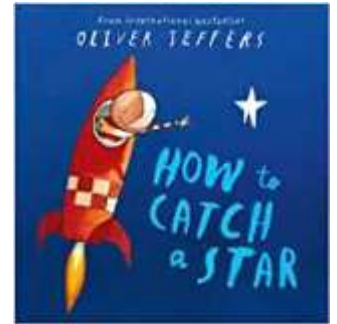




Spring 1 2022 Edition!



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Welcome to this half term's 'read all about it' entry.

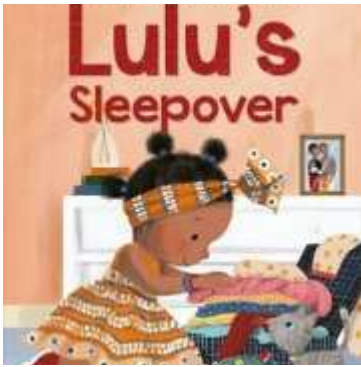
In this edition, we have also included an interview with Oliver Jeffers.

Reading Shed

Thank you so much for your wonderful donations, we are currently running out of space in the outdoor garden area and are looking for another space! If you can think of somewhere else our reading for pleasure books could be placed, please do let us know!

Please share your recommendations!

Writing book reviews help other readers decide if they want to read the book for themselves. Why not share a review of a book you've recently read and tell others what you thought of it? Fill in your review and hand it to your class teacher.



Recommended

(Lulu's Sleepover recommended for Snowy Owls)

Lulu is getting ready for her first ever sleepover. She's going to be spending the night at her cousin Hani's house, but first she needs to pack. Pyjamas, spare clothes, books and her favourite soft toys all go in the suitcase. She's ready! At Hani's house the cousins build, paint, play, dress up and even watch a film before bedtime. When it's time for bed they snuggle up for stories before they fall asleep. In the morning, after trying a new breakfast dish, Daddy returns to collect Lulu with a big hug. Lulu has absolutely loved her first sleepover and can't wait for when it's Hani's turn to stay at her house.

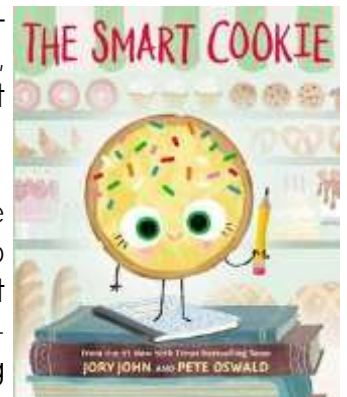
Spending the night away from home may be a little daunting for some children. Full of warmth and family love, the story focuses on the fun activities and joyful new experiences of a sleepover, making it perfect for a little one gearing up for their first sleepover with a relative or friend.

The story is told in simple language, making this a great read for toddlers and also for emerging readers to start working through. Beardshaw's beautifully detailed artwork helps to lift the story while conveying all the wonder and joy of Lulu's new experiences.

(The Smart Cookie recommended for Tawny Owls)

Cookie doesn't get very good grades at school, and she doesn't always understand what her teacher Ms Biscotti is talking about – in fact, she doesn't feel very good about herself at all and longs to be a smart cookie.

However, one day when Ms Biscotti sets everyone a task to create something original and bring it in the next day, Cookie is inspired to write a poem and finds that she's really good at it. Not just that, but when everyone shares their original creations, Cookie realises that everyone has something they're good at, from making doughnut frosting art to engineering a cupcake sprinkle distribution machine, and that people can be smart in lots of different ways. When she reads her poem to her classmates, they love it, and Cookie starts to feel confident that maybe she can be the Smart Cookie she's always wanted to be.



This sweet and pun-filled story about gaining confidence in yourself and understanding your strengths and learning styles is rather lovely. Pete Oswald's fun, foody illustration is full of brilliant detail, and young readers will especially love all the spreads featuring cakes, gingerbread houses, bakeries and other yummy details that make the book super appealing. Yet, at its heart, it's a story that will ring true to many children who find school difficult, and acknowledging their experience is important – as is reassuring them that, eventually, everyone can find the thing they're good at.

reads!



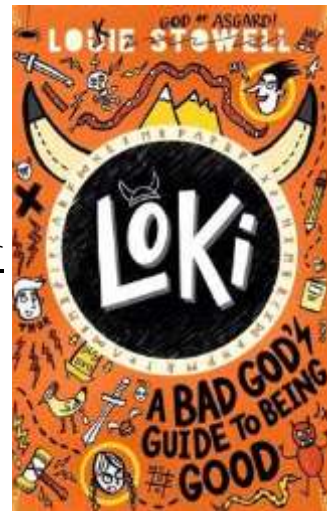
(Leonora Bolt: Secret Inventor recommended for Barn Owls)

Awesome inventor Leonora Bolt has lived most of her nine years in a lighthouse on remote Crabby Island, with just her pet otter Twitchy Nibbles and Mildred, an eccentric housekeeper for company. Apart from occasional visits from disagreeable Uncle Luther, Leonora has no contact with the outside world. She is desperate to escape the island and is working on a new gadget, the Switcheroo, which she hopes will transport her to the mainland.

