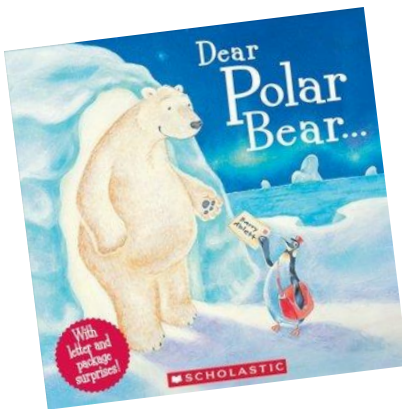


# Reading Newsletter

Welcome to the newly-rebooted edition of our Reading Newsletter! The idea of this termly update is to share some of the fantastic texts being discovered by classes around school, find out about what the children have been enjoying in their reading, to discover some good strategies and resources to support reading at home - as well as offering a general update about everything reading related in school!

## Class Reads

In this section we find out all about what each class has been enjoying as their class read this term:



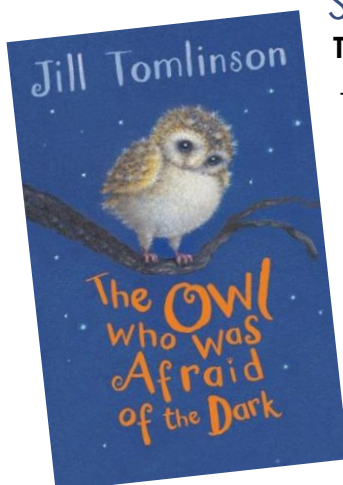
### Bumblebees

We have enjoyed many different stories in Bumblebee Class over this half term. We have read the following: **Dear Polar Bear, Lost and Found, Henry's Holiday, The Old bear, My friend Bear, Six Dinner Sid, and The Great Race.** Our favourite story was Dear Polar Bear – we enjoyed learning about other bears around the world and where they lived. The Old Bear story gave us a chance to think about our favourite toys and a chance to think about our own achievements and what we are proud of.

### Nightingales

Over this half term Nightingales have been exploring a variety of traditional tales such as **The Gingerbread Man, Three Little Pigs, and Goldilocks and the Three Bears.**

We have been reading lots of traditional tales and discussing the similarities and differences between the setting, characters and storyline.



### Skylarks

**The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark** by Jill Tomlinson

This book tells the story of Plop, a baby barn owl, and how he is afraid of the dark. His Mum encourages him to go down to the ground to meet and speak to other people and discuss what they think about the dark. They describe the dark in a variety of ways and Plop discovers that not everyone is afraid of the dark like him. Through the people he encounters, he realises that the dark is wonderful after all.

This story by Jill Tomlinson is a heart-warming classic. It was first published in 1968, but is still as relevant today, as the day it was written. The edition we are reading tells the story over seven chapters.

## Owls

In Owls, we have been reading a range of books. While we love nothing more than a good pictures book (**The Day the Crayons Quit**, **What We'll Build** and **Dinosaurs vs Humans** to name a few), we have been working hard on our reading stamina. One of our favourite books we have explored this year is **The Nothing to See Here Hotel**. This book is about a rather unusual boy called Frankie Banister and his family. The Banister Family run the Nothing to See Here Hotel, which is cunningly hidden from human view by magic and lots of really, really bad TripAdvisor reviews. It's not for humans, you see, and instead is the perfect getaway for magical creatures of all kinds – mermaids are welcomed through the sea door and stairs are rented to ghosts looking for a holiday from their usual haunts.



As you can imagine, this really captured our interest, and, despite the AWFUL trip advisor reviews, most of the children said they would love to visit... Mrs Holland is going to sit out on that trip! We read this over a few weeks, so we had the chance to pause regularly and discuss what we had read. The children enjoyed the book so much, they were pleasantly surprised to see another three Nothing to See Here Hotel books had appeared on in our class library.

## Kingfishers

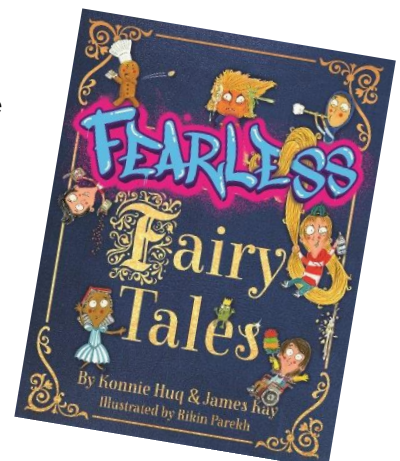


We have been reading a sequel as our class story as the children voted for it! They absolutely loved **'The Indian in the Cupboard'** by **Lynne Reid Banks**, which we finished as we broke up for Christmas. So, when I said we could continue with the sequel and put it to a vote, it was unanimous! So, our class story is **The Return of the Indian**. It all started in the first book, when Omri discovered a simple cabinet could be used with a key to turn plastic figures into real life versions of themselves. He does this with an Indian called Little Bull and some other figures too. He shares this amazing discovery with his best friend Patrick and all sorts happens, some good, some not so good. Omri has never forgotten Little Bull though, and finally yields to the temptation to see his tiny blood brother again.

Kingfishers have been very excited to see what happens next!

