library! He told me a quote that really made me laugh: "I want to be rich, famous and respected. Like Jay-Z and the old man from KFC." It was a winner. They've still been enjoying 'Demon Dentist' in story time, even listening to David Walliams himself reading the book.

In Year 5, we've been looking at extracts from all sorts of books and poetry! This week we have started looking at books based on Malala Yousafzai. The books we've read about refugees came in really handy for our writing last half term – speeches on refugees and on racism too! In story time, we have been reading 'Kick' about a 12 year old boy who lives in Jakarta, Indonesia. Lots of us like this book because it's filled with football, but we all are hooked on it because of the suspense and tension that is building up! It's also a great way to see how privileged we are compared to some countries, and how these young kids are the ones making those very expensive football boots!

Y6 looked at 'Hansel and Gretel' by master storyteller Neill Gaiman, retelling the Brothers Grimm's greatest tale. According to Mr. Peace, Y6 were hooked and their writing that came out of it, postcards from prison (a twist on Goldilocks), was brilliant! They're just about to finish reading their story time book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' and will be beginning a Michael Morpugo classic soon. They've also been putting in lots of preparation for their SATs in May, working incredibly hard and putting in extra work where needed too!

## A few pictures for you to enjoy...

Two of our youngest children, Liliana and Phoebe, were really inspired by Mrs. Gibbins' assembly on International Women's Day. They brought in some books to share with the class! Liliana impressed Mrs. Clayton with her use of the word 'liberated' – wow! She also couldn't believe what life was like for some women. She said, "In other countries, you can't do stuff like drive a car or walk to the shops. In some countries, they can't even go to school! So we're quite lucky!" Here are just two of our super smart, super strong young ladies!

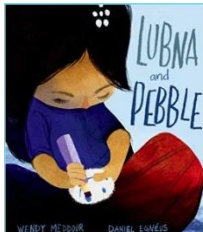
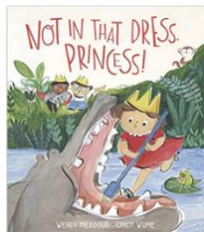
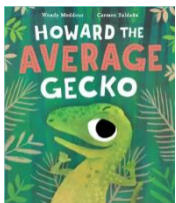


Just a small snippet of WBD photos! Scroll down to pages 3 and 4 for more!



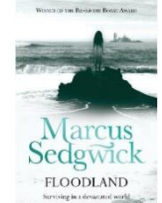
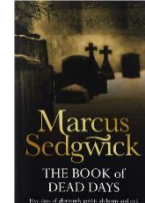
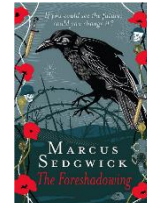
### EYFS and KS1 Author Focus: Wendy Meddour

I've chosen Wendy Meddour for her whacky, clever and beautiful work. She is known for writing children's books that address difficult topics in a thoughtful, heart-warming and uplifting manner. A book of hers that sticks in my head is 'Lubna and the Pebble' about a refugee girl whose best friend, a pebble, has been a consistent comfort to her during the most unsettling times. With what is going on in the world at the minute, learning about refugees seems to be so important. I also love 'Howard the Average Gecko', letting kids know that it's okay to be average!



### KS2 Author Focus: Marcus Sedgwick

I first heard of Marcus Sedgwick when looking at an extract from one of his books in our guided reading lesson. This book was 'Floodland'. I was immediately hooked! Set in the near future on the east coast of England that has been reclaimed by the sea, it tells the story of a girl, having been mistakenly left behind by her parents escaping from the flood. She heads off to find them. This also led me to his other works such as 'The Foreshadowing' and 'The Book of Dead Days'. Full of suspense and tension, they will keep you gripped!



### A review by Y4 Emma Park – Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series) by Jeff Kinney

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid* was first published in 2007 and introduced readers around the globe to Greg Heffley, his family, his best friend, Rowley Jefferson, and the dreaded CHEESE TOUCH! 'I think these books are really funny and definitely cheer you up. I like to read them at bed time for a good end to the day. They can cheer up any sadness you have! I started reading them last year and I haven't stopped. There are lots of them to read, but I've been reading the same one over and over again for a while because I love it. I choose random points and just start reading. It doesn't get boring!'

### Gold List Picnic

Before Easter, we will be having another picnic for our Gold List children! These are children chosen by our Y6 librarians who behave exceptionally during lunchtime library club. I only have a few names on my list so far, so I hope we get more on there soon!

### Reading Event

Unfortunately, it was difficult to organise another Reading at Night Event last half term, due to the amount of Covid we had in school. I'll be meeting with my librarians to try to organise another event this half term – particularly for those who missed out last time! Keep your eyes peeled for more news...

### Book Sale

On the last Friday before half term, some of my fabulous Y6 librarians stayed after school to help organise the library books. We picked out which books weren't being used as much, and that you guys at home may find more useful. Soon, we will be organising a book sale! We will sell the books for cheap prices to raise money so that we can buy new and exciting books for the library!

