Reading Newsletter

Summer 2025

Thank you Reading Ambassadors 2024-25!

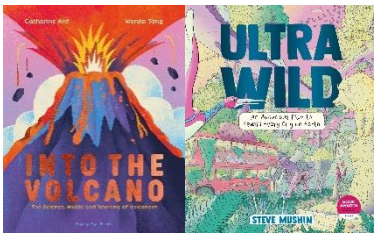
In the inaugural year of Strand Reading Ambassadors, we need to say a huge thank you and fond farewell to our ambassadors who have served brilliantly this year. All so passionate about literature and true beacons of book knowledge, the ambassadors have given a considerable amount of their time and shown tremendous commitment to our mission of furthering a love of books and reading across the school. It never ceases to amaze us how enthusiastic and creative they are in generating fun and engaging ways of boosting reading for pleasure.

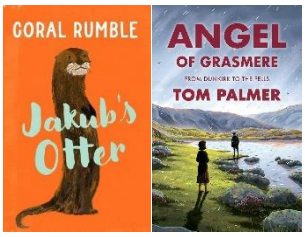
Well done and thank you so much to: Amia, Anais, Bella, Carla, Eva, Grace, Karter, Marlowe, Marni, Meriam, Nia, Oscar and Warisha.

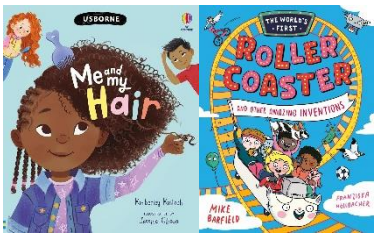
If you are in Year 5 and would like to be a Reading Ambassador for the year 2025-26, see the advert at the end of this newsletter!

Spark! School Book Awards

This year we had three different panels of judges. Having read the four books in their category, they joined virtual meetings with the authors. Not only did we discover what inspired them to write but we also had the chance to ask vital questions like whether they still believe in magic, if they have ever seen an otter close up, whether they have ever had any adventures in a forest and what job they would have done if they hadn't been an author.







Non-Fiction (guest category)
Year 5: Ayrton, Isla, Kolka, Safiya, Rushai, Hamza, Zayd and Youssif
Year 6: Bella, Meriam, Zubeyr, Sviatoslav, George and Aleksa
Our choice and national winner: Into the Volcano

7+ Fiction
Year 3: Siena, Emma, Aston and Inigo
Year 4: Jess, Kashni, Leahna, Rose, Eesa, Ismail James and Nadir
Our choice and national winner: Dungeon Runners

9+ Fiction
Year 6: Fadi, Kennesaw, Carla, Warisha, Amelie, Evelyn, Nia, Eva, Arthur, Vasishta, Patrick and Amia.
Our choice: The Secret of Golden Island
National winner: Jakub's Otter

Excitingly we were also awarded a prize as this year's Spark! School of the Year for being the most engaged so thank you to all the judges for the effort they put in. The book tokens will help us buy some new non-fiction for the library.

We will be taking part again next year so if you are interested, make sure you let your teacher or Mrs Jones know. If you have any questions, one of this year's panel members can fill you in!

Mixed year group reading across the school

Our reading ambassadors have been spending some time reading with Year 3s this term. Oscar, Nia, Carla and Anais were blown away with how confident and fluent each child was. It also made them think back to how their reading was in Year 3 and just how far they have come!

Carla and Mohammad

Today, I read with Mohammad who wrote an amazing short story about Mr Respectful, teaching the Year 2s about the Strand Values and the importance of being kind and respectful to everyone. I was really impressed by the quality of good writing and how clearly he read it to me. Well done, Mohammad.

Anais and Miah

Today I read with Miah from 3B as part of a Reading Champion job. She was very good at reading, speaking clearly and loudly. I was so impressed with the level of book she was reading! She read it confidently. Miah is a very good reader and I loved listening to her read!

Oscar and Reison

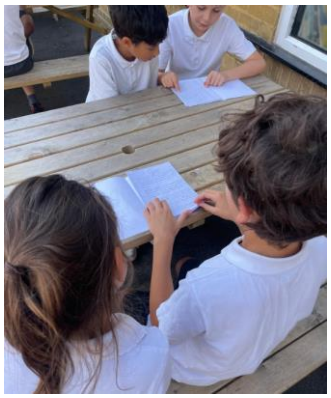
I have been listening to a very talented year three student called Reison. He was very confident. I was blown away by the way he could just pick up a book and start to read. I tested to see if he was really taking it in or just reading and forgetting but he was able to answer all of my questions correctly and explain his reasons.

