



Reading Newsletter

Summer 2021

Welcome to our Summer Term 2021 Reading Newsletter—a place for us to share reading recommendations and support our children in accessing and enjoying great books.

This term has seen the launch of our KS2 Reading Ambassadors and we are pleased to say that this term's newsletter is a special edition which has been written by our Year 5 and 6 ambassadors, with the Year 3 and 4 ambassadors' input to come in the Autumn Term.

The Reading Ambassadors from each KS2 class have been selected by the class teacher, in conjunction with Miss Halls (English Coordinator) and Mr Disley (head teacher), based on the following criteria:

- Read regularly and have a love of books
- Talk about their favourite books and authors, and explain why they like them
- Talk about books and authors they might not have liked as much, and explain why
 - Try out new titles, rather than just stick to their favourites
 - Persevere with a book when it becomes tough or challenging

Our Reading Ambassadors' responsibilities will be to:

- Regularly meet with Miss Halls and Mr Disley to discuss reading in school and consider new titles for the library
- Present an assembly once per half-term on reading—showing and discussing what they are reading
- Carry out perception surveys—talking to other children about their reading habits and preferences

We would like to congratulate all of the children who have received their Reading Ambassador badge this term (see next page) and we look forward to the next round of nominations in the Autumn Term! We hope that you enjoy their book recommendations. Happy reading!

Highwoods' Reading Ambassadors



Year 3

Deimantas Salkauskas, Grant Dilley, Georgina Batt, Mia Nunn, Jacob Heath, Ira Roy-Kini and Charlie Miller



Year 4

Archie Elliott, Aliyah Monk, Stanley Whatling, Isla Crowe, Aamina Maan



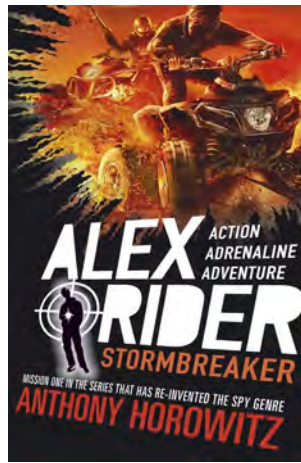
Year 5

William Oliver, Kamsi Okeke, Evie Sinclair, Tallulah Warner, Oliver Batt and Jack Brown.



Year 6

Bethany Shepherd, Hanya Baqleh, Samuel Knights, Sophie Morgan, George Scanlan and Jemima Walkerdine.



Oliver Batt—Year 5

Alex Rider series—Anthony Horowitz

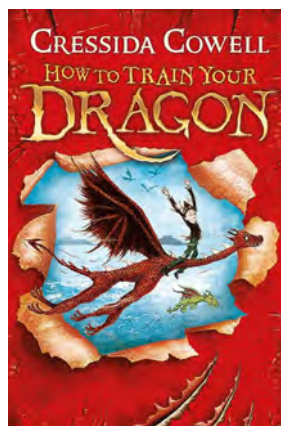
These are an action and spy style of books which have quite challenging vocabulary and are recommended to children aged 10+. The series has eleven main books and two additional shorter ones. The book's main character is called Alex Rider and his Mother and Father were killed when he was born, so he lives with his Uncle. One day, his Uncle is killed in a car accident but Alex knew that his Uncle was always very cautious—this was no accident! Alex decides he must go undercover to get the truth about his family's dramatic deaths. This series of books is very exciting and gripping, and it's very difficult to put the books down once you have started reading them!



Evie Sinclair—Year 5

The Wolf Wilder - Katherine Rundell

This is a book about a girl named Feodora (Feo) and her Mother who are hiding and living in the snowy Russian forest. Feo's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. A wolf wilder is the opposite of an animal tamer: it is a person who teaches tamed animals to fend for themselves, and to fight and to run, and to be wary of humans. Feo and her Mother live in the forest because The General of the Russian Army wants to take them, imprison them, and even kill them. The Army are after them because they are hunting their pack of wolves (who are called White, Grey and Black). This is a story of great adventure and I would recommend this book to children in Year 4 upwards.



