

YSGOL PEN Y BRYN

Book Recommendations



Following the Parent's Reading Survey, it was clear that many parents/guardians were wanting recommendations on books for their children, so we got to work making that happen. We hope you enjoy looking through the selection, and would love to hear if you have been inspired to give one of them a go!



Each class in school has had a discussion about which books and authors they enjoy. In this leaflet, you will find a round up of this from each year group, including favourites of some of the teachers, mixed with helpful advice to nurture a love of reading...

Look out for QR codes to scan so you can listen to stories, read excerpts and even whole novels that are popular with the children.



Teachers' thoughts...

"I firmly believe in acting out any story you read to the class - putting on silly voices and getting them to join in, for example. This all really helps to instil a love of books"
Mrs. C Williams

"We begin to introduce chapter-style books alongside picture books in year 2. These books are great for captivating interest having short uncomplicated chapters. Children are often intrigued when it is the start of a series of books and search them out in the library and often ask for them as birthday/Christmas gifts, especially the 'Worst Witch' series"
Mrs Chapman

"My recommendation is to find a children's book or author that you enjoy reading, and this will give the children the same enthusiasm"
Mrs Edwards

"All children are on their own journey with reading - this might mean they enjoy picture books, novels, factual books or magazines or a mixture of all of them. They may struggle to get interested in reading books at all. But in our experience, most children love being read to, which is a great starting point"
Mr. Fawcett

Nursery

What works?

- Colourful pictures to engage children.
- Some of them are rhyming, and help the children join in with the story.
- Some are about our world, and different view points.

Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler

Donaldson and Scheffler's books, like "The Gruffalo" and "Superworm," are lively and colorful. "Superwoman" is a hit with kids, empowering them with a fun story. These books make reading a joy for both kids and parents—perfect for bedtime stories full of adventure and imagination!



Jez Alborough's "Where's My Teddy?"

...is a delightful, simple tale. With charming illustrations, it tells the story of a little boy, Eddie, who loses his teddy in the woods. The book is perfect for young kids, combining humour and a heart-warming theme. A cosy story time treat!



Eric Carle's "The Bad-Tempered Ladybird"

...is a vibrant picture book that teaches kids about patience and kindness. With its beautiful illustrations, this story follows a grumpy ladybird's journey to find happiness.



Nick Sharratt and Gillian Andreae's "Pants"

...is a playful and silly book that kids adore. Full of colourful and funny illustrations, it celebrates the joy of different types of pants! Get ready for giggles and a great opportunity to talk about diversity during story time.



"Julian is a Mermaid" by Jessica Love

...is a heart-warming tale celebrating individuality and acceptance. It follows Julian, a boy who dreams of being a mermaid. This book is a wonderful way to teach kids about embracing who they are and the power of unconditional love.



"Clean Up" by Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola

...is a lively and engaging story that makes tidying up fun and follows a group of friends on an adventure to clean up their neighbourhood. 'Clean Up' not only entertains but also encourages teamwork and responsibility in a playful way.

Listen to "Clean Up" here!



Reception

- Engaging illustrations to capture a child's attention
- Encourage interaction by asking open-ended questions about the story
- Simple and repetitive text to reinforce language patterns and improve comprehension.
- Make reading multi-sensory by incorporating gestures

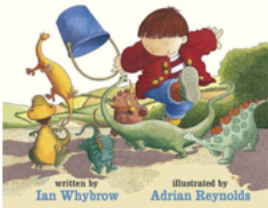
"We're Going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury

A classic children's book, it follows an adventurous family on a bear hunt, overcoming various obstacles. With rhythmic text and captivating illustrations, this book engages young readers, making it a timeless and enjoyable read-aloud experience for families.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt
Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury



Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs

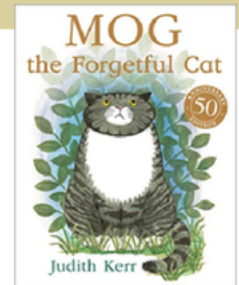


The "Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs" series by Ian Whybrow and Adrian Reynolds

These charming picture books are filled with whimsical illustrations and stories that capture the joy of a child's imagination. Perfect for young readers, the series combines creativity and friendship, making it a delightful addition to any child's bookshelf.

