

# **Newfield Park Primary School**

# **Reading Newsletter – January 2024**

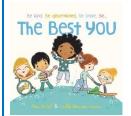


## New releases!

## Rainbowsaurus Steve Antony (author), Steve Antony (illustrator)

A joyful and fun read-along tale of one family's quest to find the Rainbowsaurus, featuring lots of colourful creatures. We're following a rainbow to find the Rainbowsaurus. We're following a rainbow. Would you like to join us? Join two dads and their three children as they set off on an adventure to find the Rainbowsaurus. On their way, they meet animals that are all the colours of the rainbow who all want to find the Rainbowsaurus, too. From the author and illustrator of the Mr Panda series and The Queen's Hat collection, comes this instantly classic-feeling adventure. Suitable for children in Early Years.





# The Best You Nima Patel (author), Cally Johnson-Isaacs (illustrator)

"Inspires children to have confidence in the person they are on the inside and to be the best version of themselves that they can be." This book from a well-respected psychologist and educator, asks young children to think about the personal qualities that you might need to pursue different career! This book invites children in a positively inclusive way to look inside themselves to see what sort of qualities they have or the things that they enjoy doing. Accompanied by joyful and inclusive artwork and a text that flows beautifully as a read aloud, this is a lovely book to have for bedtime reading and family conversations.

# Murray the Viking - Murray and Bun Adam Stower (author)

This book is not out until the 1<sup>st</sup> February but it might be great for children in Years 3 and 4. From the author of King Coo and illustrator of numerous David Walliams books comes a bright, wacky and completely adorable tale of unexpected adventure, as Murray the cat and his best friend Bun undertake a mission for some Vikings! Perfect for newly independent readers and fans of Bunny vs Monkey, Dog Man, Adventure Mice and Claude, this funny, exciting, and hugely loveable story brilliantly illustrated throughout will delight adventure-lovers young and old. After all, heroes come in all shapes and sizes!





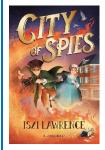
# **Stitch** Padraig Kenny (author)

Although obviously taking inspiration from Mary Shelley's classic Gothic tale of Frankenstein, this is not just a watered-down version of that tale, but a fresh, original story which packs a real emotional punch within its 200 beautifully written pages! In a lightning-storm of beautiful writing, Pádraig Kenny brings his extraordinary cast of characters to perfect, charming life. A marvellously delicate parable of friendship and compassion, Stitch is witty, elegant and profound, with mature themes of grief and being different also challenging the reader. Suitable for confident readers in Years 5 and 6.

#### **Time Travelling with a Tortoise** Ross Welford (author)

Al (Albert Einstein Hawking Chaudhury) has already experienced time travel when he and his hamster Alan Shearer went back into the past to prevent the accident that would prematurely end his father's life. That trip, told in an earlier book, was successful, but time travel is tricky and the laws of spacetime are set up to have the last laugh, as Al's Grandpa points out. When Al, first accidentally, then deliberately goes time travelling again, the results are unexpected, if not mind-blowing. His adventures are funny, exciting but always full of heart. Few writers have the ambition let alone the ability to write with such lightness and humour about such weighty subjects but Ross Welford pulls it off in his books time and time again. Suitable for Years 5 and 6 (Dark Red).





#### **City of Spies** Iszi Lawrence (author)

It's 1780 and the struggle for American independence is raging. In New York, twelve-year-old Aiden Blaise is sure that the British will win soon. How can a few rebel colonies hold out against the might of the British crown? And anyway, he's more concerned with somehow managing to rise above his lot in life and make his fortune. But New York is a powder keg of soldiers and spies, and soon Aiden will be drawn into the fight for freedom in a way he could never have predicted... Aiden's adventures as an 18th century "Alex Rider" are thrilling and his encounters with characters from history thoroughly convincing. Readers will finish the book knowing much more about this fascinating and important period of our history than they did before and eager for more adventures starring Aiden. Suitable for children in Years 5 and 6 with a passion for history.



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# What's going on at Newfield? Next time you are in school take a look at our new whole-school reading display in the Year 3 / 4 library which shows every class text from reception all the way to the end of Year 6! While a few books change every year (after feedback from children and staff!) it will give you a good idea about what books your child will read while at Newfield. The list is also available here should you want to take a look: https://primarysite-prod-

primary/UploadedDocument/08779fbe-cef4-4ee3b5fd-0a178f09ca57/whole-class-reading-list-2023-

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Reading Certificates			
	Position	Class	"Reads"
	1 <sup>st</sup>	6R	2190
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6M	2040
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	5R	2000
	4 <sup>th</sup>	6A	1940
	5 <sup>th</sup>	5C	1870

#### An author you might not know....

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Tony Bradman is an award-winning writer of many children's books, a well-known editor with a particular focus on diversity and finding new voices, and a respected book reviewer. Tony has written for

children of all ages – poetry and picture books, beginner readers. In recent years he has written a lot of historical fiction which has been

very successful in schools, particularly Viking Boy and Anglo-Saxon Boy, the latter of which Year 4 read in school! He is perhaps best known in the UK for his Dilly the Dinosaur stories; his books have sold more than two million copies worldwide!



**Book Brag!** 

Warhorse by Michael Morpugo

War Horse is a story of universal suffering for a universal audience by a writer who has the happy knack of speaking to both child and adult readers. A famous, emotional book that was later made into a stage production and a movie directed by Steven Spielberg.

"Warhorse is a really good book. It's about a boy and horse separated by The Great War. I really enjoyed reading it because of how realistic, interesting and moving it was. Perfect for Year 5 / 6. " (Jess – Year 6)

# Staff recommendation (for Children)

Pages and Co (Tilly and the Bookwanderers) by Anna James A captivating, curl-up-on-the-sofa debut about the magic of books and the power of the imagination.

"A fantastic book! I will definitely be reading more in the series after this one. A great idea for a story, being able to go into the books you read and interact with the characters, just like you're dreaming! It mentions stories like Harry Potter etc, and the style of the writing was easy to follow along with. Great for Year 5!" (Mr. L. Cochrane)



# Staff recommendation (for Parents/Carers)

Still Life by Sarah Winman

From the author of When God was a Rabbit and Tin Man, Still Life is a big-hearted story of the families we forge and the friendships that make us. It is a Sunday Times bestseller and the Guardian's best book of 2021.

"I really bonded with all the characters and felt like I was part of the group. It was inspiring to join them on their journeys through life. They demonstrated that friends can be like family and that you should always have each other's backs. Definitely worth a read." (Ms. Saunders)

# "Can reading really improve your life?" A BBC Sounds 30-minute special

"Most educational research now suggests that reading for pleasure is strongly linked to a child's future outcome, educational success, and even wellbeing. But the latest studies also show that reading for pleasure is at its lowest level for twenty years.

Why has this happened in a country that's produced more successful children's books than any other? From Paddington, to Harry Potter, the Chronicles of Narnia to Alice in Wonderland, and of course, the Gruffalo, the list is vast. Is a lack of access to school and local libraries the problem, too few books at home or the rise of phones, tablets and game consoles?



What can schools, government, the media and parents do to help foster a love of reading that could help children throughout their lives? Author and former Children's Laureate Julia Donaldson investigates in this excellent 30-minute long BBC Sounds podcast. Scan the QR code to the right or click the link to listen to it.



https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001sd79