Reading Newsletter

Autumn 2025

Welcome to our new Year 6 Reading Ambassadors

We had a very strong field of candidates - over a third of the year – which is why it has taken a while to complete the process. Thank you to everyone who applied and well done to those selected: Abena, Amelia, Anais, Diego, Dylan, Emilia, Gaia, Gantisha, Haru, Innaya, Isla, Juan, Maddie, Reema, Romy, Sienna, Yasmine and Zarah.

So far, they have been helping keep the library and reading areas tidy, presented their ideas in an assembly and spent time in the mornings reading with Year 3 children.

This is their first newsletter so read on to find out what has been happening and what their plans are for the future.

"Reading is the gateway for children that makes all other learning possible."
Barack Obama

Autumn Term Messages

This month's reading and library news is full of updates and reminders for everyone who loves books. We also have an exciting competition at the end of this newsletter with bookish prizes!

We have continued our **Author Visits** this term. First up, Year 3 enjoyed an online author visit with Abiola Bello. They were excited to discover that she wrote her first story when she was their age. She introduced them to her novel *Wild Magic*, which is the first of a series set in Africa and tells the exciting tale about a legendary black lion.

Simon Fox, a brilliant storyteller, visited Years 5 and 6. His new novel tells the powerful story of two children who find themselves trapped in the mountains after an avalanche, learning about bravery, teamwork, and hope in the face of danger. If you haven't yet read it, make sure to check it out - it's a fantastic read that keeps you on the edge of your seat.

Our **Book Swap** is now up and running and ready for everyone to enjoy! It's located near the office and is available all the time, so you can visit whenever you like to swap one of your finished books for another student's favourite. Just make sure the books you bring are in good condition and suitable for our school readers.

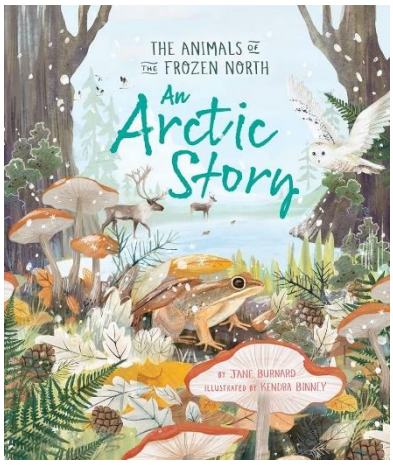
We have been so lucky to have lots of donations to update our **outdoor reading areas**. Firstly, some new sheds and planters were donated by very generous parents to house books, magazines and drawing equipment. Then Miss Kennedy-Alexander was successful in getting a grant from the Thriving Communities Fund to replace our old benches . A very big thank you to Chiswick councillors Gabriella Giles and Peter Thompson for endorsing our application.

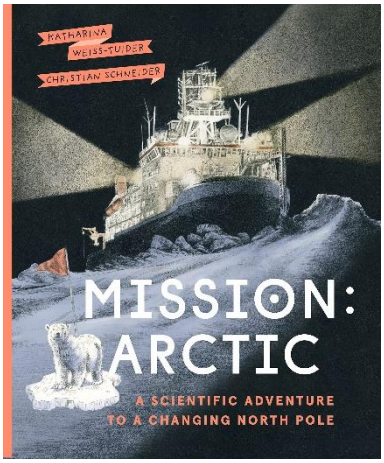
Finally, please remember our **Library and Reading Shed rules**, which help keep our spaces calm and welcoming for everyone. Always handle books carefully, keep the areas tidy, and be respectful of others' reading choices. These simple things help make our library and outdoor reading areas places where everyone can enjoy their reading time.

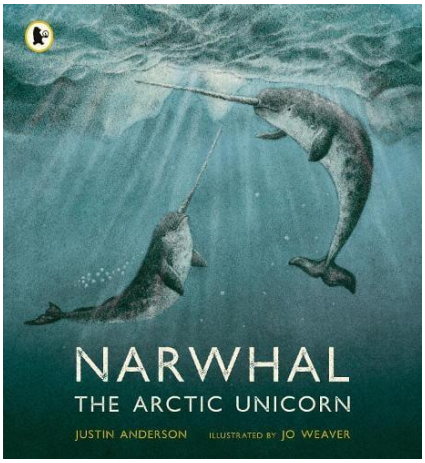
There's so much to look forward to next term – including **World Book Day** - so keep reading, keep swapping, and keep sharing the joy of books with everyone around you!

