



Reading Newsletter



Edition #1
March 2024

Welcome to the very first edition of our reading newsletter! We hope that you find these useful as they will be packed with information about the reading happening in school, tips and strategies about reading at home, recommendations and much more!

Congratulations!

A big well done goes to Luke and Harlie who won our December Reading Competition! They received their book tokens during an assembly at the beginning of the spring term.



Thank you to all the children and families that took part. We had lots of entries and it looked like you all had lots of fun. Also, well done to our Reading Ambassadors for organising the competition.



We are looking forward to **World Book Day** on **Thursday 7th March** - it promises to be a fantastic celebration of reading for pleasure!

This year, we are inviting you to come to school dressed as a book character of your choice and to bring your favourite book into school. You may also bring in a cuddly toy, slippers, a cushion and anything else that makes you feel comfortable while reading as we will be having a special **ERIC** time (**Everyone Reading In Class**).

Don't forget to use your World Book Day vouchers to claim your free books. Click on the link below to find out more about where to spend your coupons.

[Participating Retailers - World Book Day](#)





A Guide to Book Chat

Research indicates that parents who regularly read with their children at home lay solid foundations for language and literacy development. It's a precious time for you both to relax, share your thoughts and feelings, have fun and chat together. Whilst sharing books, your child has your undivided attention, and the conversation, connection and enjoyment they experience is invaluable.

To promote children's pleasure in reading and foster the habit, we need to read **to** children and **with** them and to **talk** to them about books. These conversations are crucial as they help children to engage and think deeply.

There are several ways to prompt book chat, these are our Top Tips.

Watch and listen carefully to follow their interests

Observe and respond: Pay attention to what captures your child's attention and build on their interests, for example, 'Oh, you've spotted the...!'

Leave pauses: So they can look closely and think, this will lead to comments on the pictures or questions. Respond to their lead and let the book chat flow.

Invite your child to get involved

Pose questions: Open questions encourage thinking and discussion, such as, 'How do you think the boy is feeling?'. Try to avoid closed questions, such as 'What colour is that?'; these have a single answer and don't keep the conversation going.

Draw attention to illustrations: Encourage your child to notice details in the pictures and think what they might mean, for example, 'Look! What's that hiding, what do you think it might be?'

Wonder and connect to your lives

Ponder and wonder: Encourage your child to think about what might happen, using phrases such as, 'I wonder if/ whether /who/ why/ what ...'.

Make personal connections: Picture storybooks not only allow children to empathise with the experiences of fictional characters but enable them to make sense of events in their own lives. Talk about connections, for example, 'That reminds me of when...'.

Share your emotional responses!

Comment on your feelings: By sharing your emotional response to a character or something that's happened you encourage your child to do the same, helping them engage and learn to express their emotions.

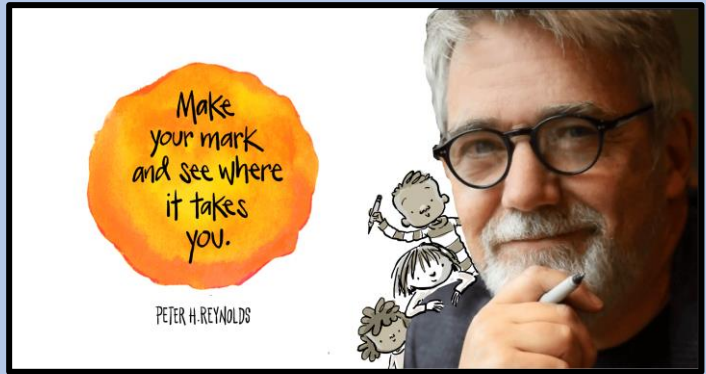
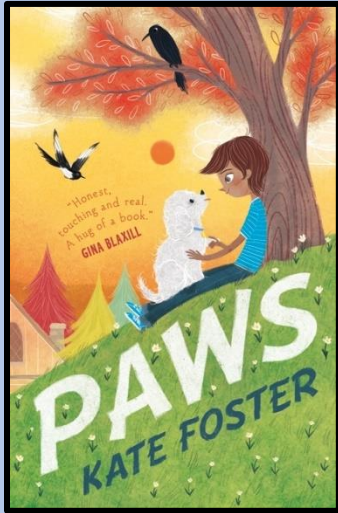
Keep it light and enjoyable!

Your combined pleasure counts: Bring the story to life with facial expression, actions and sounds, encouraging your child to join in! Do offer information to help with unfamiliar words, such as 'That's the hencoop, it's where the hens live', but keep the focus on fun.



Meeting Authors!

Recently, we were very lucky to meet two authors! Peter H Reynolds talked to our infant classes about his books 'The Dot' and 'Ish'. Our KS2 children listened to Kate Foster discussing her novel 'PAWS'.



During these live online sessions, both authors spoke about their jobs and what it is like to be a successful author. They also talked about how their books focus on inclusion and equality. Our children asked them some great questions and afterwards, we enjoyed listening to them reading from their own books. We even managed to win a copy of Peter H Reynolds's 'The Dot'! Copies of all these books can be found in our class book areas.

