

Welcome to our autumn 1 Thurlstone Primary School Reading Newsletter! For any of our new parents, this newsletter will come out once every half term, keeping you up-to-date with all things reading in school! I hope our newest Thurlstoners have settled in well, and I'm sure they'll enjoy the start of their reading journey here at Thurlstone! This newsletter will keep you informed about what your child is doing in class, give you recommendations for different books and hopefully inspire lots of reading at home too!

I hope you enjoy reading through this newsletter,
Happy Reading!
Miss Houghton xx



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Following

Replying to @MrBoothYS

Reading gives you wings. It lifts you up, lets you soar and brings you home in time for tea.

12:04 PM - 22 Aug 2017

EYFS and KS1 current reads and favourite moments of the year:

Our FS2 class have started off by reading stories about starting school! Their favourite is 'Don't Eat the Teacher' by Nick Ward.

Sammy the shark is so excited to start school, but when he's excited, he can't help but eat! The Reception teachers are so happy no one has tried to eat them yet! Our youngest readers have also been listening to audiobooks. They've done a great job at listening, and have loved the sound effects that happen too. Their favourite is a book about a boy called Tom who goes to the beach for a holiday, and a seagull steals his ice cream! Soon, in literacy, they will be starting the book 'Peace at Last' and doing lots of activities to go along with it!

Y1 have started the year with the book 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. They're using this in their writing lessons, basing all the lessons around this book! In story time, they've been looking at different nursery rhymes including some more old-fashioned ones with very strange words! Story time has also included the book 'The Enormous Crocodile' by Roald Dahl. Seeing as they're the Busy Bees, the class have been reading 'The Bee book'. They have learnt so many different things about bees! Maybe you could ask your child about dwarf bees? Y1's phonics sessions have been recapping some of the sounds they learnt last year, and have moved onto learning 'wh' and 'ph'. Don't forget their reading book gets sent home every Monday! Soon, they'll be having their family reading session, which is part of their Harvest afternoon.

Y2 have started reading a story that is very well matched to their class name: 'Zoe's Rescue Zoo: Sleepy Snowy Owl'. This is part of a series of books about a little girl who lives at her uncle's rescue zoo and discovers she can talk to animals! The series covers lots of different animals and Miss Collins reads this book with her class every year, as it's always a firm favourite. Y2 are looking at the book 'Troll Swap' in their writing sessions. This book, about a very messy girl from a very neat family, and a very neat troll from a very messy troll family who decide to swap places, has been a great start for lots of troll-related writing! As well as looking at books in these lessons, Y2 have been working really hard on their phonics and take their phonics books home to read too. They also enjoy choosing a library book, and some children even ask to keep it for another week so they can continue to read it! In any free time, Miss Collins said the children love to spend time in the reading area, sharing books with their friends and reading to one another.

KS2 current reads and favourite moments of the year:

Y3 have started the book 'Seal Surfer' by Michael Foreman in their writing sessions. In this book, a boy and his grandfather watch as a baby seal is born on the rocks near their home and from that day a special friendship is created between them. Y3 will be basing their writing on this! In Guided Reading, they have been looking at 'The Dancing Bear' by Michael Morpurgo. The beautiful story is about a friendship between a girl and her bear.

Y4 have started with the book 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne in their literacy lessons. This is a superb book which, at first, seems so simple. However, the beauty of studying this book in literacy is you get to really delve into the hidden meanings Browne manages to convey so beautifully. In guided reading, Y4 have been looking at 'A World Full of Animal Stories: 50 Folk Tales and Legends' by Angela McAllister. Looking at this book in GR sessions gives Y4 a great cultural understanding of varied animals and the stories behind their characteristics and habits. In story time, they have started reading 'Varjak Paw' by SF Said. This book is one of my favourites! When I had Y4, it was our favourite book of the year. It starts off so strange, but soon becomes the kind of text you cannot put down!

In Year 5, have started the year by looking at the book 'Queen of the Falls', all about Annie Edson Taylor who went over Niagara Falls in a barrel – and survived! This is what our writing will be based on this half term. We have also looked at a number of different historical and amazing women from the book 'Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls' and developed a really good understanding of their achievements in our Guided Reading sessions. In story time, we have started to read the book 'High Rise Mystery'. This is one of my favourites, all about girls Nik and Norva and their quest to find out 'whodunnit' when their friend Hugo is murdered on the Tri Estate where they live!

