

Berkeley Primary School

Autumn One 2023 Reading Newsletter



X @BerkeleyPri_Sch

Welcome to our half-termly reading newsletter. Each half term, we share different elements of our reading journey with you. Please take a look at some of the reading that was taking place in our first half term of 2023.

Secret Storyteller



We would like to start by telling you all about 'Secret Storyteller'. We have been running Secret Storyteller for a while now here at Berkeley and it is a wonderful way for parents and carers to feel more involved with their children's reading journey. By now, each teacher should have been in touch, asking you if you would like to take part. At different points throughout the year, parents and carers are invited into their child's classroom to read to the whole class. This can be a favourite story or you could ask the class teacher to choose a book to have ready and waiting for you. Then all you have to do is come along and read. As the name suggests, this arrangement is kept from your child and then when you walk through the door it will be a wonderful surprise! Please get in touch with your child's class teacher to arrange a time to come and read, if you would like to, or just for more information.

The importance of reading at home with your children

Here at Berkeley Primary School, we strongly believe in the power of reading both with and to your children at home. It is a key part of their reading journey and one that should happen as regularly as possible – whether your child is in Reception or year 6 ... and for as long as they will let you beyond. Please do not think that once a child can read fluently, you need to stop reading to them. This is a wonderful time to be able to read together and develop and foster your child's love of reading.

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?		
IF PUPIL A READS ...	IF PUPIL B READS ...	IF PUPIL C READS ...
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		

This visual (from Nagy and Herman's 1987 research) highlights how reading for just 20 minutes a day with your child can have a huge impact on their vocabulary as well as the findings telling us that 'Child A' would be far more likely to score higher in their standardised tests than peers who read far less or do not read at home at all.

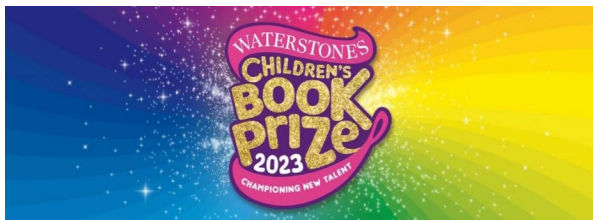
Of course, any reading at home is better than none but 20 minutes is a goal we would like children to work towards.

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Website of the Week!

<https://www.waterstones.com/the-waterstones-childrens-book-prize>

If you want some brilliant recommendations for what to read next, then look no further than the list of books from Waterstones children's award winners and shortlisted finalists.



Hannah Gold – Live Author Session

Hannah Gold is an incredible author with a range of best selling and award winning books to her name. Recently, some upper KS2 children were lucky enough to watch an author live where she spoke about her wonderful book 'The Last Bear' as well as her new release, 'Finding Bear'. She was also joined by the book's illustrator, Levi Pinfold. The children were captivated and we cannot wait to read the books in our DEAR time sessions.

A huge thank you to Hannah for her time and inspirational talk.



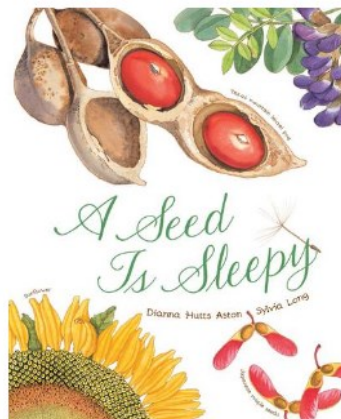
Celebration Assembly Reading Success

As one of the reading leads, there is nothing I enjoy more than seeing reading celebrated in school. That is why it was so pleasing to see Arabella gain a celebration assembly certificate for her reading journal entry. Well done, Arabella. A real role-model to others.

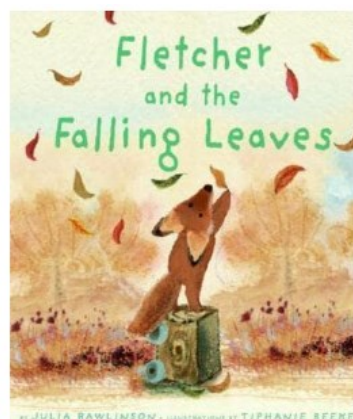
Autumnal Book Recommendations



By Kay Barnham (ages 3 to 5)



By Dianna Aston (ages 4 to 6)



By Julia Rawlinson (ages 4 to 8)



By M. Harrison (ages 9 to 12)

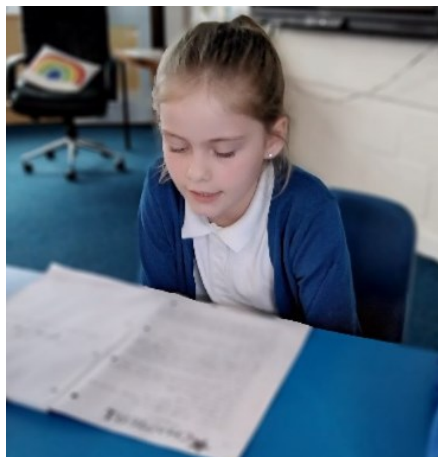
Reading Discussion: What is your favorite genre to read and why?

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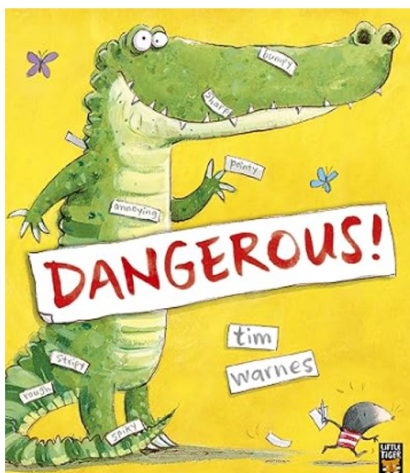
Reading For Pleasure Lunchtime Club

Our Reading for Pleasure club has started and it has been a joy to be part of. The children who come along clearly have a passion for reading (every kind of book imaginable) and we have already had some wonderful book talk.

In the first week, Holly read out her very own story to the group and to say we have an author (and actor) in the making is an understatement! Excellent work, Holly. We were all hooked and we cannot wait to hear more!



Mrs Suddaby's Book Review



'Dangerous!' by Tim Warnes is a gentle story full of surprises and a little of suspense mixed in, a lovely story of friendship. Mole likes to label everything and when he meets a "thing", a lumpy, bumpy thing, he uses some amazing adjectives to describe it. It is fun story with bright and colourful illustrations. I would definitely read this book again because it is fun and shares a great message of what makes a good friend as well as encouraging the development of vocabulary. The target age range for this book is suggested as 3-6 years but I would recommend it to EYFS, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3.

Thank you, Mrs Suddaby. We can't wait to read this!

Book Blether!

In all our classrooms, we are constantly encouraging 'book blether' - informally talking about the books we love, authors we enjoy and much more. It is important that reading for pleasure is a social event (if and when pupils want it to be) and with books available that tempt! One we have been loving to share in 6 Oak is the wonderful 'Maps' by Aleksandra and Daniel Mizielski. It really does promote so much discussion—or blethering!



Jasper and Harry enjoying DEAR time together.

BOOK VOTING

Throughout the school, Book Voting is in full swing. Children are able to find out all about a range of books and then vote for which one they would like their teacher (or whoever joins in) to read to them in DEAR time – Drop Everything And Read! It really does add a little more excitement and intrigue before the fun of the reading begins!



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