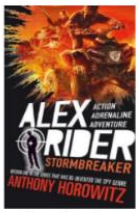
Saint Thomas More Catholic Primary School

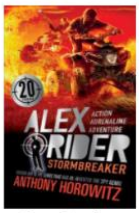
Christ is the centre of our school community where we live, love and learn together

Welcome to our Spring 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!

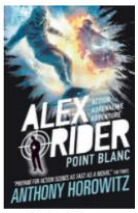
Author Spotlight – Anthony Horowitz



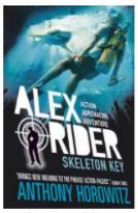
Stormbreaker



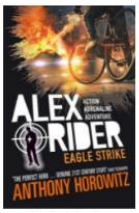
Stormbreaker



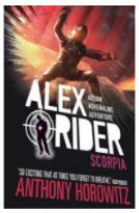
Point Blanc



Skeleton Key



Eagle Strike

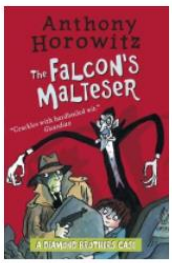


Scorpia

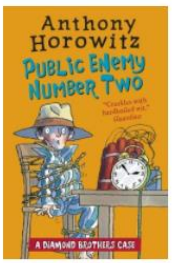
Alex Rider' is now also a tv series available on Amazon Prime!

One of Britain's bestselling novelists, Anthony Horowitz is the author adult and children's fiction, films, plays and journalism. His best-known work for children and teens includes the *Alex Rider* spy series and the *Diamond Brothers* series. His adult fiction includes the new *Sherlock Holmes* novels *House of Silk* and *Moriarty*, the new *James Bond* series novel *Trigger Mortis* and *Forever and a Day*, and standalone novels *The Word is Murder* and *The Magpie Murders*.

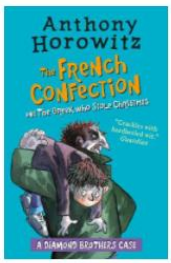
The Diamond Brothers Series



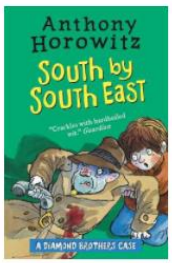
The Diamond Brothers in The



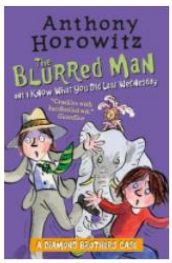
The Diamond Brothers in Public



The Diamond Brothers in The



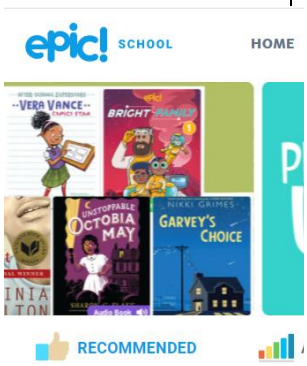
The Diamond Brothers in South by



The Diamond Brothers in The

Epic! books

Visit getepic.com and login using your child's class code.



Read books online using this fantastic free resource (excuse the American spellings) during the school day and for up to 2 hours throughout the week.

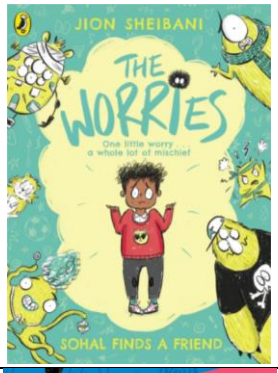
Reading is great for:

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

Fiction: What's New…

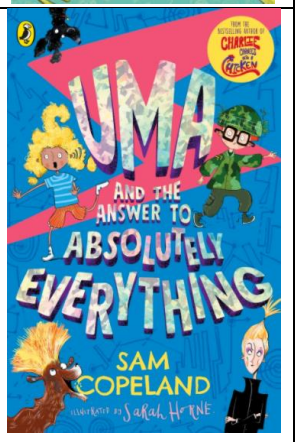
The Worries: Sohal Finds a Friend **by Jion Sheibani (14 Jan)**

Sohal is a worrier. His parents and teachers always say so but this just makes Sohal worry more. He worries about the dark, not having friends and mutant sheep. So, to make himself feel better, Sohal decides to scribble down his worries. And this helps! Except when he wakes up the next morning, he finds his worries sitting at the end of his bed in furry creature form! Will Sohal be able to keep them under control? A great story for fans of Pixar film *Inside Out*.