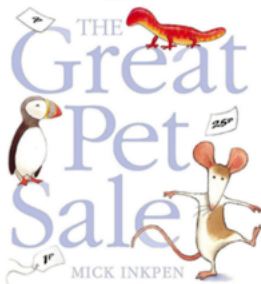
The "Mog" series by Judith Kerr

These picture books follow the endearing and mischievous Mog's various adventures with the Thomas family. The series explores themes of family, friendship, and the everyday experiences of a lovable cat. "Mog" stories are beloved classics that continue to captivate young readers with their warmth and charm.



"The Great Pet Sale" by Mick Inkpen

In this whimsical story, various animals gather for a peculiar pet sale, each showcasing unique and imaginative characteristics.



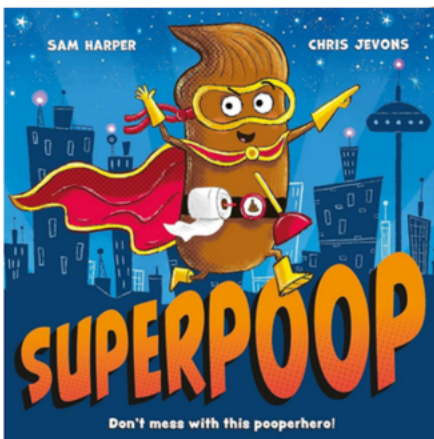
The "Kipper" series by Mick Inkpen

...features the lovable dog named Kipper. With a focus on simplicity and charm, these picture books follow Kipper's everyday adventures with his friends. "Kipper" stories capture the essence of childhood innocence and curiosity, creating a warm and enjoyable reading experience for children and parents alike.



"Superpoop" by Sam Harper

Superpoop is fresh from hero training and only needs one mission under his belt to join the super league of superheroes. Yet, whenever he tries to save the day, another hero always gets there first! All Superpoop needs is a job that only he can do, so when toilet trouble is the mission of the day, he might just get the ploppportunity!



Listen to
"Superpoop" here!

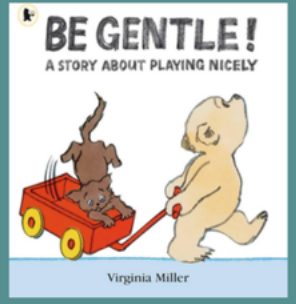




Year 1 have provided a mixture of books they use during their topics which have proven popular, and some personal recommendations from the children!

Annika recommends:
"Be Gentle" by Virginia Miller

It teaches kids the importance of kindness and empathy and is a beautiful way to share the message of being gentle with others, making it perfect for bedtime and fostering a nurturing environment at home.

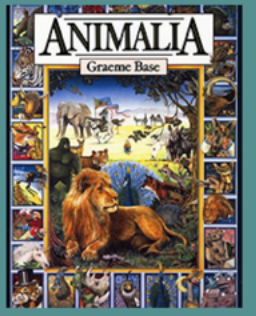


Charlie recommends:
"One Mole Digging a Hole" by Julia Donaldson and Nick Sharratt
A delightful book with catchy rhymes and vibrant illustrations, introducing counting in a fun way. It not only entertains but also helps with learning numbers, making it an enjoyable and educational addition to storytime.

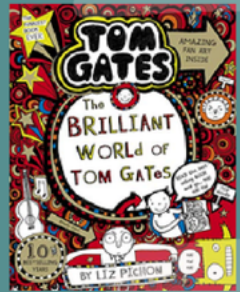


William recommends:
"Animalia" by Graeme Base

A stunning and intricate alphabet book with elaborate illustrations. It takes children on a captivating journey through the animal kingdom. It not only teaches the ABCs but also sparks curiosity about the diversity of animals.

