

# The Daily Reader



**A Pinnacle Federation  
publication.**

## SWALLOWS AND HAWKS REVEAL THEIR TOP AUTHORS AND BOOKS

Pupils in Hawks and Swallows have revealed their favourite books and authors in a recent class survey conducted at Hawkesbury School.

Hawk class pupils showed an interest in a wide range of titles. Those receiving the most votes included:

- The Land of Roar by Jenny McLachlan
- There's A Boy in the Girl's Bathroom by Louis Sachar
- The Wizards of Once by Cressida Cowell

Michael Morpurgo and David Baddiel (pictured) were the most popular authors in Years 5 and 6.

It may be 25 years since Harry Potter first appeared in our bookshops but the enduring popularity of J.K.Rowling's novels mean that she is their favourite author.

The Land Of Stories: The Wishing Spell by Chris Colfer was the winner of the Year 3/4 top book. This exciting and funny novel takes Alex and Connor into a world of fairy tales. The only problem is that the stories haven't ended in the magical land that they have entered. Will they manage to get back home?



Inside:

- Top tips to support reading at home. What does the Department for Education recommend?
- Advice on what questions to ask. Ideas from the Education Endowment Foundation to support understanding of texts.
- Recommendations on how to find your next book. Useful websites to help select a great read.
- Teachers select some of their favourite books for children.



Department  
for Education

# Top tips for parents to support children to read

## Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

## Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

## Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

## Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

## Make use of your local library

Libraries in England are able to open after the pandemic, so visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow.

## Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

Yate Library is open from 10am-5pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Saturday, it is open between 9am and 2pm.

Hawkesbury Community Library is open alternate Fridays from 2:30pm to 4pm

## Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

## Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

## Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.

Primary school children are never too old to have stories read to them, regardless of how able they may appear to be! We firmly believe that all children who come to Hawkesbury and Iron Acton strongly benefit from having stories read to them throughout their time at our schools, even if they are confident independent readers.

Sharing stories that are a little bit hard for them to read independently enables them to learn new words and hear great stories that you love. What's more, hearing different stories will help them to become better writers. Sharing your thoughts and memories about a book can be great fun and promote book talk at home.

Enjoy revisiting your old favourites!

# Questions, questions...

Supporting your child with reading at home isn't just listening to them read; asking them questions is also crucial as it develops understanding of their books at home and supports comprehension work at school.

Here are some recommendations from the Education Endowment Foundation, a nationally-recognised charity, whose research in education is used by 1000s of schools nationwide.

## 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?'*

*'What do you think this word means?'*



## 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:

*'What problems will they encounter?'*

*'Will she succeed? Why?'*

## 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.



## 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 journey?'*







# WHICH BOOK SHOULD I BUY?

There are so many books out there so it can be extremely tricky trying to find the best ones to read. Ideally, your child should have a balanced diet of reading, enjoying a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Non-fiction, traditionally popular with boys, is superb for developing a wealth of general knowledge that is recognised as a key to success with reading comprehension. Poetry is excellent for building vocabulary and figurative language.

Select books that you know that your child will enjoy. After all, reading for pleasure is essential.

At Hawkesbury and Iron Acton, we encourage our pupils to select quality, age-appropriate books that will inspire them and help them learn new language. If your child is a reluctant reader or finds reading challenging, this type of book could be read to him/her instead.

Here are some recommended sources of information on great books to read.



## 100 MUST-READ BOOKS FOR EVERY YEAR GROUP

This site has recommendations for fiction, non-fiction and poetry for all the primary years together with brief summaries of each book.

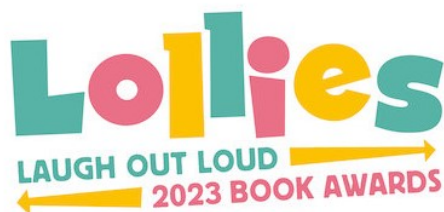
[100 books for every year group primary - Peters](#)



This website has news of many of the latest releases.

Scroll down to see the Book Match sections, that list selections of books for fans of various authors (such as David Baddiel, Frank Cottrell Boyce, Katherine Rundell, David Walliams and Michael Morpurgo). This sight is great for helping young readers discover new authors.

