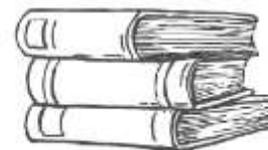




Crayke C of E Primary School

Reading Newsletter



November & December 2020

What a wonderful first half term we have had! It has been brilliant having the whole school back and having conversations with children about what they are enjoying reading.

In the midst of this pandemic and with so much uncertainty ahead about Christmas and the world in general, I have collated some of the best books to support children with any worries or anxiety and to promote their mental health and wellbeing. This is such an important issue and books can be a wonderful opportunity to open up discussions about feelings and concerns with children, as well as what they are feeling happy and optimistic about, too!

Also in this edition are details of our exciting 'Extreme Reading' competition, a personal message from author Jeremy Strong and poet Joshua Seigal, information about early reading, and, of course, high quality texts from a range of talented authors.

Mrs L. Rayner (English co-ordinator and Class 3 teacher)



Source: Children and young people who usually get less than the recommended 9 hours sleep on a school night are more likely to feel that worries get in the way of school work (32% vs 22%), according to a survey of over 1,100 10-11 year-olds and 13-15 year-olds carried out by Place2Be in 2019.

Book Quarantine Reminder

Class 1 (Reception)	Phonics cards and mostly wordless books sent out, with some sound books beginning to be sent out, aligned to our 'Letters and Sounds' phonics programme. Books are quarantined before being sent home.
Reading scheme books	Please use the home/school record to note books that have been read. Books should be returned to school on a Monday for quarantine . There are drop boxes available in each classroom. A selection of books will be sent home on a Wednesday. Please adhere to these days to aid staff in being available to change books for your child as this is a time-consuming process and quarantine must be carried out. Thank you for your support with this.
'Free readers'	Children can continue to read from the selection of books available in school, which must remain at school. They can read a different book at home. If your 'free reader' would like to bring in a book from home, this will need to remain at school during the week.

EXTREME READING competition

Our next 'Reading Newsletter' will feature some of the incredible photographs and book titles sent in as part of our 'Extreme Reading' competition over the October half term. The winners will be announced on our school website in the first instance and we are SO lucky to be able to have children's writer 'Andy Shepherd' (author of 'The Boy who Grew Dragons' series, shortlisted for Waterstones Children's Book Prize,) judging our entries (I'm also relieved that I don't have to make the final decision!)

A prize will be awarded in each class including a personalised postcard from Andy herself, with the overall winner receiving ALL FOUR books in the series (with the 5th out in January.)



Virtual Book Fair

Plans are happening behind the scenes to try and make a virtual book fair possible. Unfortunately, with the closure of 'The Book People' company who provided the Big Red Book Bus last year, this is no longer an option. However, Usborne have kindly offered to run a hugely exciting 'virtual book fair' this year, promoting great quality books whilst raising funds for more books to purchase as a school, to help children in all classes. Plus, it's all 'Covid secure,' too!

More details to follow on our school website...



Phonics and Early Reading



At Crayke, we follow the 'Letters and Sounds' phonics programme. We have begun to send some wordless books and books with different sounds in, home to children in reception and Year 1. Don't worry if your child hasn't had one yet... currently, we have a limited but brand-new collection of these books, so each child will get a chance to use and enjoy them.

Our phonics books by 'Collins Big Cat,' follow the sounds taught in 'Letters and Sounds,' but are also supplemented by 'reading for pleasure' books, from a range of different schemes. These books are not necessarily phonetically decodable yet for the children (they may not have been taught *all* of the sounds required that are included in that book,) so they are designed to be shared together and develop children's understanding of stories, non-fiction and poetry. Please discuss the meaning of new or unfamiliar words, to help children build up their vocabulary 'bank' and encourage your child to read the sounds that they have been taught.

Author Spotlight

Jeremy Strong



Dear EVERYONE!

I am so pleased and honoured to have been asked to write to you all. Writers LOVE being asked about their writing - and of course themselves! I think we all secretly (and some not so secretly) like talking about ourselves. What do you think?

