

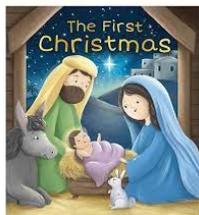
Gnosall St Lawrence Reading Newsletter

Autumn 2 2021



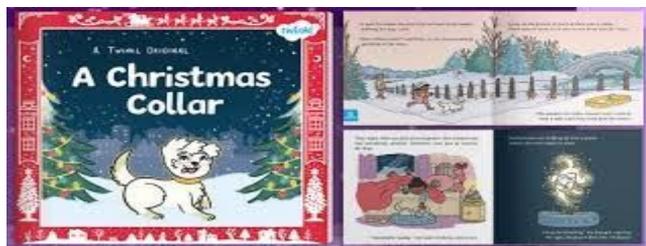
Welcome to the second edition of our reading newsletter! Lots of amazing reading has been happening across our school this half term and we are excited to share this with you. In this edition, we have book reviews, author recommendations and much more! The highlight of this edition is an interview with a brand-new children's author from right here in Gnosall! Sam Simkin stopped by to tell us all about his debut book "Reginald Relish and The Story Machine". Take a look at our interview with Sam to find out all about how Gnosall St Lawrence helped inspire his writing, acting and directing career!

EYFS

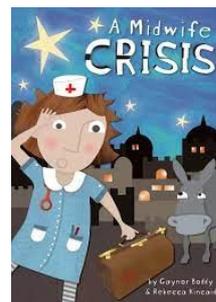


In Reception we have been reading the story of The First Christmas. We have been learning about the importance of sequencing the story correctly. We have been acting out the story in

our Stable Role Play. We have enjoyed a range of Christmas stories and especially liked the story called A Christmas Collar.

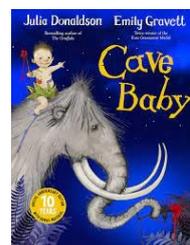


Year 1/2



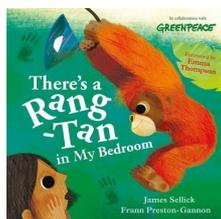
Lots of Year 1 and 2's reading has come in the form of reading a play script and learning lines for their amazing Christmas nativity performance. I'm sure you will all agree, they did an amazing job!

As well as this, children have been using their "Jungle Library" because they are Wild About



Reading! Children have been choosing books to read and swapping to another book of their choice when they are ready. They have also been enjoying listening to Katie in London.

Year 3/4



This half term, our Year 3 and 4 children have made friends with everyone from Ebenezer Scrooge to a friendly orangutan!

Year 3 and Year 4 have also just finished reading Charlotte's

Web. There were a few teary eyes towards the end but the book had important messages about the importance of friendship and that you are never too small to make a difference.

In Year 3/4, children have been enjoying reading Tony Mitton's rhyming version of A Christmas Carol. They have even read part of the original Charles Dickens version too!



Year 5/6



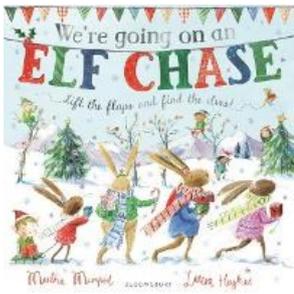
Year 5 have been reading Cogheart as their class text. It's quite unusual (with mechanical living things) but they are really enjoying it and they'd certainly recommend it.

Year 6 have been reading a variety of non-fiction texts linked to Ancient Greece which has provided them with lots of new information to write non-chronological reports.

They have also been reading various poems by Andrew Peters, Michael Rosen and Carol Ann Duffy.



EYFS and KS1 Author Focus– Martha Mumford

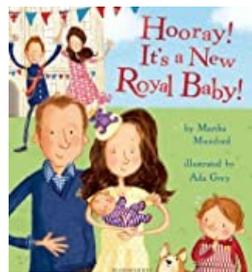


Everyone knows the Michael Rosen classic “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt” but have you heard of Martha Mumford’s festive version “We’re Going on an Elf Chase”?

Martha Mumford is a popular children’s author who has loved books ever since she was a little girl. Her mum was a librarian which meant she always had plenty to read as a child!

In “We’re going on an Elf Chase”, four bunnies set off on a jolly Christmas lift-the-flap adventure to find ten little elves hidden under the flaps. You’ll have to run, run, run if you’re going to catch them all! And there are lots of obstacles along the way, from clippy-cloppy reindeer to roaring polar bears and flippy-flappy penguins.

There are lots of other beautifully illustrated children’s books by Martha and they are often written with a particular season or event in mind.



