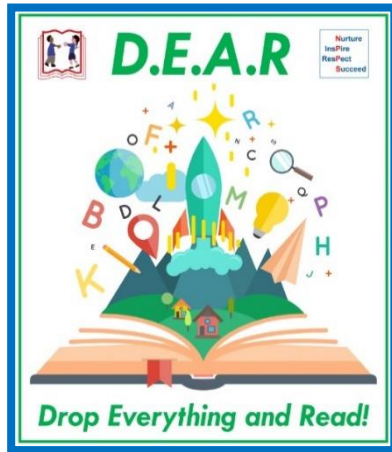


## Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R) / Storytime



Every week, children across school will have at least two sessions (lasting approximately 20 minutes each) to 'Drop Everything and Read'. These sessions are based on the evidence that children need quality, independent time to explore their books and foster a love for reading. In addition to this, and again based on research, teachers will also take this time to read their own book, role-modelling to the children what a 'master reader' looks like. These sessions are protected in the timetable, and must happen each week. As well as quiet reading, the sessions are also used for 'book talk' where children can discuss, recommend and ask questions to each other pertaining to their books. Question stems are available for all pupils (and teachers) in school to aid them.

## Galactic Readers!

As with some schools, our children collect 'reads' for how much reading they are doing at home *and* at school. This has been something the school has done for many years and its success continues to grow. Children are encouraged to get an adult to sign their reading record and importantly, add a comment about what they have enjoyed about the book so far. As children move through the school, this is given more priority with pupils encouraged to write in the reading records themselves! Children are then given bespoke certificates once they reach certain milestones! But how do you go Galactic? Once children get over 100 reads, they will make their way onto the 'Galactic' board for everyone to see, as their spaceship races through space! It's a great way for a child to see just how much of a reading role-model they are to other children! In 2020-21, over 1,700 certificates were handed out to children across school!

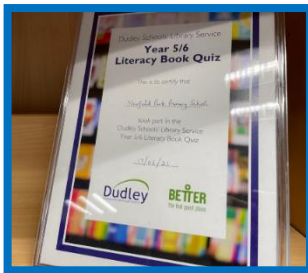


### Author Visits (Author Spotlight!)

As a school we are part of the Dudley Book Group, which historically enabled us to go to the Earls High School (nearby) to hear authors speak about their books! We found this so empowering to children that we have now become one of the Dudley Book Group's key Primary schools, which allows us to have lots more authors visit us here at Newfield! Whenever possible, these author visits are supplemented by children then studying the book in school to ensure that these wonderful moments result in long-term reading engagement. Over the past few years, we've been lucky enough to have Phillip Reeve, Christopher Edge, Sarah McIntyre, Kenneth Oppel, Peter Bunzl, P.G. Bell in to discuss their latest books! During the Covid-19 pandemic, we've also utilised virtual visits (Jacqueline Wilson) and the website 'Authorfy' used to supplement reading.



### Literacy Book Quiz



We take part in yearly book quiz for a range of children across Key Stage Two. The children read a variety of carefully chosen books before attending a quiz at a nearby primary school! This is then celebrated back in school with an assembly. Children from a variety of year groups are chosen (Covid-permitting) to compete in the quiz!

### Secret Reader

Every week, Early Years staff invite a 'Secret Reader' in on a Friday to read to the children! The reader may be a parent, a governor, a member of staff, an older child or even a member of the local community. The Secret Reader brings along a book, poem or non-fiction text to read to the year group. Children then ask questions about the book and about their Secret Reader for that week!

### Comic books, Magazines and Newspapers

In KS2, Comics are available for children to read in during Drop Everything and Read sessions (D.E.A.R) throughout the week. The comics are from a range of sources: some are created and written specifically for schools, while others are comics that could be bought in shops for KS2-aged pupils. These comics ensure that engagement in D.E.A.R remains high throughout the year. Additionally, we have a range of



magazines (including National Geo Kids) and newspapers (First News) for children to read and enjoy!

