

All Saints Marsh Reading Newsletter October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The start of a new Academic Year is a great time to take stock and think about what is important, and we know that reading is one of the most important things that a child can learn to do and come to love during their Primary School journey.

Whether it is beginning to learn initial sounds in EYFS, increasing reading fluency and learning how to use a 'story-teller's voice' in Key Stage 1 or beginning to understand inference and learning about different genres in Key Stage 2 - all the stages of reading are so important in order for a child to flourish.

TEMPLAR CLASS PUPIL INTERVIEWS

Shay and Lexi were keen to discuss what they have been reading in class and at home since September:

Shay: One of the books we have been reading is *Varjak Paw* by S.F. Said. Varjak is unlocking different powers (like 'slow-time' when time is paused). He unlocks memories whenever he goes to sleep, as his ancestor visits him and teaches him different powers.

Lexi: I like the adventure because it is so much fun and it is also quite funny. We have also been reading the *Adventures on Trains* series by M.G. Leonard and Sam Sedgman. Some bits of the stories are really funny and it is very interesting. I loved *The Highland Falcon Thief* so much that I went out and bought it with my pocket-money!

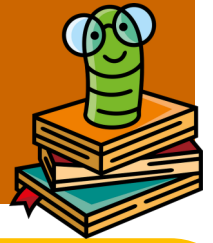
Shay: Reading sessions in Templar class are great because Mrs Mott is so enthusiastic.

Lexi: I like all the different voices Mrs Mott uses when she is reading aloud to us.

Shay: The best thing about reading is meeting all the different characters.

Lexi: I love laughing at all the different voices and I love choosing adventure books to read independently.

Can you spot the Book Worm hiding in this newsletter?



A message from Mrs Mott:

At All Saints Marsh, we love Reading! We value it so much that our pupils have 3 different Reading sessions within the school day.

In the morning, they have a whole-class Reading session, which may be within a Read Write Inc lesson or if they are not on Read Write Inc, it is a separate lesson in class. In this lesson, we explore how to answer questions about what we are reading.

After lunch, the children have a Reading for Pleasure slot. The book for this slot has been chosen with the children, based on their reading preferences. Lots of different, fun activities happen during this time: drama activities, or book talk with friends about books you would recommend and why, or trips to the Book Nook to update Reading Dens and home reader books are just a few examples.

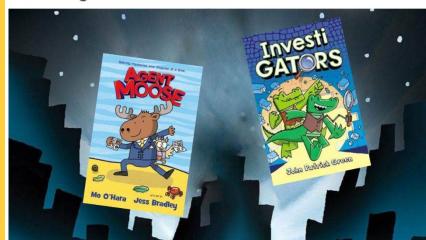
The children also have a Fluency reading slot which is when they practice reading texts that are challenging but achievable to improve their reading speed and accuracy.

Why not ask your child what they have done in just one of their Reading sessions today - there's so much to tell you!

The Book Trust website has lots of useful information on what children may enjoy reading if they have shown an interest in a particular book. The recommendations take into account the child's interest, but also push learning forward by offering more diverse characters, interesting vocabulary and introducing children to new authors that they may not have heard of! Here are some of their recommendations:

What to read after... Dog Man

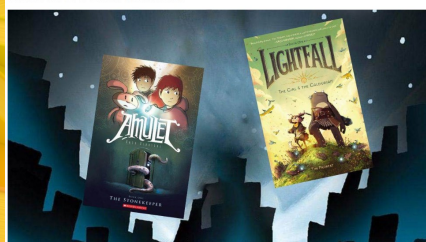
More Laugh Out Loud Comics



Graphic Novel Non-Fiction



Even More Excitement?



Something for Younger Readers



InvestiGATORS by John Patrick Green follows two Alligator investigators. Mango and Brash find themselves in situations which will have readers roaring with laughter and rereading again and again. For more crime fighting giggles read **Agent Moose** by Mo O'Hara and Jess Bradley. Agent Moose isn't the best secret agent about, but luckily for him, his assistant Owlfred saves his embarrassment time and time again.

Adam Kay has brought plenty of laughs through his brilliant **Kay's Anatomy** where he takes us on a journey through the body. The illustrations bring his hilarious words to life. Learning and laughing, my two favourite things in one place! What's not to love? Mike Barfield and Jess Bradley's series '**A Day in the Life...**' has something for everyone! There are three in the series, looking at Animals, History and Space.

For fans of adventure, there can be no other choice than **Amulet** by Kazu Kibuishi. After a family tragedy, two children see their mum being taken by an unknown creature. They follow her, intent on rescuing her. They were not ready for the world that is awaiting them! **Lightfall** by Tim Probert is a fantasy quest that will leave readers searching for the next book in the series. This is a slightly thicker graphic novel so it helps build children's reading stamina.

Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea short comics by Ben Clanton's are the perfect introduction to graphic novels for newly confident readers. Set under the sea, they follow the adventures of Narwhal and his friend Jelly. Jamie Smarth's **Max & Chaffy** tells the story of Max who has recently moved and in search of a creature called a Chaffy but it is missing. Mo Willem's **Elephant and Piggie** books are picture books that feature unlikely friends in bizarre situations.

What to do if my child does not like reading?

- **Give them the chance to choose.** It's a great idea to give children the chance to choose what they read. Maybe you could take them to a bookshop and let them pick out something as a treat, or make regular library visits to help them figure out what they enjoy.
- **Enjoy books out loud!** Why not read part of a book to your child, then leave it with them to explore further on their own? Children might enjoy listening to audiobooks, too - the combination of hearing the story out loud and holding the physical book could be a big help. Why not try listening to a story the next time you're in the car together?
- **Find books related to their interests.** If your child is a gamer, why not try choose-your-own-adventure books, Minecraft guides or stories about virtual reality? If they like sport, you could try one of Kwame Alexander's verse novels or a biography of their favourite football player. If a book is about something they already love, it could be a brilliant way to get them hooked. Or perhaps their favourite film is based on a book - you could enjoy the story together and talk about how the movie and the original story are different.
- **Try series fiction.** If your child loves the first *Dog Man* book, there are ten more stories for them to dive into! There are some wonderful series out there that have converted reluctant readers into bookworms - you could try the *Tom Gates* books by Liz Pichon or the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series.

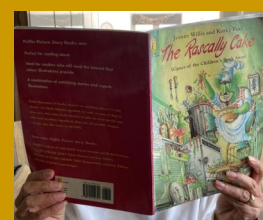
Children who read:

Are more likely to be happier, healthier and experience better mental wellbeing and self-esteem

Are more likely to do better at school and make more progress across the curriculum

Are more likely to develop empathy and creativity

Which member of staff is this...?



"I love reading this book because it's a fun rhyming story and it's full of gross ingredients!"