Anyhow, I am going to plunge straight in and say that this is a message for all you readers and especially for those of you that like writing too.

I have a confession to make. When I was aged about 9-11 I hardly read anything at all! That was because of two things. Number one. I had (and still have) a big brother, two years older than me. We quarrelled and fought like two cats with their tails tied to each other. We are great friends now and have been for many years - after all he's 73 and I'm 71, so it would be pretty stupid if we were still quarrelling at our age.

But back then we hated each other. One day my mother saw my big bro sitting quietly on the sofa and reading. I was sitting on the floor, bored out of

my tiny mind. (My mind has got a bit bigger since then I'm happy to report.) So my mum looks at Mike and she turns to me and says: 'Look at Michael - sitting their reading. Why can't you be more like him?'

Aaaargh! Such poisonous words! Why on earth would I want to be like someone I hated and thought the most stupid person on Earth? I was definitely NOT going to read anything. (And now I bet most of you are thinking - *it's not your big brother who's stupid; it's you!*)

So that was the first thing. Here's number two. My teacher when I was in Y5 and Y6 was the same for two years. Her name was - well that doesn't matter. I shall call her The Dinosaur - and that's being kind to her! Now, I am quite sure (because I have been sharing emails with one of your teachers) that your teachers are wonderful but back then The Dinosaur was like an evil villain out of a storybook.

There were 41 children in my class - quite a lot. Twenty of us were boys - half the class. We had a class reading book in Y5. It was a story called BLACK BEAUTY. It's a classic story and it's about some horses and of course the boys all thought that was girly stuff and WE DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW!

We put up with that story for a whole year. Then we went into Y6 and we still had The Dinosaur as our teacher and we now had a new class reading book. Do you know what it was? It was another classic story - LITTLE WOMEN.

NOOOOOOOOOO! That was even more girly than horses! (And now I bet a lot of you are thinking - *that's stupid! Just because it's got girls in? Or horses? You didn't read it?*)

I'm afraid to say I didn't. But you know children can be a bit odd when they're growing up. Some boys like boyish things and some girls like girlish things. You might have noticed that yourselves. Anyhow, by the time I was 15 it didn't matter any more. I liked everything! I would read ANYTHING, and I still do. I saw the film of LITTLE WOMEN a few months ago and it was brilliant.

You see, stories are for everybody. It's true that some stories are liked more by boys than girls, and it's true that some stories are liked more by girls than boys – but the most important thing is to know if the story is any good and who the author is. Just because a book is written by a man does not mean it's for boys. Because a story is written by a woman does not mean it's for girls. Think J K Rowling! Think Andy Stanton or Julia Donaldson! Think MY stories – I get fan mail from as many boys as I do from girls.

BUT, I am very sorry and embarrassed to say that for two years I hardly read anything. (I blame my big brother mostly!) However, eventually a nice person who wasn't a dinosaur came along and she put a book in my hand and said: 'I think you might like this.'

The book was called MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS, by Gerald Durrell. It was brilliant! I had to read more, and more – and I haven't stopped reading since. I had been rescued – and you probably noticed that I was rescued by a woman! That was ironic. (If you don't know what *ironic* means you had better ask your teacher.)

I guess I should also tell you that before I met The Dinosaur I was with another teacher for two years - that was for Y3 and Y4 and that teacher was just like Miss Honey in Roald Dahl's story MATILDA. In other words she was wonderful. By the time I left her class I knew I wanted to be a writer. Then The Dinosaur came along and squashed that idea for two years but by the time I was 15 I was once again thinking about being a real writer, an author.

Reading is such an important part of being a writer. You can see how other writers work, how they make their story funny, sad, exciting, terrifying. You can get ideas from reading other books too. I would like to tell you more but I would be going on for pages so I am sending you some writing advice separately.

Thank you for reading this, or listening to it. I hope you will enjoy your reading and your writing and whatever you do not judge a book by it's cover! Turn to the first page and read. One day you'll be still standing there two hours later, still reading – because that book is so amazing. In fact it's just the sort of book you might want to write yourself.