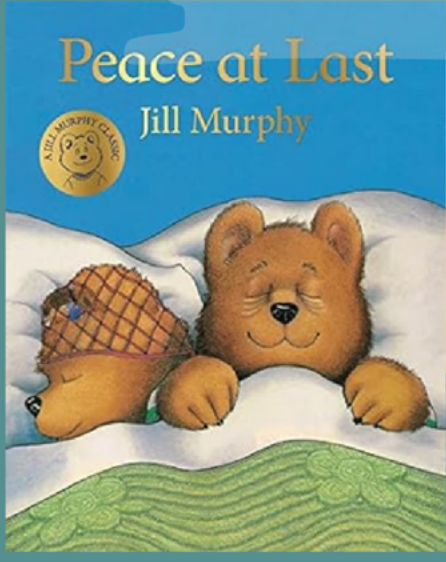
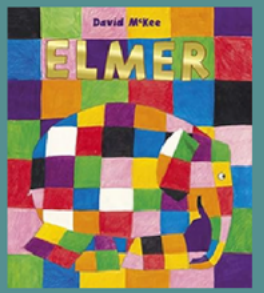


Luca recommends:
The "Tom Gates" series by Liz Pichon
With doodles, humour, and Tom's quirky adventures, these books make reading a joy. The series encourages a love for books, creativity, and embracing individuality, making it a fantastic choice for readers both young and a older!



David McKee's "Elmer" series

A delightful collection starring a patchwork elephant, bursting with lively illustrations and heart-warming tales. Elmer encourages kids to appreciate diversity and celebrate uniqueness.



Jill Murphy's "Large Family" series
A delightful collection of children's books featuring the charming elephant family. With titles like "Five Minutes' Peace" and "All in One Piece," these stories humorously depict the challenges and joys of family life.

Listen to "Peace At Last' here!





What we like about chapter books in Year 2...

"Longer books don't stop at the good bits, they give us more information"

"Chapter books tell you more about the story" - Miah 2LC

"If you are listening to a chapter book story that doesn't have many pictures, you could close your eyes and imagine what it looks like" -

Amelia 2LC

Jill Murphy - The Worst Witch

"She turned all the naughty witches into snails - Year 2LC

"It was very exciting, we didn't know what was going to happen"



The Boy Who Grew Dragons - Andy Shepherd

"It was funny when the dragon hatched"

"The chapter names are funny...like TomTom and Jerry" Joseph Year 2LC

"It was really funny and silly - George Year 2LC

Rosie Revere and the Raucous Riveters - Andrea Beaty

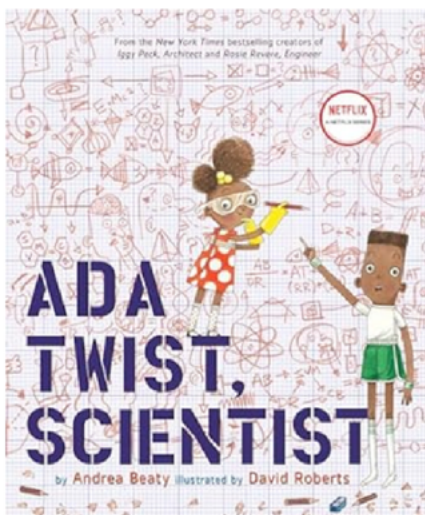
In this empowering tale, young inventor Rosie teams up with a group of friends called the Raucous Riveters to tackle a meaningful project. The book celebrates creativity, teamwork, and the importance of perseverance in the face of challenges.

"Year 2 really liked the strong female protagonist in the book."



"Ada Twist, Scientist" also by Andrea Beaty

...explores Ada's insatiable curiosity and passion for science, encouraging young readers to embrace their own curiosity and creativity. This book celebrates the joy of exploration and the boundless possibilities of scientific discovery, making it an inspiring read for children.



