Excellence and Fun…

Saint Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Christ is the centre of our school community where we live, love and learn together

Welcome to our Spring 23 Reading Newsletter. Reading is so important! We hope that through these newsletters, we can inspire you to further support your children through their reading journey- even whilst at home!

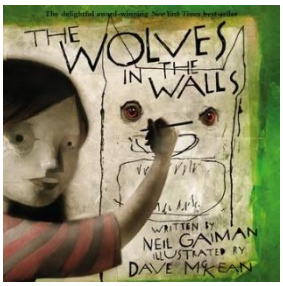
Author Spotlight – Neil Gaiman

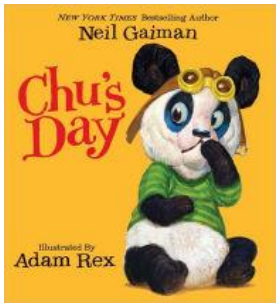


Coraline had a very popular movie adaptation

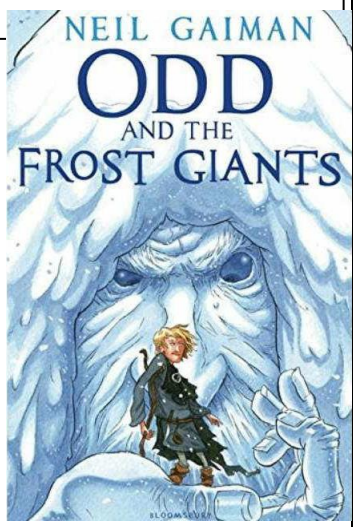
A person who has produced across different media, Neil Gaiman is a British author who has created a range of books and comics.

Amongst his works are children's books, many of which have a dark sense of humour. His children's literature includes: 'Fortunately the Milk', 'Caroline', 'Cinnamon', 'The Graveyard Book' and 'M is for Magic'.









Reading is great for:

- Improving your vocabulary
- Broadening your imagination
- Learning about new topics

Neil Gaiman has written for numerous established characters, such as Batman and Doctor Who!

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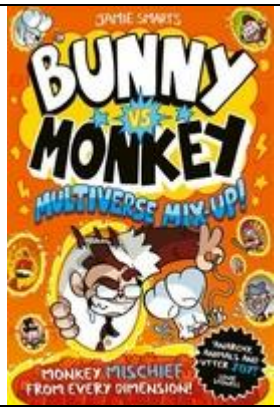
Fiction: From the best seller's list

Skandar **by A F Steadman (14 Jan)**



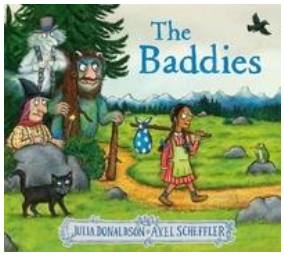
Sohal Thirteen-year-old Skandar Smith has only ever wanted to be a unicorn rider. To be one of the lucky few selected to hatch a unicorn. To bond with it for life; to train together and race for glory; to be a hero. But just as Skandar's dream is about to come true, things start to take a more dangerous turn than he could ever have imagined. A dark and twisted enemy has stolen the Island's most powerful unicorn - and as the threat grows ever closer, Skandar discovers a secret that could blow apart his world forever . . .

Bunny vs Monkey: Multiverse Mix-up! **by Jamie Smart**



When portals to parallel dimensions open up, the gang meet different versions of themselves - a whole universe of Bunnies! Evil Pig! Baby Bunny vs Monkey! The gang end up travelling to the very ends of existence . . . but will they make it back home to the Woods?

The Baddies **by Julia Donaldson**



The Baddies are the meanest and scariest witch, ghost and troll in the land. It is each their goal to be the nastiest and often fight over who is the worst. So when a little girl moves in nearby they just can't wait to terrorise and scare her but what they don't know is this isn't any ordinary little girl. She teaches them you don't have to be big and bad to be brave and that baddies hardly ever win.