Go read! Go write! And say 'NO!' to dinosaurs!

Take over our next reading newsletter...



**YOUR
SCHOOL
NEEDS
YOU!**

Be featured in our 2021 January/February edition!

What book would you recommend to your classmates? It could be fiction, non-fiction or poetry. What is so brilliant about it? Ask an adult to send a book review (either hand written or typed,) along with the title and author of your book, to Mrs Rayner at class3@crayke.n-yorks.sch.uk You could even include a photograph, too!

Books to support and promote children's mental health and wellbeing



Please ask at Easingwold or York library for their range of 'Reading Well for Children' books, as they have plenty of different books to the ones mentioned in this newsletter, and they (like all library books) are free to borrow!

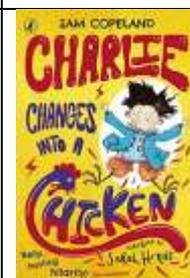
After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again) By Dan Santat

A wonderful book on overcoming fears and anxieties after a difficult experience! It does so well showing how your feelings towards things you used to enjoy can be affected, but how little steps can help you heal.



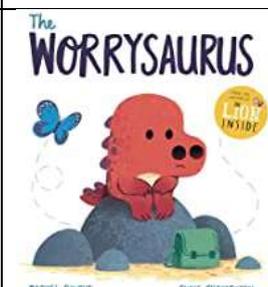
Charlie Changes into a Chicken By Sam Copeland

Shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. Charlie Changes into a Chicken is a humorous book, which also sparks a great discussion over how worry presents itself.



The Worrysaurus By Rachel Bright and Chris Chatterton

A fun and reassuring tale about dealing with worries. This book is beautifully illustrated and will help to open up conversations in a gentle and approachable way.



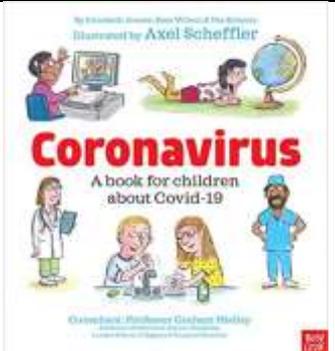
Find Your Calm By Gabi Garcia

A practical support book which children can follow along, as the young narrator practises what helps her so that the anxiety doesn't take over.



Coronavirus: A book for children about Covid-19 By Elizabeth Jenner, Kate Wilson & Nia Roberts

Available free as a digital copy, or only £1.99 for a paperback copy, this is an approachable book that provides clear explanations about Covid-19 and its effects – both from a health perspective and the impact it has on a family's day-to-day life.



The 'Happy Self' Journal

More of a 'writing' book than a 'reading' book, but this 'journal' can be a powerful tool for children aged 6 to 11, to focus on the positives.



READING WELL

"I felt a bit sad when I read this book, as Ruby has a worry that won't go away. In the end though she works out how to make it go away. I understand worries a bit more now."

Primary school pupil

RUBY'S WORRY
TOM FERRIVAL

reading-well.org.uk

For a HUGE range of quality books on a range of issues including hope, togetherness, fear, kindness, lockdown, social distancing, positivity, coronavirus and so much more, please do take a look at this stunning site:
<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/returning-to-school>

Our Non-Fiction Collection

Our main entrance bookshelf is looking wonderful and it was so lovely to be able to send our older books (but still in good condition,) to Ghana in the Summer. The new books we have are proving to be such a wonderful resource and really support the children in accessing high quality texts from across the curriculum.



PLEASE continue to spread the word.