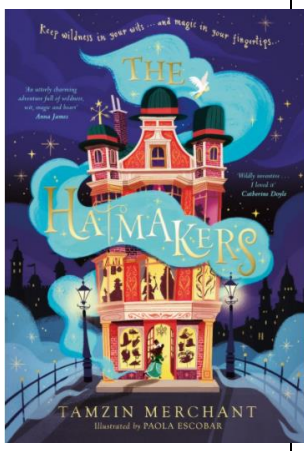
Uma and the Answer to Absolutely Everything **by Sam Copeland & Sarah Horne (21 Jan)**

Uma Gnudersonn has a million and one questions. Why do old people shrink? What's the most disgusting animal in the world? Will my dad ever start talking again? Why did mum leave before she passed away? Unfortunately, Uma doesn't always get an answer. But then she stumbles across a single mysterious in-ear headphone called Athena who has the answers to everything. Armed with this access to unlimited knowledge, Uma is determined to make some changes in her life. But then Athena's sinister inventor comes looking for her creation…



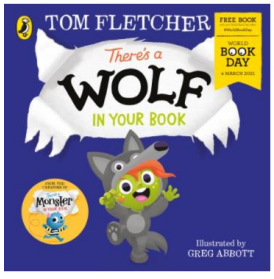
The Hatmakers **by Tamzin Merchant & Paola Escobar (18 Feb)**

Cordelia Hatmaker belongs to a family of magical milliners. In her world, alchemy and enchantment can be woven into different clothing items – this is a rare and ancient skill known as Maker magic. Cordelia's father Prospero often has to travel to collect some special hat ingredients but this time he and his ship go missing. Cordelia is determined to find him – however, with a longstanding family rivalry resurfacing and a potential war brewing, will Cordelia ever see him again? This captivating debut from actress Tamzin Merchant is perfect for lovers of fantasy adventures.



There's a Wolf in Your Book **by Tom Fletcher & Greg Abbott (25 Feb)**

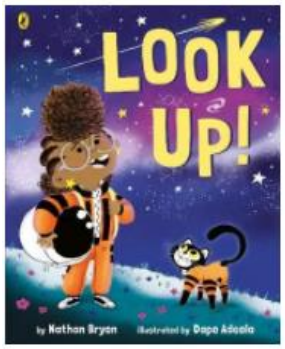
The characters from the Who's In Your Book? series are also taking part in World Book Day this year. And in this special interactive tale, they have made a book inside a book! But there's a big bad wolf on the loose and he's causing chaos. Can you help them get rid of this meddlesome beast?

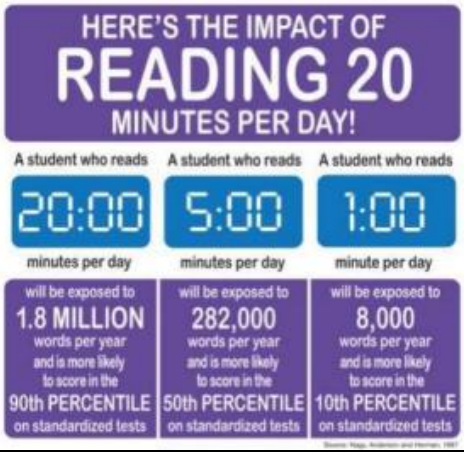


Mr Breslin Recommends:

Meet hilarious, science-mad chatterbox, Rocket - she's going to be the greatest astronaut, star-catcher, space-traveller that has ever lived!
But... can she convince her big brother to stop looking down at his phone and start **LOOKING UP** at the stars?
Bursting with energy and passion about science and space, this heart-warming, inspirational picture book will have readers turning off their screens and switching on to the outside world.