KS2 Author Focus– JK Rowling

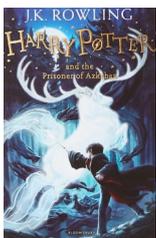
Whilst we all know JK Rowling for Harry Potter, Mrs Rackley was delighted to see a new festive book on the shelves this Christmas. Currently reading The Christmas Pig, Mrs Rackley says...



"In my house JK Rowling is a firm favourite when it comes to bedtime stories. We couldn't wait to try out The Christmas Pig and it hasn't disappointed. A boy called Jack goes on an adventure to locate his much-loved lost toy pig, DP. He is accompanied on Christmas Eve to The Land of the Lost by the Christmas Pig, who is a

rather annoying replacement for DP. As they travel through unknown lands, the question is will he ever find what he is looking for? Even I don't know the answer to this yet but we can't wait to find out.

Suitable for all ages, this book is action-packed and a real page- turner. Why not make it your Christmas read over the holidays? "

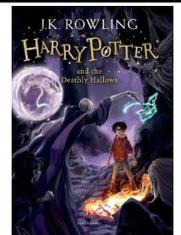


Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J.K.Rowling - reviewed by Alice in Year 5

I would recommend this book because it is exciting, mysterious and amazing to read. So, to all those who have not yet read this book, I would seriously get started on the Harry Potter series as this is one of the best books I've ever read!

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K.Rowling - reviewed by Lucy in Year 4

This book is about three things called The Deathly Hallows. They are the Invisibility Cloak, the Resurrection Stone and the Elder Wand and when they are combined magical things happen. I give this book 5 stars!

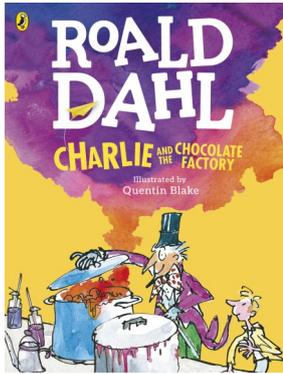


Look who stopped by to say hello (virtually!)

In November, our Year 3 and Year 4 children were lucky enough to have a virtual visit from non-other than Jacqueline Wilson! The children joined a zoom call with the famous author where she told us all about her new book “The Primrose Railway Children” and told us all about how she became a writer. We asked how she works with an illustrator to create the characters and we were delighted when she gave our school a special mention.



An Interview with Mr Copsey!



What are you reading at the moment?

The Man Who Died Twice by Richard Osman

What is your favourite children's book?

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Where is your favourite place to read?

Tucked up in bed in Winter. Outside in the garden in Summer.

Which book character do you think you are most like?

The Mad Hatter from Alice in Wonderland

Real book or Kindle?

Real book (can't beat the smell of a new book!)

An Interview with Sam Simkin!

Sam is a former pupil who has gone on to achieve the most-amazing things! This month, his debut children's book has been released on Amazon and he stopped by to tell us all about it...

Have you always enjoyed writing? Ever since I was in Primary School, it was my favourite thing to do. When sitting in a classroom, creating stories in my blue Literacy notebook was when I was at my happiest.

Who are your favourite children's authors? Roald Dahl was a massive influence in my life. The darkness at the heart of his stories, mixed with really smart humour made me re-read his books multiple times. I have amazing memories of reading The Twits, George's Marvellous Medicine and Esio Trot. The other author who made a HUGE impact on me was Ali Sparkes with her book 'Frozen in Time'. It's a brilliant kids adventure story, but it felt so grown up for a 9 year old! I think I finished that book in about 3 days!

When you're not writing stories, what else do you enjoy doing? Alongside my writing, I also work as an actor and director for theatre. All of which I fell in love with doing at Primary School!

What do you remember about reading and writing from when you were at Gnosall St Lawrence? I remember the books that we would read together as a class. Miss Oldfield reading Inkheart and Charlie Bone on gloomy autumn days was quite magical! Falling in love with stories is my main takeaway from St Lawrence. Whether that's reading them, writing them, performing them. It really did shape the life I live!

Without giving too much away, can you tell us a little more about your new book? Reginald Relish & The Story Machine is a funny, exciting and mysterious story. It tells the story of Reginald Relish discovering an impossible house in the woods, and the impossible man who lives there, Professor Plunket. He has invented a machine that would scan your brain and write you the perfect story... but it doesn't go exactly to plan when Reginald uses it. There is action packed adventure, scary bits, and LOADS of twists that you won't see coming! It was written in the lockdown of 2020, when I decided to fill the time with writing the book that I would have wanted to read as a kid. Although never named, readers might recognise the village, as many ideas came when out walking in lockdown! It is the perfect book for those dark, mysterious, January months, and the first of seven in the Reginald Relish series. Reginald Relish is available NOW, only on Amazon. Search 'Reginald Relish' to find out more.



We are very excited that Sam will be visiting us in school in the new year to tell us a little more about his book!