Ten Minutes to Bed: Little Dragon **by Rhiannon Fielding**

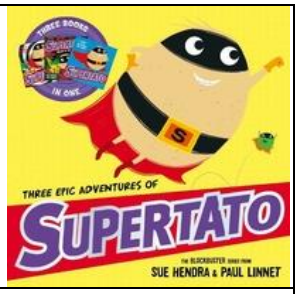


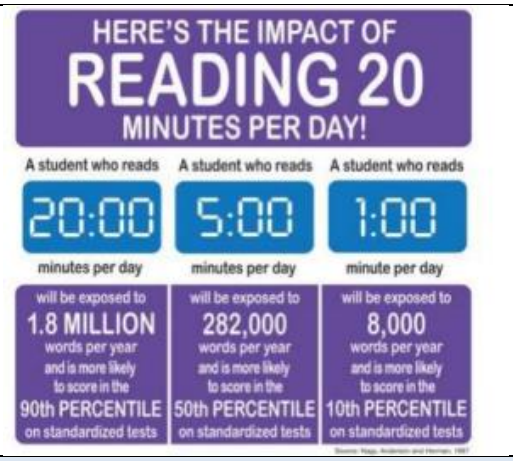
Soaring high in the skies to find adventure, little dragon siblings Flicker and Flash are doing their best to avoid going to bed. But then they spot a lost egg that they need to get back to its mother - will they still manage to get home in time? Weaving a journey from lively beginning to gentle end, the ten-minute countdown to bed is at the heart of this adorable, heartwarming story.

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Mr Breslin Recommends:

My children thoroughly enjoy this series of books- they play with the stereotypical superhero tropes and promote vegetables at the same time. AND there is now a cartoon on BBC- what is not to love?!





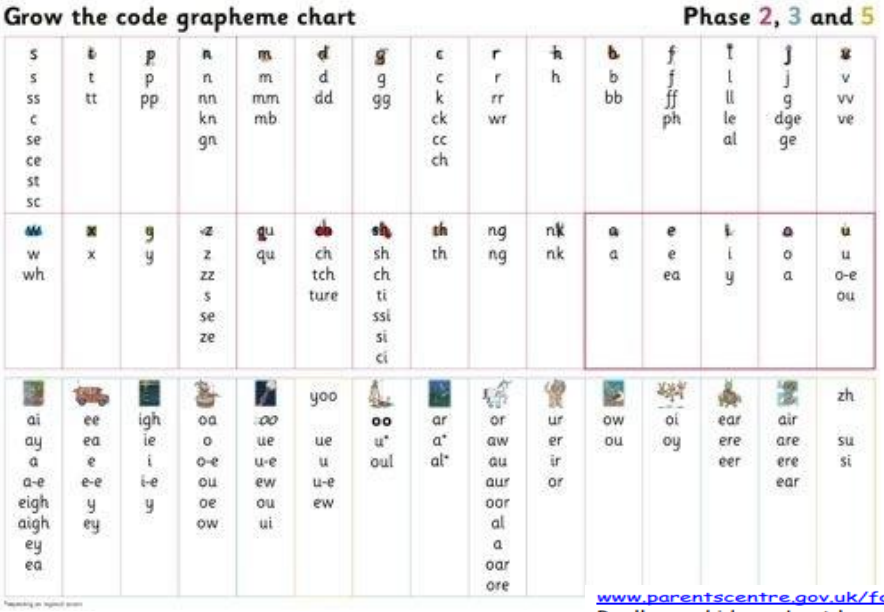
Reading is so important! Even if your child can read fluently, reading TO them can be really supportive but also a really lovely time to spend some downtime together. Hearing an adult reading fluently and modelling intonation and punctuation use is key in developing as a reader.

We recognise that this can be hard, especially when things are busy at home, but even 10 minutes will make such a huge difference. We are committed to reading to your child *for 10 minutes a day, every day*. If you can commit to a further 10 minutes then your child will have exposed to 20 minutes of adult reading daily.

