



Reading Newsletter

March and April 2021

We have loved welcoming all pupils back to school this week! All of our classes have enjoyed lots of themed activities, based around the book 'Rain Before Rainbows', and completed tasks linked to British Science Week.

As part of this half-term's newsletter, we've shared the World Book Day entries produced by our competition winners, provided a list of recommended science reads and shared some ways in which you can support reading at home.

If there is anything that you would like to see featured in next half-term's reading newsletter, then please get in touch with me on williams.c@low.mmat.co.uk to share your ideas and requests...we'd love to be able to feature more of these things.

As mentioned in last half-term's newsletter, Miss Cavell has created some wonderful VIPERS bookmarks for each year group, to support questioning and reading opportunities at home. As part of this newsletter, she has introduced these and we will be giving these bookmarks to each year group in the coming weeks.

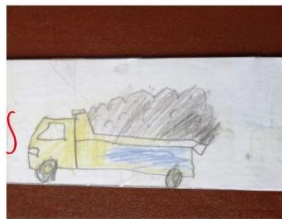
Ms. Vigon has also written about the exciting Accelerated Reader incentive that she has launched too.

Miss Williams (Assistant Head and English Lead)

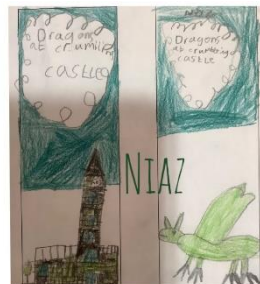
World Book Day



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Competition Winners



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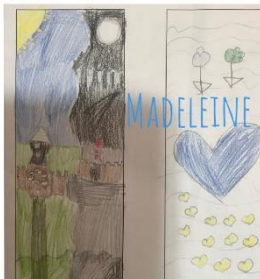
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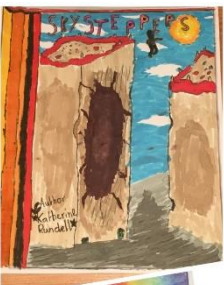
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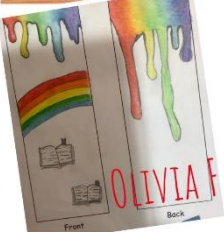
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OVERALL WINNERS



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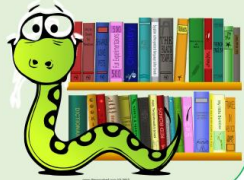
Front

Back

VIPERS Bookmarks

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary
Interpret
Predict
Explain
Retrieve
Summarise



Recently, I have created a VIPERS bookmark for each year group, with questions stems suitable for those age groups, as well as a variety of age-appropriate book suggestions.

The idea behind the bookmarks is that they stay in the pupil planner so that they are available every time you read with your child. After each time you read, you can ask your child a couple of questions provided on these bookmarks. These questions are designed to ensure that your child is engaging with the book that they are reading, as well as understanding its content. You can also use the bookmarks to ask your child questions about the books that you read to them.

I will be issuing these to all children before the Easter holidays.

I hope that you enjoy them and find them useful!
Miss Cavell

Accelerated Reader Initiative



We use Accelerated Reader to help our pupils with their reading progress and to support them in developing their **VIPERS** skills.

We've introduced a new initiative that will allow our pupils to see how many words they've read in total, and acquire badges as they move up the ranks, from **Ready Reader (500-950 words)** to **Royal Reader (1+ million words)**. They will all acquire Dojo points and badges along the way (including a bronze badge for **250,000+** words; a silver badge for **500,000+** words and a gold shield for **Royal Reader** status).

We'll also be introducing whole school word count targets and inter-class competitions that we hope to encourage, inspire and entice the children to read.

Watch this space for more information coming soon!
Miss Vigon

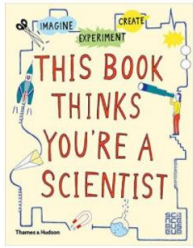
Recommended Science Reads

With British Science Week taking place (5th-14th March 2021), we thought that it would be good to share a selection of recommended science books:



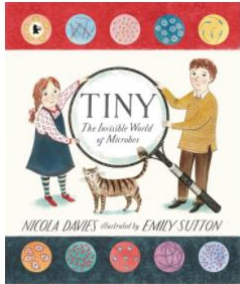
Home Lab by Robert Winston

Learn to make everything from invisible ink and monster marshmallows to a lemon battery, fizzing bath bomb and even a cardboard speaker – and understand the science behind your constructions too! The step-by-step instructions and photographs are beautifully clear and really appealing.



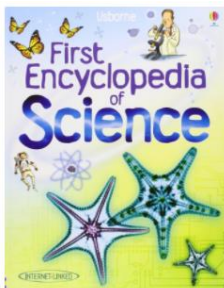
This Book Thinks You're A Scientist

Explore force and motion, electricity and magnetism, light, matter and sound with some really original experiments (levitate paper clips! Make water freeze instantly!). A fully-illustrated 'scrapbook', published in association with the Science Museum in London, with a hands-on approach to science learning.



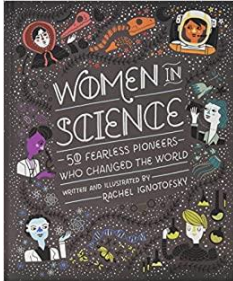
Tiny: The Invisible World of Microbes by Nicola Davies

A brilliant work of non-fiction, Tiny reveals the invisible world of microbes to kids, taking them on a microscopic journey into sea, land, soil, animals and humans. From keeping our insides healthy (or not!) to making yoghurt and wearing down mountains, the vital role microbes play in our lives is explained and celebrated.



First Encyclopedia of Science

A great introduction to science for younger children (4-7 years), with simple text and lots of illustrations. Covers KS1 curriculum topics and offers internet links to further reading.



Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World by Rachel Ignotofsky

Women in Science highlights the contributions of fifty notable women to the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, from both the ancient and modern worlds.



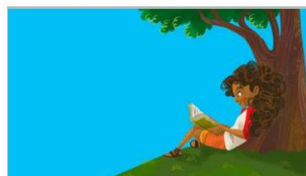
Sun, Moon and Stars by Stephanie Turnbull

What is the Sun made of? How did astronauts get to the Moon and what did they find there? For children beginning to read on their own, this book is an exciting introduction to space with easy-to-read text written with the help of a reading expert and vivid, full colour illustrations and photographs on every page. Includes internet links to carefully selected websites with video clips and activities.

March Book Recommendations

www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/best-new-books/

Each month, BookTrust review lots of books for children and teenagers. Here are the ones that they liked best in March. They are organised into age ranges and there is a brief description for each title.



Saving the Environment

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

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.'