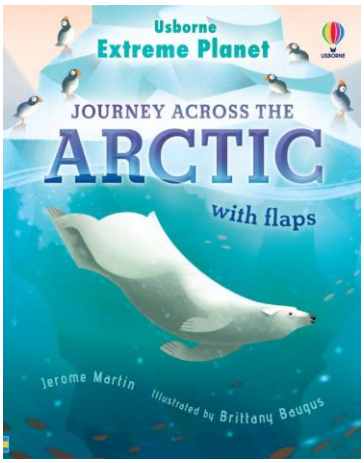
Favourite Books

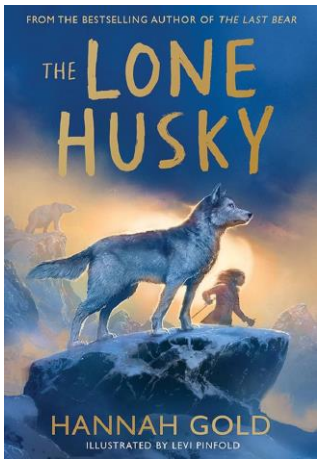
As it is turning colder, we decided to focus on the Arctic - which happens to be part of the Year 3 Nordic Noir topic!

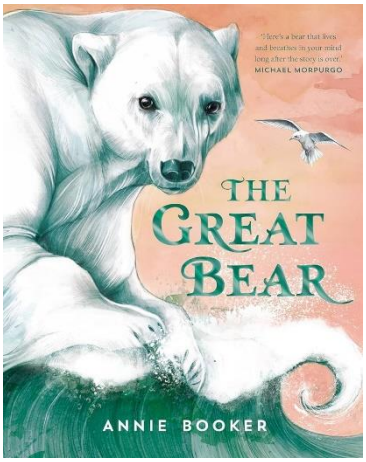


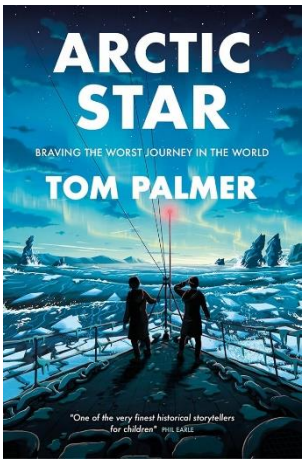


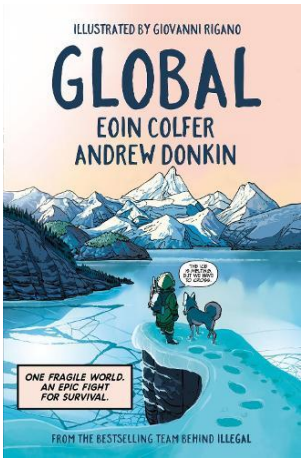


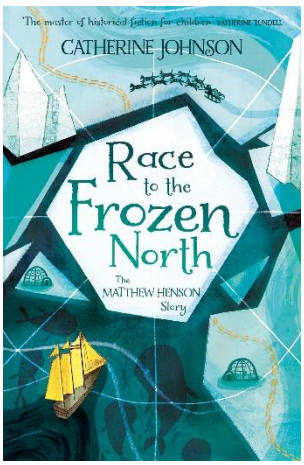


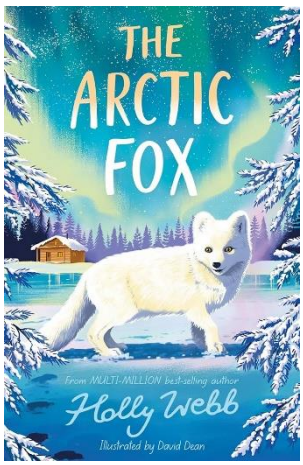


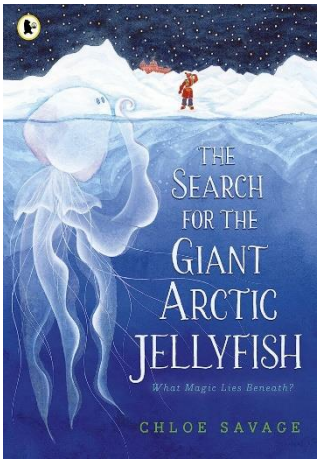


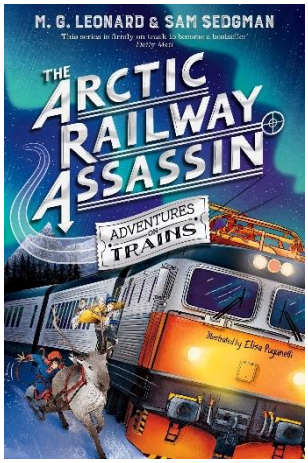




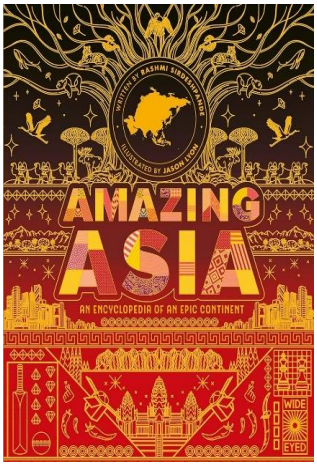








Book Awards



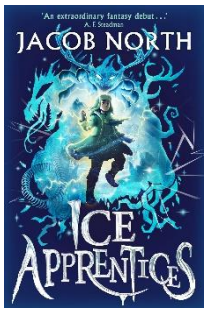
This year, we have expanded our judging panels to take in one extra award: the Children's Choice category of the Information Book Award run by the School Library Association. Our favourite, Amazing Asia by Rashmi Sirdeshpande, was also the national winner so we obviously have good taste. With stunning illustrations by Jason Lyon, it is an encyclopaedia looking at the vast continent of Asia from various perspectives. Thank you to the panel - Ayrton, Emilia, Haru, Reema, Aggy, Atousa, Dylan, Matty, Elian, Ellie and Henry – for reading the books and advocating so eloquently for their favourites.