Jack Brown—Year 5

How To Train Your Dragon—Cressida Cowell

How To Train Your Dragon is a fantastic book with lots of adventure and thrill. The main character (Hiccup) is on the Dragon Initiation Programme with eleven other boys. He can also speak the language of dragons ('dragonese') and in the story he has to defeat a dragon—a seadragonus giganticus. I would give this book five stars!



Tallulah Warner—Year 5

She Wolf—Dan Smith

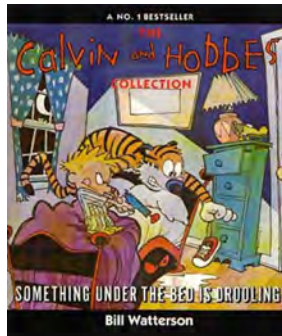
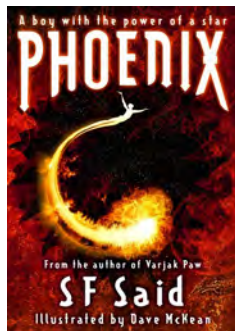
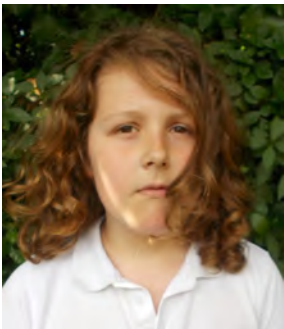
Set in 866, in the time of the Vikings, this historical fiction adventure book features Yelva (a young Viking girl) and her Mother who are caught in a storm and swept ashore on a frosted English shore. However, here Yelva is cruelly orphaned, and sets out on an epic quest for revenge. She tracks the three-fingered killer through icy forests but as the wolves' howls draw closer, she finds herself in mortal danger. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in Vikings for you can actually learn a lot about them by reading this book! I would also recommend it to ages 10-12. I enjoyed the fact that there were lots of wolves in the book and the fact that the chapters are quite short. It is an action-packed, fast-moving story—some parts are really sad though. My favourite part is probably when Yelva meets Freki, a pack-less wolf pup. I would definitely rate it 10/10—it's undoubtedly one of my favourite books!



Kamsi Okeke—Year 5

When Life Gives You Mangoes—Kereen Getten

This book is about a girl named Clara who lost her friend when they went swimming in the sea and she grieves for the loss. She struggled to cope with the reality and she actually started seeing her deceased friend in 'real life'. She would play with her, go to her Mother's birthday party with her, and she even read out her friend's diary while they were at the party because she believed they'd had an argument. There is a happy ending for her but I wouldn't want to spoil it for you! I would recommend this book to anyone who has lost a family member or a close friend. Also, anyone who likes to read emotional stories about things that could happen in reality.

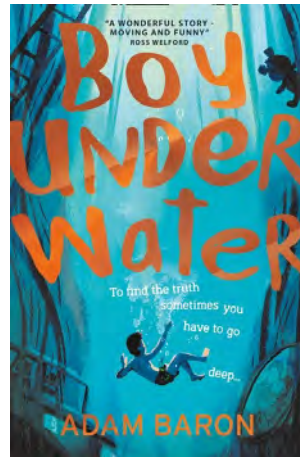


William Oliver—Year 5

Phoenix—SF Said

The Calvin and Hobbes Collection—Bill Watterson

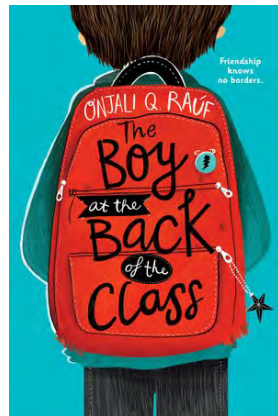
Phoenix is about a boy called Lucky, in a universe where humans and aliens are at war. Now, he's on the run, and the only people who can help him are an alien spaceship crew. I liked it because it was hard to predict what would happen next. Also, I really enjoy sci-fi books. I think it would be good for confident readers in Year 4 upwards. However, if you are not always into reading longer novels then I would recommend The Calvin and Hobbes Collection. In particular, Calvin and Hobbes—Something Under The Bed Is Drooling. These books are about a six year old boy and his stuffed tiger. Calvin imagines his tiger is alive and the books are made up of short comic strips about their many adventures. I like these books because they are funny. There are some tricky words at times but I think most KS2 children would enjoy these books.