Listen to "Ada Twist, Scientist" here!



Year 3 suggested a mixture of first chapter books and lots of fact books!

Olivia recommends:
Little Gems books

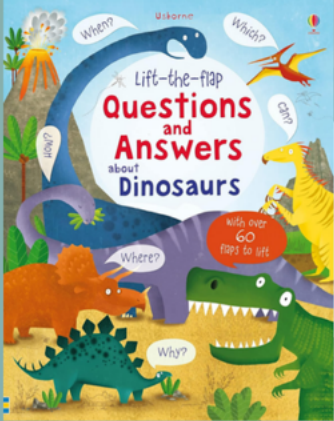
Olivia says: "You can get a set of them, and they are colourful first chapter books with lots of different stories to enjoy"



Evan recommends:

Usborne's Lift the Flap book: Dinosaurs

Year 3 LOVE these lift the flaps books, with hundreds of facts to read and explore, the dinosaur one being Evan's personal favourite.



Evie recommends:

"Unicorn Academy" series by Julie Sykes

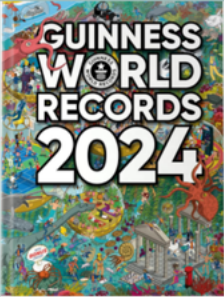
Each book in the series revolves around a magical academy where young girls and their unicorn friends embark on exciting adventures. Filled with themes of friendship, magic, and teamwork, these enchanting stories are designed to captivate young readers.



William recommends:

Guinness World Records

Filled with fascinating facts and records spanning various categories, from the tallest and fastest to the most unusual accomplishments, these books captivate readers of all ages. The series continues to be popular for its blend of entertaining content, stunning visuals, and a celebration of human achievements and abilities.



Oscar recommends:

"Earth and Space: Photographs from the Archives of NASA"

Oscar says: "I like looking at all of the close up pictures of the planets and space, and reading the facts about them."



Ethan recommends:

"The BFG" by Roald Dahl

Ethan says: "I have lots of Roald Dahl's stories and am reading "The BFG" at the moment. I like the scary bits the most!"



Listen to "The BFG" here!



Year 4

- **Reading Together Adventures:** Whether it's trading paragraphs or discussing characters, reading together fosters a connection with books and makes the experience more enjoyable
- **Consistent Reading Time:** Consistency helps make reading a natural and anticipated part of their day, reinforcing the idea that reading is a fun and valuable activity.
- **Celebrate Reading Milestones:** Acknowledge their reading achievements, from finishing a book to conquering tricky words. Celebrating these successes boosts their confidence and makes the reading experience even more rewarding.

Phoebe recommends:

"In The Shadow of the Wolf Queen" by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Phoebe says: "It is an interesting book with lots of fantasy and adventures."



Harri recommends:

The Little People, Big Dreams series

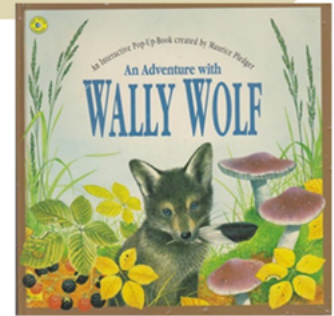
Harri says: "It gives you the inspiration to dream big like the famous people mentioned in the books."



Luca recommends:

"An Adventure with Wally Wolf" by Maurice Pledger

Luca says: "A little wolf finds a feather and has to return it to the owner. He goes on quest to find the owner and uses other animals to help him. The pictures are interesting."



Florence recommends:

"Willa of the Wood" by Robert Beatty

Florence says: "I like it because the main character Willow is cool. She saves animals and the forest helps her."



Bobby and Ben recommend:

The Mr Men series by Roger Hargreaves

The stories are funny. Bobby likes that there are lots of books in the series. Mr Grumble is Ben's favourite. The books show that everyone is different. All the stories have a different theme/style/characters.