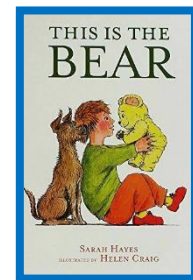
### Reading corners and libraries



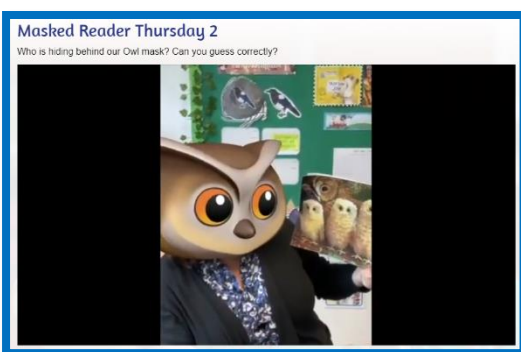
In line with recent advice by the Department for Education, our Reading corners and libraries have been revamped to make them as appealing as possible to children! We have 'stripped back' our bookcases, to ensure that new, high-quality texts are front facing and enticing for children. Each teacher has spent time to create an area where children can sit and 'get lost in a book'! Additionally, teachers supplement this area with book recommendations for other children. Our communal areas have quiet, calming music so children can sit back and enjoy a book on a beanbag or sofa – they're very popular!

### Previous Years books (Re-reading)

Research shows that children really benefit from re-reading stories and poems they have read in previous years. We've spent money to ensure that children (especially in Key Stage One) have access to some of their absolute favourites! These books are then kept separately to others, with children enjoying them during our Drop Everything and Read sessions. We're always adding to this ever-growing collection!



### World Book Day events



Each year, the school does one-off World Book Day events to promote a love of reading. In recent years, children in all classes decorated their doors with their favourite books! Other classes then visited each classroom to see what books had been recommended. During lockdown, teachers became the 'Masked Reader' and read a section of their favourite book out; children had to guess the book and the teacher!

## “What I’m Reading”



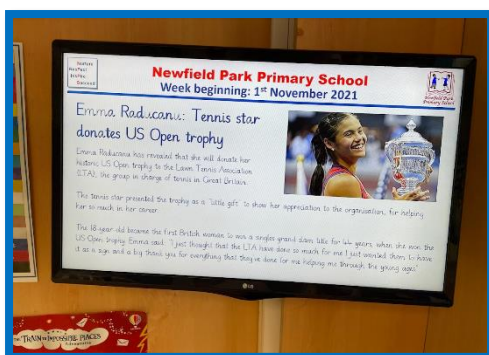
We’re always asking the children what they are reading, but what about the teachers!? For the last year teachers have been updating ‘What I’m Reading’ on their classroom doors. The notice details what their favourite book is along with what they’re currently reading. At times this may be a ‘grown-up’ book to show that adults read older literature, or it may be a book that could be read by the children in the year group!

## Theatre visits

Every year we always want to give some of our children the experience of visiting a theatre. We then use these fantastic experiences as part of our English Teaching Sequence to help children with their reading and writing. In recent years, we have seen an adaptation of *Holes* by Louis Sachar and *One Snowy Day* by Nick Butterworth. Additionally, we’ve also invited theatre groups into school; recently, Year 6 enjoyed a World War One poetry workshop!



## Read All About It!



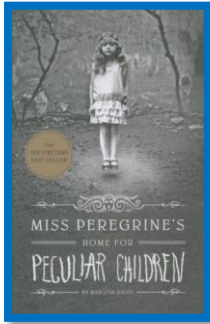
In Key Stage Two, we have a special monitor which is updated weekly to reflect key news stories that are of interest to the children. These news stories are available to read throughout the week at break and lunchtimes. The news stories selected focus on things that are relevant to children’s lives, as well as focusing (where possible) on our Courageous Advocates. Additionally, each week we try to include local news – as well as the local weather! – for our children to enjoy.

## Reading (for Pleasure) Ambassadors

We ask teachers from Year 4 to Year 6 to select children who have a real love for reading to become Reading Ambassadors. These ambassadors are used in a variety of roles, promoting reading

across the whole school. They will visit other classes to recommend books, promote book-talk across school and ensure our communal areas of engaging and up-to-date. Additionally, these reading ambassadors will be involved with any author visits to school.

### The Book Wish Box!



Really want to read a book but it's not in the library? The Book Wish Box is for you! If children have been recommended a book that they really want to read but it is not yet in our library (often because it's a new book) they can post the 'wish' in the Book Wish Box and the school will purchase at least one copy of the book for the child to read. A recent example of this would be *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs which was purchased for a Year 6 pupil!