We have received so many wonderful books, but there are still many that are needed. You can search for the link on our school website, or access the link to our wish list is below:

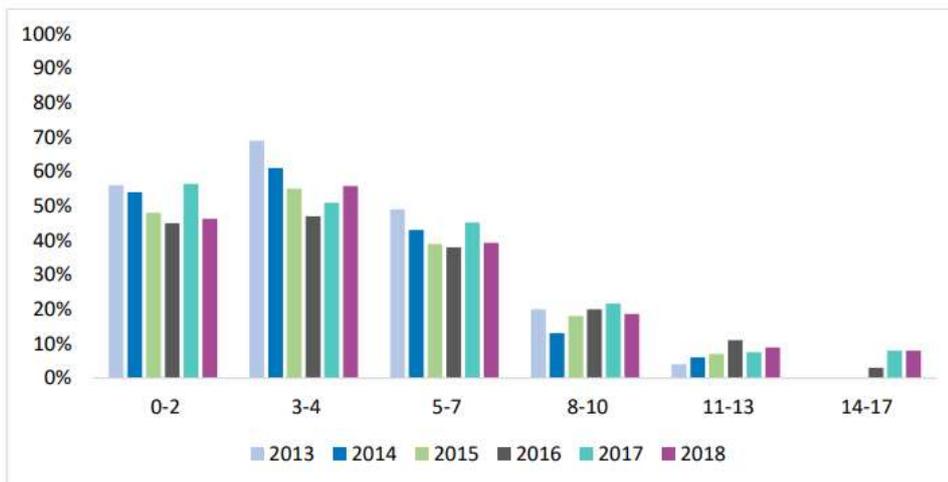
https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2TMPM915I4NGC?ref_=wl_share

Bedtime Stories

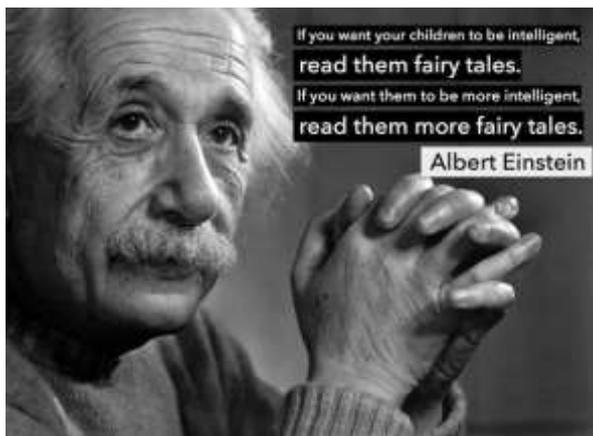
Parents are reading to children less often (nationally)

Reading to children is in decline. 2018 data reveals a year-on-year decline in reading to 0-2s and 5-10s. There was a small uplift with 11-13s.

Daily reading to children: 6-year trend



Source: Nielsen's Understanding the Children's Book Consumer, 2013-2018



Children are never too old for a bedtime story! Find a high quality book with your child (perhaps search our school website for 'reading newsletter' to find previous editions to browse, too!) and try to build it into a bedtime routine. Having that quiet time together to share a story is magical and a lovely, calm way to end the day. Plus, you also get to enjoy the story, too! Before long, your child will soon be hooked on books (if they're not already,) and will be absorbing a wealth of rich vocabulary that they, in turn, can then try using in their own writing.

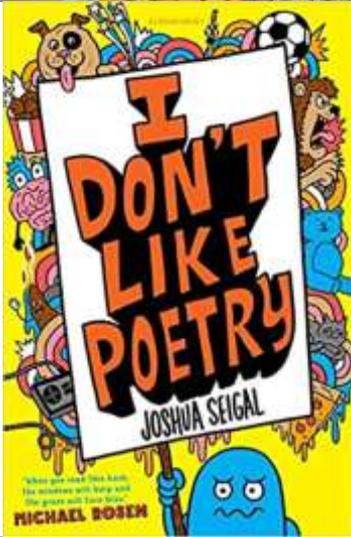
Featured Poet

Joshua Seigal



A special message just for our school, from Joshua Seiga, the winner of the 2020 Laugh Out Loud Book Award...

Hello, my name is Joshua Seigal and I am a poet. I write poems for my job, which is a bit weird but it is very fun. I write poem for several reasons. The first reason is that I sometimes find it hard to concentrate for a long time, and poems are usually shorter than stories! They also don't tend to have as many rules; you can play around with lots of techniques and devices such as alliteration, repetition and of course rhyming, although poems don't have to rhyme.