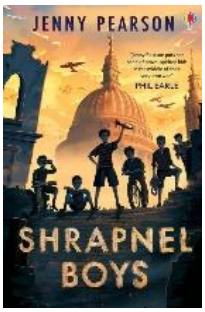
Royal Society Young People's Book Prize

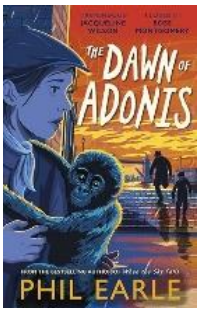
The reading ambassadors will be helping to choose a winner next term.

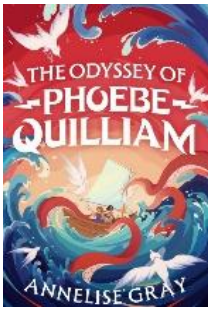
Spark! Book Awards

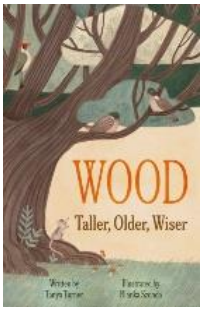
We will be judging in three categories: 7+ fiction and 9+ fiction and non-fiction. This year, Mrs Jones is on the shortlisting panel for the 9+ fiction and has enjoyed reading some fantastic books over the past few weeks. The huge selection has been whittled down to the longlist shown below and the shortlist will be announced in January. Click on the covers for more information.

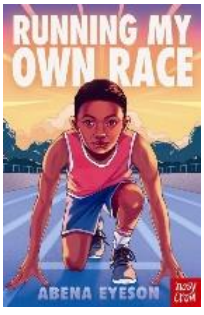


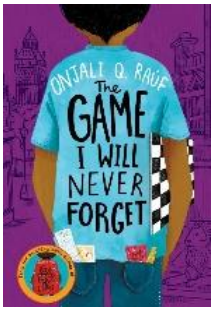


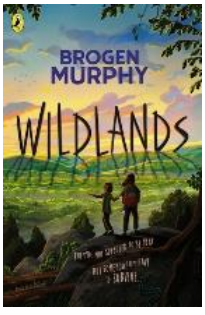












Prize Quiz

Can you identify these books from the emoji clues?
There are two ways to enter:

- Use the assignment on Google Classroom
- Bring in your list and hand to your teacher (remember to put your name on it)

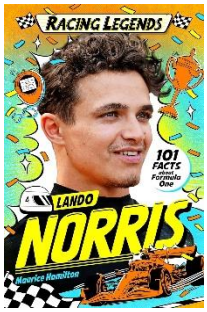
The closing date is Friday January 9th.

Hint: try looking at our [recommendations for recently published books]

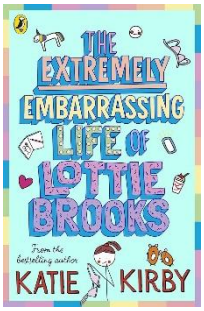
Book requests for our library

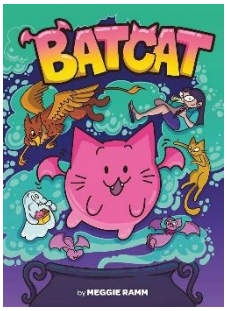
Don't forget we have postcards in the library for any suggestions. In the meantime, the reading ambassadors have been canvassing opinion across the school. There were lots of requests for more copies of books we already have – from Dog Man and Captain Underpants, to Star Wars and horror books.

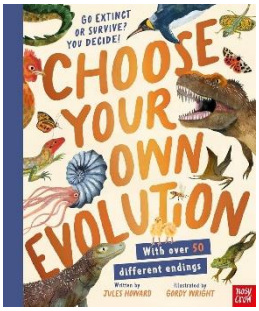
Several people asked for books about sports other than football which is definitely something that is lacking and we would welcome ideas.

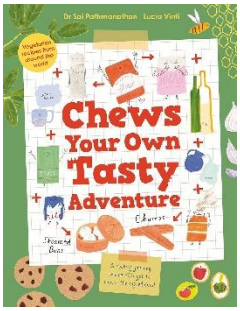


There are some series that are apparently sadly missing from our shelves and we will also be looking for more non-fiction books, including some on science and food!









Make sure you let us know if there is something you would like.

If you are looking for more inspiration, check out the favourite children's book of the year as decided by BookTrust or the must-reads on Toppsta. The LoveReading4Kids website has also got a great list or you can scroll through their Books of the Month. You get 10% off any books you buy from them while they contribute 25% for our school fill our classroom shelves.

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