Her work is interrupted when Jack, a young castaway, is washed ashore on an inflatable lobster. She quizzes him about life on the mainland and realises that much of what Uncle Luther has told her – chocolate is illegal, laughing is banned – is untrue. It soon becomes apparent that Leonora's uncle is not who he seems and intends to use the Switcheroo for his own sinister ends. Can Leonora put a stop to his dastardly plans before it is too late?

This wacky adventure combines larger-than-life characters, a fittingly devious villain and a fast-paced plot with a sprinkling of science and engineering. Entertaining black-and-white illustrations are scattered throughout the short chapters, making it ideal for young junior readers.

(Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Being Good recommended for Eagle Owls)



After playing one trick too many, Loki, Norse god of mischief, is sent by Odin to live on earth as an 11-year-old boy. He has one month to prove that he can mend his ways, or Odin will condemn him to eternal torture. Loki must record evidence of his moral improvement in a magical diary which, unfortunately for him, corrects lies and deducts 'virtue points' from his score whenever he behaves badly. Furious that he must suffer indignities such as attending school and doing chores, Loki struggles to be good. He is particularly enraged that he has to put up with Thor, who poses as his twin brother to keep an eye on him.

Loki's scathing observations of human existence are hilarious, as well as insightful at times. Despite his contemptuous attitude towards mortal beings, readers will be rooting for him to make the right choices, as he learns about guilt, loyalty and friendship. This side-splitting tale, which contains an abundance of references to Norse mythology, is hugely entertaining from start to finish. A great choice for reluctant readers, it is generously illustrated with witty black-and-white cartoon drawings, and the daily diary entries break the text into manageable sections.



This half term's focus is: Oliver Jeffers.

He is author of How to catch a star, Lost and Found & The way back home, here we are and has also illustrated books such as the day the crayons quit.



What inspires you as an author/illustrator?

Everything really. It's impossible to limit it to one thing. Planet earth inspires me. It's too varied to even begin to make a list. I rarely directly use a reference or an influence, but it all just kind of seeps in there and becomes part of my persona and part of the way that I see my world.

If you could be reincarnated as your favorite character from children's literature, who would it be and why?

Perhaps Mowgli from The Jungle Book. That sounded like a lot of fun.

How do you organize your work?

I don't. A lot of writing lists that I never read again. And I do a lot of storyboards, which can be the trickiest part sometimes — trying to get everything to fit into the 32 pages of the picture book and having the story flow over that space. That's where a lot of the creativity comes into.

Which projects are you most excited about working on now?

I've been working a lot on my fine art practice recently, though I'm getting ready to begin work on a pretty epic Alphabet book which might take me a year or two.

If you could back in time, what would you tell yourself as child?

Brush my teeth more; I've got too many fillings.

What advice do you have for kids who are interested in creating their own picture books?

Keep drawing. Keep practicing. There's a line Picasso had that is "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." Keep practicing and writing everything down .

What was your favorite book when you were a little boy?

The BFG by Roald Dahl.



Book Reviews

Have you read a good book lately? Which book would you recommend to your classmates? Could you write a review for the next edition of 'read all about it?' If so, send your book review, along with your name and the title of the book to your teacher for house points. Thank you!



Picture Quiz!

Do you recognise these famous book covers? Send your answers to your teacher for house points!

If you read just one book a day to your child, they will have been read 1825 books by their 5th birthday.

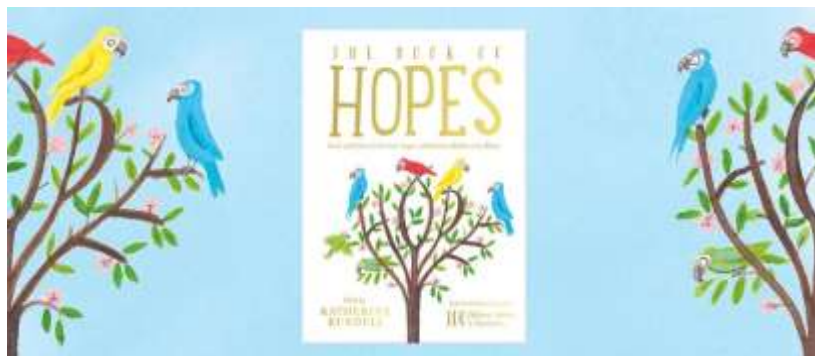
Every Book Counts



Oxford
OWL



Oxford Owl for Home is a brilliant free resource that you may want to try. If you register at <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/> (this only takes a couple of moments), you will have free access to a large collection of tablet-friendly e-books. There is also lots of advice and support for parents regarding reading and learning.



The Book of Hopes (edited by Katherine Rundell) is an extraordinary collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures, dedicated to the doctors, nurses, carers, porters, cleaners and everyone working in hospitals during this pandemic. It has contributions from more than 110 children's writers and illustrators, including Lauren Child, Anthony Horowitz, Greg James and Chris Smith, Michael Morpurgo, Liz Pichon, Axel Scheffler, Francesca Simon and Jacqueline Wilson. Dip into this free edition at

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/bookhopes>

Grange Library



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