MR. GRUMBLE
Roger Hargreaves



Harriet recommends:

"The Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Harriet says: "It is an interesting book, with lots of mystery. I like the way the writer describes the garden and the adjectives they use brings it to life."

Read the first chapter of "The Secret Garden"!



Year 5

Year 5 came up with a huge list of recommendations using Padlet. You will find all of their suggestions using the below link, but here are a selection of the books that Year 5 love!

Link to Year 5's Padlet: <https://shorturl.at/hopKM>

Dork Diary's (book series) by Rachel Renee Russell

"The fantastic book is for children aged 9-15 all about an American girl who is in middle school looking at her adventures she becomes more mature and learns how to ignore her enemies and listen to her gut instincts."



"The Fart That Changed The World" by Stephen Mangan

"This book is about a boy named Tom who was the King's butler for a day..the most important day to reunite the bordering countries. It is very funny and it will make you laugh and smile. This book is also family friendly and there are no limitations on age!"



"I like the "Captain Underpants" books by Nathan Pilkey, because they are funny and entertaining. Once you start reading the books you can't stop!"

By George

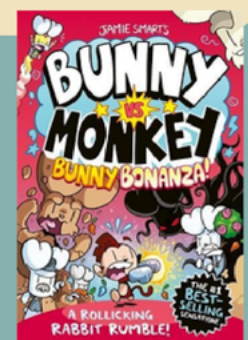


"The Famous Five" is an amazing book series by Enid Blyton. They have lots of different adventures which are each very interesting and cool 👍"

By Micah

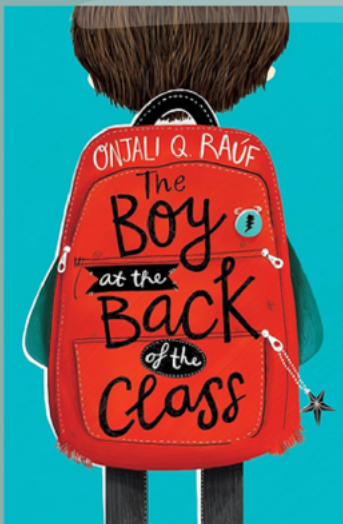
"Bunny vs. Monkey", the graphic novel series created by Jamie Smart.

These books bring to life the comedic and chaotic adventures of a group of forest animals, led by the peace-loving Bunny and the mischievous Monkey. The series combines humor, lively illustrations, and entertaining storytelling, making it an engaging read for children and fans of graphic novels.



"Boy at the Back of the Class" by Onjali Q. Rauf is a touching children's novel about a group of friends who welcome a new boy, Ahmet, a refugee. The story beautifully explores themes of friendship, empathy, and kindness, making it a compelling and accessible read for young readers.

Read the first chapter of "Boy at the Back of the Class"



Year 6

Year 6 completed a survey on Hwb to determine their most favoured books and authors. Amongst the most popular storytellers were Jeff Kinney, Roald Dahl and David Walliams. Below is the top 6 books as voted for by Year 6...

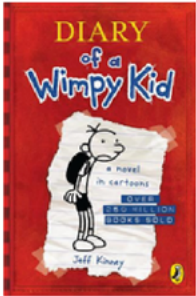
"Matilda" by Roald Dahl

"Matilda" endures as a beloved classic for its captivating storytelling, memorable characters like the resilient Matilda and the tyrannical Mrs. Trunchbull, and timeless themes of courage, intelligence, and standing up against injustice. Roald Dahl's whimsical narrative and Quentin Blake's charming illustrations contribute to its enduring appeal, making it a cherished book that resonates across generations.



The "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series by Jeff Kinney

The series, narrated through the candid diary entries of middle-schooler Greg Heffley, combines witty writing with Jeff Kinney's engaging, graphic novel inspired illustrations, and captures the challenges and humour of adolescence, making it a favorite among young readers.



The "Harry Potter" series, created by J.K. Rowling.