I also write poems because I love performing, and I think poetry really comes alive when it is performed in front of an audience. I think the main reason I write poetry is very simple: it's because I love words. Poetry is a way of playing with words, of making them do all kinds of interesting things, of making them sing and dance.

My piece of advice to you would be this: even if you aren't too sure about poetry, give it a go! Read a few poems, and maybe use them as inspiration for writing your own. You might be surprised with what you come up with! And be sure to visit my website www.joshuaseigal.co.uk

Poem for Libraries

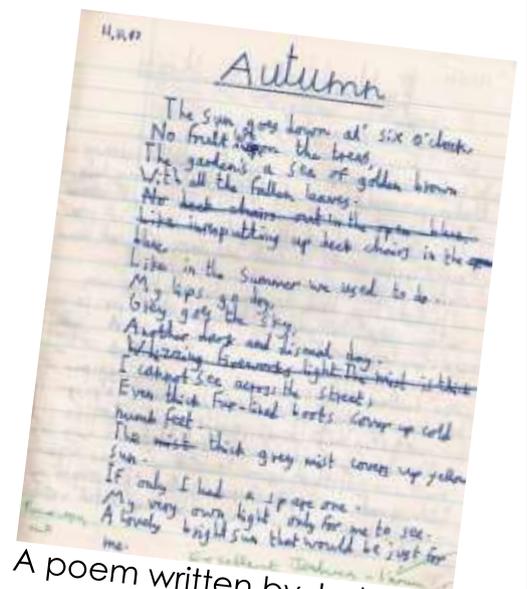
(Shared with kind permission from Joshua Seigal)

Come to a place full of wonder and light
and sparkling stories to brighten your night;
of tales and fables and beautiful beams
that flash in your mind and set fire to your dreams.

Come to a place full of horror and dread,
of demons and dragons that howl in your head;
of terrible tigers with blood-spattered claws
and lives that are shattered by famines and wars.

Come to a place full of dates, facts and figures
and jokes that will have you in stitches and sniggers;
a place you can stroll through the meadows of history,
scaling the sides of the mountain of mystery.

Come to a place that can sate your addiction
to rollicking rhymes and to fabulous fiction;
a place you can travel through time at your leisure:
a library of pages to savour and treasure.



A poem written by Joshua ,
age 7.

Exciting dates, events and competitions to get involved with!

Crayke C of E Primary School's 'Extreme Reading Challenge' Deadline

Wednesday
4th
November

Make sure you get your entry in, to be in with a chance of winning a prize and getting featured in our next reading newsletter!

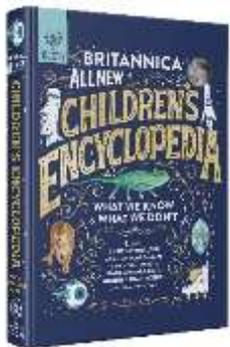
Ask your grown up to look at the post or website for details.

Blue Peter Book Award – Shortlist announced!

November
2020

Since 2000, the enormously popular and influential Blue Peter Book Awards have been recognising and celebrating the best authors, the most creative illustrators and the greatest reads for children. The Blue Peter Book Awards 2019 celebrates children's books published in the last year in two categories: the Best Story and the Best Book with Facts.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/awards-and-prizes/current-prizes/blue-peter-book-awards/>



Britannica Virtual Family Quiz Show

To celebrate the STUNNING Britannica 'All New Children's Encyclopaedia,' author Christopher Lloyd will be hosting a special 'Virtual Family Quiz Show' Register online and keep an eye out for future events outside of school time, too! **Click the encyclopaedia for a link.**

Friday 13th
November
11am

Royal Mail Letters to Santa Deadline

Each year, Santa's elves at the Royal Mail can help you get a letter from Santa, if children write to him by early December.

Click on Father Christmas for a link.



Early
December