Important dates, events and competitions during Spring

March 2nd- World Book Day	This year world book day is on THURSDAY 2ND MARCH! We will be doing lots of fun things and allocating even more time than usual for reading too. Please encourage and help your child to take part in one of our home learning projects- a picture of 'extreme reading' where we are reading a book in an unusual place, or create a diorama, a scene from your favourite book made from a shoe box. These are due on World Book Day.

A focus on early reading and phonics



Children at STM learn to read by learning phonics.

We appreciate that as adults, you may have learnt to read in a different way and so may struggle to support your children with their phonics development.

Please visit our website where you will find useful videos that will support you with your own understanding.

Please also use this really useful video which goes through all the sounds:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwJx1NSineE

www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk
Lots of information for parents and carers of babies and young children and suggestions for activities, features, DVD-roms, books and events that are both useful and fun. You can have their free newsletter emailed to you directly.

www.ican.org.uk
Lots of information for parents and teachers on the importance of speaking and listening skills for young children's development. Although it is aimed at early communication development, there is a lot of very useful information and material, such as *Chatter Matters*, that can be downloaded from the website; some free materials can be ordered.

www.wordsforlife.org.uk
Includes tips for getting boys to read and songs and rhymes for sharing

www.parentscentre.gov.uk/foragegroup/3to5years/readandwritetogether
Really good ideas about how you can enjoy sharing books with your child and tells you a bit more about phonics.

www.parentscentre.gov.uk/foragegroup/5to7years/alittlereadinggoesalongway
Ideas about how to help you child as they are learning to read.

www.read-count.org/index.asp
A website for you and your child to explore together. It will give you some ideas about reading with your child and online games for young children to play, both with you and on their own. It also has ideas for games to play away from the computer.

www.basic-skills.co.uk
The Basic Skills website will keep you updated on a range of literacy developments.

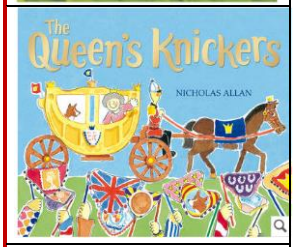
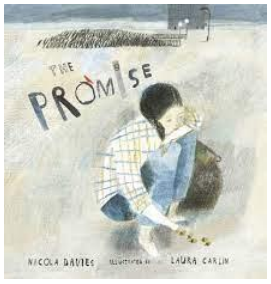
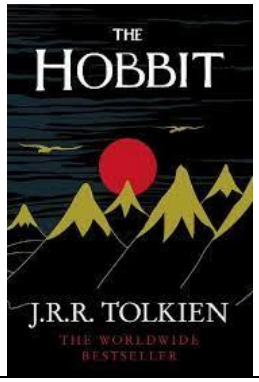
www.bookstart.co.uk
Provides information about the national Bookstart scheme and the Bookstart packs that your child will receive as a baby, a toddler and at age three to four. It also gives information about sharing books with

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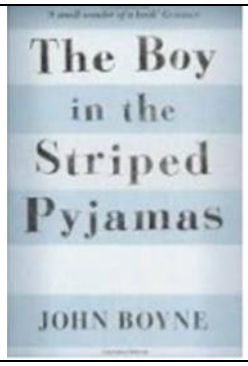
Staff pedagogy in Spring Term

Our own professional development is really important to us. In the second part of the Spring term we are to continue with our school revision of phonics, encouraging early reading and supporting the children with reading and fluency in the juniors.

Books being studied next half term

Reception	The Bad Tempered Ladybird Eric Carle	
Year 1 and Year 2	The Queen's Knickers Nicholas Allan	
Year 3	Orion and the Dark Emma Yarlett	
Year 4	The Promise Nicola Davies	
Year 5	The Hobbit J.R.R. Tolken	

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Year 6	The Boy in Striped Pyjamas John Boyne	

Reading for wellbeing

As well as being essential for your learning, studies have shown that children who had the highest confidence in reading had wellbeing scores of **31.8% higher** and anxiety **scores 20.8% lower** than peers who scored lowest in this measure.

Children who enjoyed reading 'very much' had **6.8% higher wellbeing levels** than those who reported that they didn't enjoy reading at all.

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7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'