[The Reader Teacher Bookshop UK](#)



If your child loves a funny book, then look no further!

This site has details of books that have won the award for the funniest book as voted by children.

[The Laugh Out Loud Book Awards 2023 - Scholastic Shop](#)

This site gives details of another annual book award, this time voted for by teachers. There are links that give details of past winners as well as longlists from previous years.

[UKLA Book Awards - UKLA](#)



## TOO BUSY TO READ TO YOUR CHILDREN REGULARLY?

Sometimes it can be very tricky trying to read to your children, particularly if you have more than one child at a different age, have a number of evening commitments or you are the only adult at home.

Audiobooks can be an effective way of ensuring that your children hear a range of quality texts at home. Products such as Audible have a range of children's literature that can be downloaded to a range of mobile devices.

# RECOMMENDED READS

Here are some books that are favourites with members of staff at Hawkesbury.

Mr Riddington's favourite non-fiction

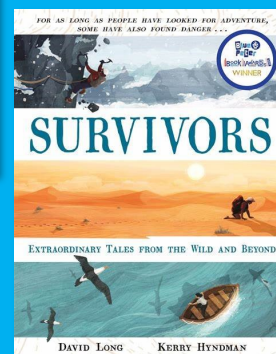
**SAVE OUR SPECIES** by Dominic Couzens

A beautifully-illustrated book that is a practical guide to saving endangered species in the UK. This will be popular with animal lovers.



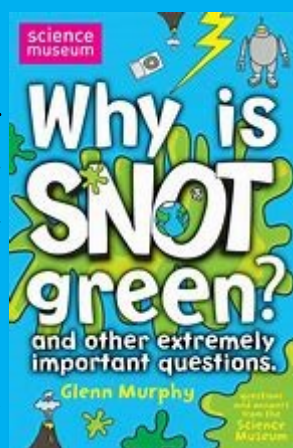
**SURVIVORS** by David Long and Kerry Hyndman

What a book! These are short, true stories about remarkable escapes from danger. This book will take you on a journey around the world and tell you extraordinary tales of courage.

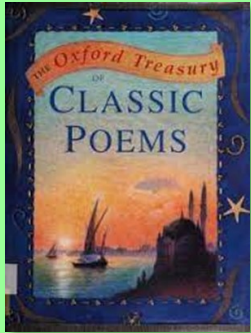


**WHY IS SNOT GREEN?** By Glenn Murphy.

A good question, I hear you say! This book answers this and many more in a fun and educational way.



# RECOMMENDED READS

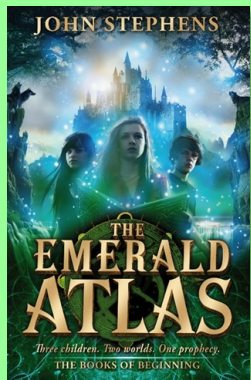


Mrs Tilsey's favourite books

## THE OXFORD TREASURY OF CLASSIC POEMS

This is hands down my favourite collection of poetry. It features old classics and more modern poems of all types, written for both children and adults. It is beautifully illustrated in lots of different styles chosen to complement each poem.

If you enjoy poetry this is a must.



## THE EMERALD ATLAS by John Stephens

If you enjoy adventure and magic with a little bit of peril, The Books of Beginning series might be just what you need in your life.

In the first book, The Emerald Atlas, three children are sent to live in a mysterious castle and discover a magical book which can transport them to different times and places. On their journeys they uncover secrets about their past and an evil which has to be stopped.

I loved this book and could not put it down. Highly recommended.

# RECOMMENDED READS

Mr Bryant recommends:

## LARKLIGHT by Philip Reeve

Larklight is an utterly unique and page-turningly brilliant Victorian space adventure.

Art Mumby is just a normal boy living in space, but all that changes when an ancient race of gigantic white spiders called the First Ones arrive to seize his family home, Larklight. Forced to flee, Art and his annoying sister Myrtle are chased across the galaxy, from the fiery rivers of Mars to the distant rings of Saturn. But the First Ones have trouble on their hands. They don't bank on Art falling in with Jack Havock and a motley crew of notorious space pirates...