If you didn't know, the fantasy saga, renowned for its magical world and captivating storytelling follow the journey of the young wizard, and unfolds with a perfect mix of mystery, adventure, and friendship. Rowling's vivid imagination, intricate plot twists, and well-developed characters, along with the series' growth alongside its characters, have made it a timeless favourite for readers of all ages.



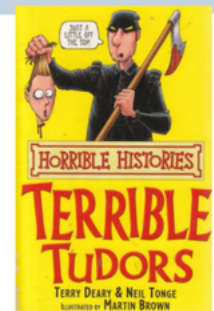
"Gangsta Granny" by David Walliams

A charming children's novel about a boy, Ben, and his unexpectedly adventurous grandmother who happens to be a jewel thief. Filled with humor and heart, the book explores the special connection between grandparents and grandchildren, making it an entertaining and insightful read for kids.



The "Horrible Histories" series, written by Terry Deary

Known for its humorous and engaging approach, the series explores historical events, figures, and facts in a lively and entertaining manner. The witty writing and humorous illustrations make "Horrible Histories" both educational and enjoyable, offering young readers a unique and fun perspective on the past.



The "Dog Man" series by Dav Pilkey

The "Dog Man" series is a wildly popular collection of graphic novels. The books follow the adventures of Dog Man, a part-dog, part-human hero, and his quirky companions. Pilkey's engaging mix of humour, action, and comic-style illustrations have made "Dog Man" a hit in recent times.



Read the whole first 'Dog Man' book!



Teachers' FAVOURITES



Miss McKibbin recommends:

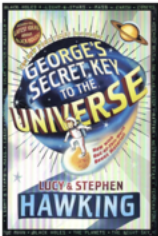
The Stories of Dr Seuss

“My favourite children’s author is Dr Seuss. I remember loving his books as a child and I still love reading them to the children now”

Miss Norris recommends:

“Fing” by David Walliams

“It tells the simple tale of Mr and Mrs Meek, and Myrtle, their perfectly monstrous daughter. Myrtle is thoroughly spoilt and has everything she could possibly want. But everything isn’t enough. She wants more, more, more! Compared with other books by David Walliams, this one is shorter. My class absolutely loved the humour and jokes - and they enjoyed the weird and wonderful names given to the monsters featured in the Monsterpedia.”



Mr. Monteiro recommends:

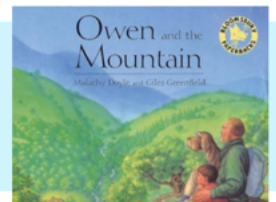
“George’s Secret Key To The Universe” by Lucy & Stephen Hawking

“I have used this book for Years 5 and 6 and pupils have always enjoyed the lively characters including a pet pig and a talking super computer! The book was written by Stephen Hawking with the aim of introducing children to scientific concepts in a fun and engaging way. This book is also part of a trilogy!”

Mrs C Williams recommends:

“Owen and the Mountain” by Malachy Doyle

“It’s my personal favourite because my son had it as a birthday present from a family member and used to insist I read it every night. The children in class have also enjoyed it and it leads to lovely discussions about not giving up and the joy of being with family. I also love the illustrations.”



Mr. Fawcett recommends:

“A Place Called Perfect” by Helena Duggan

“Creepy, mysterious and heartfelt. This book has been a hit with the classes I’ve read it to. Everybody in the town of Perfect wears glasses.. but what are the glasses hiding from the view of the residents? It has lots of twists and turns, shocks and surprises, and a great cliff-hanger to get you picking up Book 2. Violet, the brave hero of the story, even inspired lots of costumes on World Book Day that year!”

Mrs N Williams recommends:

“The Boy Who Biked The World” by Alastair Humphreys

The series recounts the real-life adventures of Tom, a young boy who embarks on a remarkable journey around the globe on his bicycle. Through vivid storytelling and engaging illustrations, the books inspire young readers to dream big, explore the world, and embrace the spirit of adventure. The series not only offers an exciting travel narrative but also encourages a sense of curiosity and resilience in the face of challenges.