Y6 have started the year by looking at 'Star of Hope, Star of Fear' by Jo Hoestlandt. This beautiful book is set in France during the Nazi occupation in WW2. It touches upon the Holocaust with sensitivity and poignancy and will help Y6 understand such a difficult time in history. In guided reading, Y6 are looking at 'When we were Warriors' by Emma Carroll. Also set in WW2, it explores the resilience, resourcefulness and inventiveness of children when their lives fall to pieces. Story time hasn't been following the same theme. Instead, children have been reading 'Thornhill' by Pam Smy. It's more than just a scary story, it is one of friendship and courage – and has amazing illustrations too!

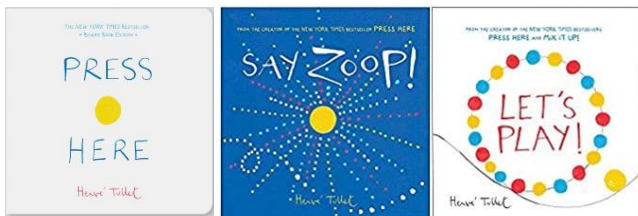
Book Review by Y6 Sophie Teesdale – The Hunger Games

I absolutely love The Hunger Games! I read them last year and couldn't stop. I quite like books that are set in dystopian worlds – so I've read The Maze Runner and Divergent series too. I loved reading all the books, and I don't think I could choose a favourite character because they all have a special role, but my favourite part of the books is when they're in the actual game. That's when all the action happens! I'd recommend this book for children in Year 5 or Year 6. Probably not younger than that. And probably no one who gets scared easily. They aren't scary books, but some parts of them are definitely aimed at older kids. Other than that, it's pretty easy to read. I've also recently started reading The Hobbit, because I absolutely love Lord of the Rings. My dad said I wasn't allowed to watch The Hobbit until I read the book. I'd probably recommend this to Year 5 upwards, as the language in it is a little more complicated. And the writing is tiny! I've put it on my Kindle so I can zoom in! I like seeing how it all links to Lord of the Rings.

I loved talking to Sophie about her favourite book. I remember her reading it in my class! We both have a shared love of LOTR, so I'm super excited she's started reading The Hobbit too!

EYFS and KS1 Author Focus: Hervé Tullet

Hervé Tullet is known for his unusual ideas, from directing ad campaigns to designing fabric for Hermès. But his real love is working with children, for whom he has published dozens of books, including the New York Times bestsellers Mix It Up!, Let's Play!, Say Zoop!, and Press Here. One of his best-sellers is the book 'Press Here'. Children start by pressing the yellow dot on the front page, and the interactive book takes them into an immersive experience. Each page of this surprising touch book instructs the reader to push the button, shake it up, tilt the book, and who knows what will happen next? Don't be fooled by how it sounds, it's not only the littlest of children who are enthralled by this crazy experience! It's great to get any early reluctant readers hooked on books!



KS2 Author Focus: Peter Bunzl

Peter Bunzl is a children's author who writes quirky tales about finding your place in the world and what makes you unique. Stories of family and humanity and where they begin and end. He loves cinematic images, magic adventures and big odd ideas. Peter Bunzl's debut novel, Cogheart was published in Spring 2016 by Usborne. Its sequel, Moonlocket was published in Spring 2017 with Sky Circus coming out in 2018. The series was completed with a fourth novel, Shadowsea in January 2020. From remarkable mechanimals and incredible automata to soaring airships and dastardly plots, The Cogheart series is an exhilarating adventure of astonishing imagination – a modern classic to capture the hearts of readers.



Black History Month:

October is the month to celebrate and raise awareness of Black History across the country. In school, we will be delving into black culture through art, literature, music... all sorts! Keep an eye out on Dojo, as I will be doing what I did last year, and once a week for four weeks, I'll be posting recommendations of fabulous reads that either have been written by black authors or include black characters!



Library Club:

Our Library Club is open once again! This has been really popular as a lunchtime activity, particularly for our younger children. Once the librarians have taken some time to settle in, we will be meeting to discuss ideas and plan exciting things! It is also one of our aims this year to encourage more of our older pupils into the library – particularly our older boys. The Y6 librarians will be investigating ideas and helping to create engaging concepts for the library. Special shout out to our wonderful Y6 pupils who have agreed to take on this responsibility, giving up some of their lunchtime each week. You guys are amazing!

Summer Reading Challenge

Did your child take part in the summer reading challenge with the libraries in Barnsley? If so, I'd like to know! I'd like to present them with a certificate in assembly for being a super summer reader! Could they bring along their Gadeteers folder to school, to show their class teacher and me? Alternatively, send the office an email to let me know.