### Superhero Readers!

Our Reading Volunteers scheme, known as *Superhero Readers* invites parents and carers in to read regularly with children across the school. Often, this will involve four or five children in a morning or afternoon. The volunteers are trained before coming in to ensure they know how to read with the children and what kind of questions they could ask them! In 2021-22, we have 20 Superhero Readers lined up to begin as soon as possible (Covid) which will mean approximately 100 children may have extra reading on a weekly basis!



### Reading Buddies

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, our Year 5 and 6 children visited Year 1 and 2 to 'buddy up' with children on a weekly basis. This is something that is of course planned to begin in 2021-22. The older children spend some of the time reading a challenging book to the younger children before hearing the Year 1 and 2 pupils read their own book, correcting them they make errors!

### Halesowen Library

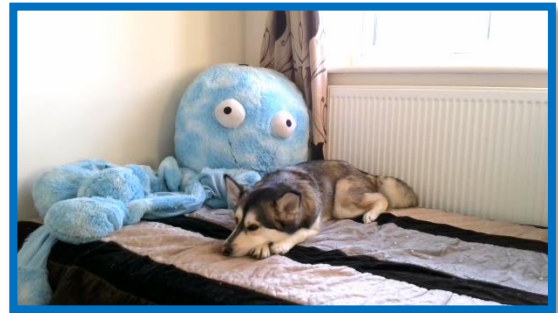
We have very good links with our local library (Halesowen) with children visiting every year to renew library cards, find new books to read and even to learn about the DEWEY system. Despite stopping during the Covid-19 pandemic, this is again already happening in the 2021-22 academic year. If you want more information on your local library, click here:



<https://www.better.org.uk/library/dudley/halesowen-library>

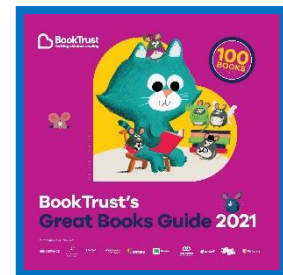
### Reading with Logan

During the Covid-19 pandemic, children listened to the teacher reading their class book while their dog, Logan, listened on too! The children found the videos comforting, relaxing and thoroughly enjoyed the class book. During lockdown, these videos were watched daily by pupils in Year 3 over the course of three months, with 'views' remaining high throughout. Hopefully Logan will make an appearance again this year!



### Recommended Author/Book Lists

We have a recommended Author List for Years 5 and 6 which was created by staff and children. It can be found here: We are in the process of creating bespoke author/book lists for children in younger year groups. We send home the [BookTrust](#) yearly recommended book lists to all year groups and use things such as the [Pie Corbett Reading Spine](#) to recommend books in class!



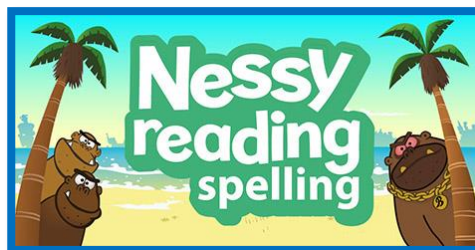
### The latest literature!



It is important that we always keep our libraries up-to-date with the latest books; we spend money each year to make sure this happens across the school. We research the latest recommended books, using websites such as [The Book Trust](#), [BooksForTopics](#), [CLPE](#) and [LoveReading+Schools](#). We have excellent links with Peters book store in Birmingham, visiting the store itself to select books that link to our topics and that we *know* children will love!

### Apps and e-Books (Nessy, Collins Big Cat, Reading Eggs, Teach your Monster to Read)

We use a range of apps across to school to engage children in reading and help with their fluency/comprehension skills. In Key Stage One, *Collins e-books* are used to allow children to access a wider range of literature at home and *Teach your Monster to Read* is often used to help with Phonics in Year 1. In Key Stage Two, both *Nessy* and *Reading Eggs* are used with specific children to help with their fluency, comprehension and spelling. We check that all of these apps are having an impact on children regularly!



### Latest Research and Next Steps



We are always looking at ways to improve our Reading for Pleasure 'offer' and welcome any new ideas. We are part of an Open University 'Teacher Research Group' which is focused on ways to improve reading engagement in school; a number of ideas you see above have already come from this group! Additionally, we use the latest research from the

Education Endowment Fund (EEF) to identify new ways to engage pupils in reading! You can find their latest research here: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/guidance-for-teachers/literacy>

If you have a fantastic idea to engage children in reading, or would like to get in contact to ask some questions about the initiatives listed above, please get in touch by emailing [info@newfield.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@newfield.dudley.sch.uk)