George Scanlan—Year 6

Boy Underwater—Adam Baron

This book is about a nine year old boy called Cymbeline Igloo. He seems totally normal. He plays football and likes roller skating. However, there is one thing about him that is strange—it's not his name, it's that he has never been swimming. He blames it on his Mum because when he asks to go to the beach she says that she is allergic to sand. One day, he finds out why... I would rate this book 4 out 5, and I would recommend this book to confident readers in KS2.



Bethany Shepherd—Year 6

The Boy At The Back Of The Class—Onjali Q Rauf

This book is about a refugee child called Ahmet who came from Syria to escape all the 'bullies' destroying his home. Ahmet makes a quick bond and strong friendship with Josie, Michael and Tom. However, there is also a bully, called Brendan, who bullies these children because they're hanging out with Ahmet. It's a wonderful read and I would definitely recommend this book to children around the age of 8-13.

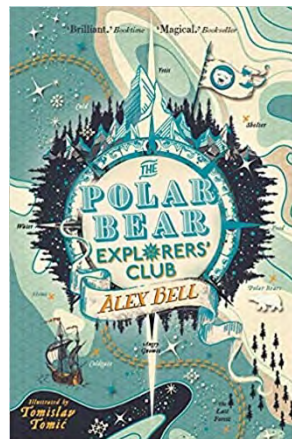


Hanya Baqleh—Year 6

In Darkling Wood—Emma Carroll

At the bottom of the garden is Darkling Woods, a place full of magic, secrets and salvation. If you believe in fairies that is...

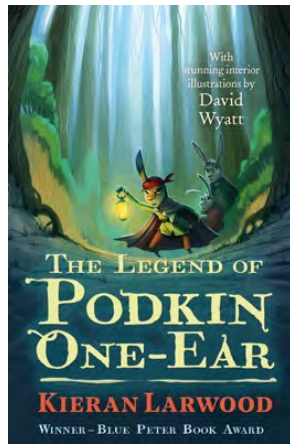
This book is swarming full of mystery, twists and excitement. It's a magical book with many secrets and I think that many children (aged 9 or 10+) would enjoy it. I highly recommend this book as it hooks the reader within the first few pages. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. This book is also very descriptive and mysterious. There is a plot twist at the end which led to a cliff hanger; it ended the book well!



Sophie Morgan—Year 6

The Polar Bear Explorers' Club—Alex Bell

I am reading this book at the moment and I really recommend it because it is intriguing and I don't want to stop reading it. It may seem childish because of the animals in it but it is actually more of a book for older children such as Year 4, 5 and 6. It is a fantasy book and some of the vocabulary is challenging. It is about a girl called Stella who goes on an adventure with an explorers' club which is usually a 'boy-only' club, and she finds lots of interesting things on the adventures. On her birthday, her Dad (who adopted her) gave her an igloo filled with penguins that she could keep as pets in their house. Their house is also filled with dinosaurs and unicorns. In one of the adventures, they must cross a very narrow bridge that they are not meant to go across... Read more of the book to find out what happens next!



Samuel Knights—Year 6

The Legend of Podkin One-Ear—Kieran Larwood

Podkin One-Ear is one of my favourite books and I truly recommend it because the author describes every part of the story amazingly and realistically. Another thing I like about it is that there is non-stop action and there is never one part of the book that is anywhere near boring. You will read this book in Year 5 but the sequels are just as good too! I just could not put the book down. In conclusion, I personally found this book really fun and entertaining. The sequels are called 'The Gift of Dark Hollow' and 'The Beasts of Grimheart'. These books are really good and I truly recommend them.