Shortlisted for the Sainsbury's Children's Book Awards 2019





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

Feb 26th- Tell a fairy tale day	It provides a perfect opportunity to read fairy tales to your kinds and enjoy your favourite childhood tales yourself. A fairy tale is a short story that typically features fantasy characters and magic. Fairy tales usually take place once upon a time and have a happy ending: evil characters are punished and good characters live happily ever after.
March 2nd- Dr Seuss' birthday	Maybe choose to celebrate Dr Seuss and his love of rhyme by picking up a copy of one of his books such as Cat in the Hat or The Lorax and be left feeling like the Whos in Whoville! Find out more here: https://www.seussville.com/

A focus on early reading and phonics

Saint Thomas More Sound Chart

f ff ph	l ll le	m mm	n nn kn	r rr wr	s ss se c ce	v ve	z zz se s	sh	th	ng nk

b bb	c k ck	d dd	g gg	h	j g ge	p pp	qu	t tt	w wh	x	y	c tch

a	e ea	i	o	u	ay a-e a ai aigh	ee ea e y	igh i-e i y	ow o-e oa o

oo u-e ue ew	oo	ar	or oor ore aw	air are	ir ur er	ou ow	oy oi	ire	ear	ure

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 with young children.

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.

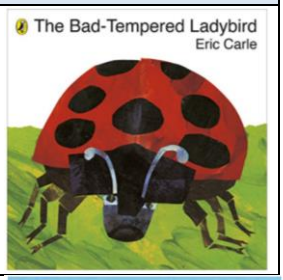
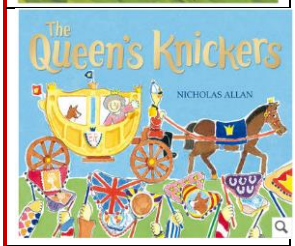
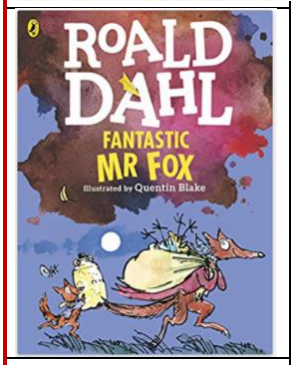
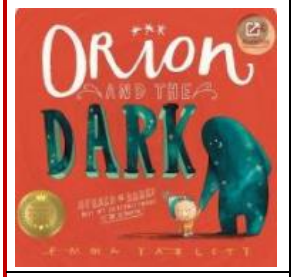
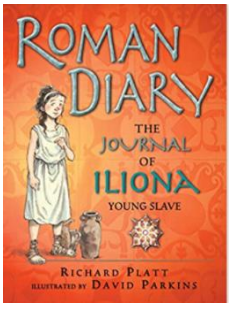
www.read-count.org/index.asp
A website for you and your child to explore together. It will give you some ideas about reading with your child and online games for young children to play, both with you and on their own. It also has ideas for games to play away from the computer.

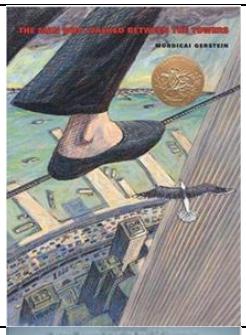
www.basic-skills.co.uk
The Basic Skills website will keep you updated on a range of literacy developments.

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	The Queen's Knickers Nicholas Allan	
Year 2	Fantastic Mr Fox Roald Dahl	
Year 3	Orion and the Dark Emma Yarlett	
Year 4	The Journey of Iliona Richard Platt	
Year 5	The Man who Walked between	

	the Towers Mordecai Gerstein	
Year 6	The Boy in Striped Pyjamas John Boyne	