Nia and Buna

All of these children were absolutely incredible! I read with a girl called Buna and the book she was reading was Matilda by Roald Dahl. At first, I read to her and asked her questions about the book and then she read to me confidently and fluently.

Year 3s read to Year 2s!

Using the Mr Men and Little Miss books as inspiration, Year 3 have been writing their own versions this term, showing off their incredible writing skills. First, starting with a dive into the Mr Men world by looking at the characters such as Mr Grumpy and Mr Mean, and settings such as Happyland, the children then created their own characters based on the Strand Values. Highlights were Mr Disrespectful who lives in Respectland and learns the errors of his ways, and Little Miss Friendly who teaches all around her what it means to be a good friend. The Year 3s then spent time reading their incredible stories to Year 2 to introduce them to our Values (and to show what amazing writers they are!) Thank you for being such great listeners, Year 2!



Our Reading Ambassadors' reading memories....

These are just some of our Reading Ambassadors' favourite reads from the past four years. We wonder how many books they have read over their time in the Juniors! This selection is from the library, the outdoor reading area and the book stocks in each year group, so look out for them next year!

My all-time favourite Strand novel, by Anais

The book I have chosen to do a review on is 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio. It is a really good and inspiring book about differences and fairness. We read it in Year 5. The book is all about a boy called Auggie who has to have surgery on his face because he was born with some problems.

The book follows Auggie's life and his struggles to make friends and fit in. Other children are often very cruel to him. It teaches us about how differences don't matter and how everyone is equal no matter the looks. It is truly what's inside that counts. My favourite thing about it are the life lessons given by Mr Browne each month for homework, because it really starts to change the way the children think.

Reading Through the Holidays

Try the Books for Topics Summer Reading Bingo

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is back and this year they have a Story Garden book collection full of enchanting worlds, all kinds of creatures and plants, outdoor adventures, and curious facts! Find out more here.

Reading Rocks Summer Book Boost

Sign up here for a weekly burst of book magic.

Each week, you'll get:

✨ A fun author video to watch together

📖 A juicy snippet from an exciting children's book

🎨 Easy follow-on activities to inspire your child

📚 A library-friendly reading pick (no need to buy!)

It's free, simple, and packed with book buzz.

Reading Rocks

Win a prize in our competition

We are running our Reading in Unusual Places competition again this year. Previous entrants have been caught reading in the Royal Albert Hall, on a combine harvester and in a rowing boat. Can you find a more unusual or interesting place to read your favourite book? Remember to have a photographer with you to capture the moment!

For current students, there is a task on Google Classroom where you can upload your picture (add an attachment to the assignment) or hand in a printed version to your teacher in September. It would be lovely to see some entries from our current Year 6 before they start secondary school as well as those joining Year 3 in September. The closing date is Monday September 8th.

Launch of Book Swap

Next September will see the return of the hotly anticipated Book Swap. Located in the entrance area, the Book Swap is a bookcase of new and pre-loved books which have been donated by families. The idea is that you bring a good quality book from home which you have enjoyed reading and know someone else in the Juniors would love to read too. You can then take one from the shelves to enjoy at home. Bring one, take one. This is a great way to get your hands on new reads without breaking the bank and to share your most beloved books with others.

Classifieds

Do you love books? Are you in Year 5?
Do you have what it takes to get other people reading more?

If so, we may have the job for you….

We are looking for suitable candidates from Year 5 to fill the role of **Reading Champion** across the Juniors, taking over from the current Year 6 ambassadors in the Summer term. In the first instance, the role will include primarily organisational responsibilities, but the role could be expanded for the right candidates to involve creating and carrying out activities to promote a love of reading across the school.

Look out for posters across the school next term which will include details of what we are looking for in the right candidates and how to apply….

Complete an application form over the summer holidays. You can find it in your Year 5 class on Google Classroom.

If you are looking for more inspiration, Books for Topics have a list of recommendations for Summer Reads or LoveReading4Kids have chosen some Brilliant Books to Read This Summer.