## Ravens and Eagles

As we have both been getting stuck into our English project of Twisted Traditional Tales, the perfect accompanying book has been **Fearless Fairy Tales** by **Konnie Huq and James Kay**. The children have been enjoying the modern twists and craftily modernised tales as well as spotting the puns, jokes and shocking changes to the original stories. The comic story-telling and funny illustrations have hooked us in and the children have really enjoyed reading some of the stories aloud. Great characters such as Lil Red in The Hood, Trumplestiltskin (really!), RAP-Unzel, Spinocchio and Mouldysocks (Goldilocks – get it?!) have become household names to the Year 5/6 children and have inspired us in writing our own twisted tales, which we have, in turn, shared with the Owls and Kingfishers.



## Children's Reviews

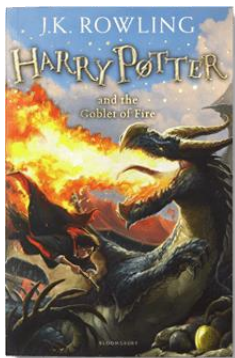
### HEAD KID By David Baddiel

This jaw dropping rebirth story is a mix of comedy and overcoming a challenge. It has been described as "Funny, sometimes moving and always engaging". Ryan is the naughtiest boy in school and when the new head teacher arrives, weird things start to happen. A mysterious music box starts to play. Suddenly Ryan is in a world where he's the boss. What mischief can he get up to? David Baddiel has come from a comedian and tv presenter to become an outstanding children's author. This well-respected man is many children's favourite author and has an imagination that children of all ages relate to.



### **Freddy Lugg – Year 5**

#### Harry Potter – The Goblet of Fire Book Review



This is my favourite of all the Harry Potter books as I think it is the first book where things start to get a little dark and dangerous for Harry. With Harry growing up, he is now starting to realise that it is his destiny to battle Lord Voldemort and that he is no longer a young child. In addition, his relationships with his friends are really tested when he is selected to compete in the Triwizard tournament. After being selected and going on to win the tournament, Ron Weasley starts to feel a little left out which puts a lot of strain on their relationship. The book nicely sets the scene for the next chapter, The Order of the Phoenix.

### **Ethan Moss – Year 5**

If you or your children are budding book critics get your reviews into Mr Fenn and they may be appearing in the next edition...

## The 'Spellbinding' Book Award has landed!



Year 5 and 6 have been very busy with their reading recently as we have begun our annual Book Award challenge. The idea is that the children attempt to read at least 6 exciting titles from this year's shortlist of 11 up-and-coming authors. At the end of the challenge the children will have the tricky decision of selecting the book they have enjoyed most and the selected author will be able to add this much coveted accolade to the front of their book. We have been inundated with children wanting to take part in the award and have 28 readers this year! The children have until Easter to complete the challenge... Keep reading!

Here are the exciting titles that have been shortlisted this year, that your children might be interested in exploring:

Melt - Ele Fountain

A Clock of Stars: The Shadow Moth - Francesca Gibbons

The House of Secret Treasure - Kita Mitchell

The Crackle Dawn Dragon - Abi Elphinstone

The Perfect Parent Project - Stewart Foster

The Boy Who Met a Whale - Nizrana Farook

The Day The Screens Went Blank - Danny Wallace

Wizard In My Shed - Simon Farnaby

The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh - Helen Rutter

How I Saved The World In A Week - Polly Ho-Yen

When The Sky Falls - Phil Earle



Some of our intrepid readers begin the challenge!

## Recommended Reads

With our busy lives and there being so many books out there, it is sometimes hard to find the perfect next book to share with your children. The two links below are great resources (that I've used many times!) that can help you to find trusted, quality texts:

**The Book Trust – Bookfinder** – This helpful interactive tool helps to sort by age and by type of book with some great suggestions of quality texts. <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/>

**Books For Keeps** – This is an amazing online Reading magazine full of reviews and summaries of books that are new to the shelves. It also has a great archive of reviews so you can search for an author you enjoy and find out about some of the other books they have written. <https://booksforkeeps.co.uk/>



## Supporting Reading at Home

In each edition of the Reading Newsletter we will share some ideas about how to support your child with some reading strategies at home. In school children are used to talking about VIPERS questions in their reading, which are really helpful in posing different questions and opening a variety of discussions about any text. Here is a breakdown of the 5 different types of questions and some examples that you could use with your child at home

### VOCABULARY

- What does the word ..... mean in this sentence? / Which word in this section do you think is the most important? Why? / Find one word in the text which means.....

### INFER

- What impression of ..... do you get from these paragraphs? / How do these words make the reader feel? How does this paragraph suggest this? / Can you explain why.....?

### PREDICT

- What do you think will happen next? What makes you think this? / Do you think... will happen? Yes, no or maybe? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

### EXPLAIN

-What is the author's point of view? / What affect does ..... have on the audience? / Who is your favourite character? Why?

### RETRIVE

- What happened to...? / Give one example of..... / What kind of text is this?

### SUMMARISE / SEQUENCE

- What was the first thing that happened in the story? / What happened after .....? /

These work brilliantly whether you are practising lots of shared reading with a younger child or checking in with an older reader, who might have been reading independently. For a KS2 and KS1 Reading VIPERS booklet with more ideas and example questions, access the pdf booklets on our [school website](#).

### Reading Vipers

**V**ocabulary  
**I**nfer  
**P**redict  
**E**xplain  
**R**etrieve  
**S**equence or Summarise