Meet Our Reading Ambassadors

Meet our new Reading Ambassadors! Since forming last term, they have been very busy promoting reading for pleasure across our school.

As well as meeting together regularly, and organising the December Reading Competition, they have also spent time reading books to our EYFS children.

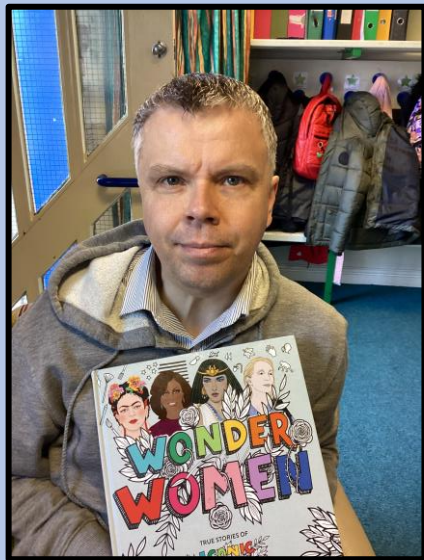
Their mission is to pass on their own love of reading to all those around them. They have lots of plans to achieve this...so, watch this space!





Mr Hermansen Recommends...

Welcome to this regular feature where a member of staff recommends a book they have recently enjoyed. This time, Mr Hermansen shares his thoughts about the non-fiction book 'Wonder Women' by Kay Woodward...



"I first bought this book for my own daughter a few years ago. She was always nosing through its pages, so I decided to place a copy in my classroom's book area. I think Rowan Class would agree that it is one of the most popular books during reading for pleasure time. It is strikingly illustrated with portraits of women who have achieved great things and have managed to create change for the better. It is a fascinating read and a real inspiration for young girls today."

Each reading newsletter will include recommendations from some of our pupils. It is important that we recommend the books that we have read, encouraging chatter about books, and reading for pleasure. In this edition, Grace talks about a book that has grabbed her attention...

I Recommend...

"The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow is an emotional rollercoaster with some real ups and downs. I would suggest that anybody starting high school reads this book because it teaches us that life isn't always straightforward and that you have to overcome problems to reach where you want to be."



If your child has a reading recommendation, email the title and the reasons why they love the book to: rowanclass@wharton.cheshire.sch.uk



I recommend reading 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman because it's really interesting - the more you read, the more intense it becomes!

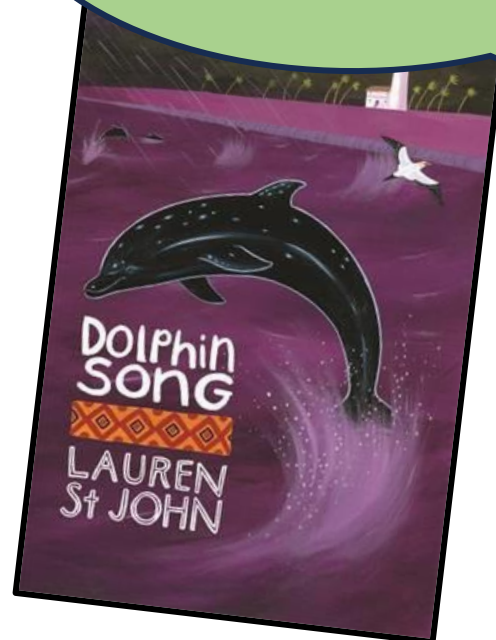
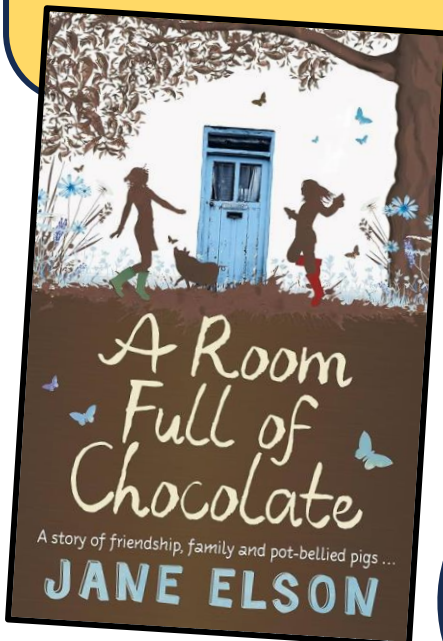
Kornelia (Age 11)

I would recommend 'Dolphin Song' by Lauren St John because it is very entertaining and unpredictable.

Mollie C (Age 10)

I would recommend reading 'A Room Full of Chocolate' by Jane Elson. I liked reading this book because it's about worry and friendships.

Lily (Age 11)



I recommend reading any of the Dork Diary books. They are really enjoyable to read. They are full of fun events and funny moments.

Mollie W (Age 10)



Train up a child in the way they should go and when they are old, they will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22 v 6