

Ellesmere College Reading Newsletter

Issue: Autumn 2023

Welcome back to our Reading Newsletter! Each term we will be sharing reading recommendations, promoting reading events and celebrating how we are building a reading culture here at Ellesmere College.



Reading Updates

Over the summer we had a little makeover at our Aylestone Meadows site. We had some book spine art work installed in the sensory garden, a Julia Donaldson mural painted in the corridor that welcomes you into Primary and a beanstalk painted that goes....well, who knows where?!?

We think that our new artwork really sets the tone of Ellesmere being a reading school—what do you think?



Happy

Believe!

***Where Björn Belongs by Samuel Langley-Swain***

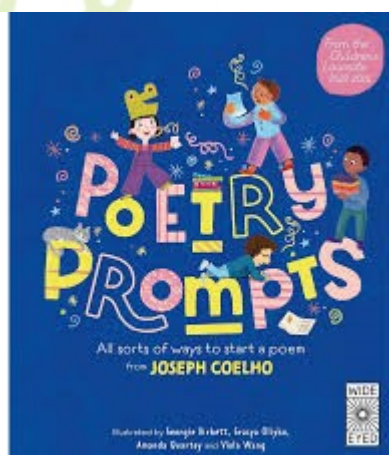
A beautifully illustrated book about the bond between a boy and a bear.

Arthur doesn't like Christmas—the noise, the lights and the crowds, but his toy bear gives him a sense of security. When he loses this and asks Father Christmas for a new bear, he wakes up to find a real polar bear in his garden!

***Nightjar by Katya Balen***

Noah loves birds, so when he finds an injured nightjar when he's out for a walk with his dad, he becomes determined to save it. Will this help to rebuild his relationship with his dad too?

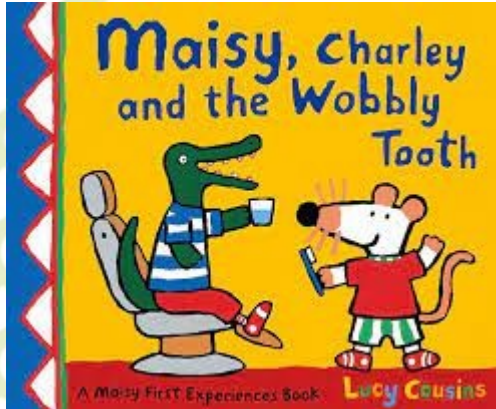
This story will draw you in from the first page.

***Poetry Prompts by Joseph Coelho***

We were over the moon to have Joseph come and visit us in October—what a treat to hear poetry being performed live!

This book gives you lots of different ideas for writing your own poetry—maybe you could be the next Joseph?





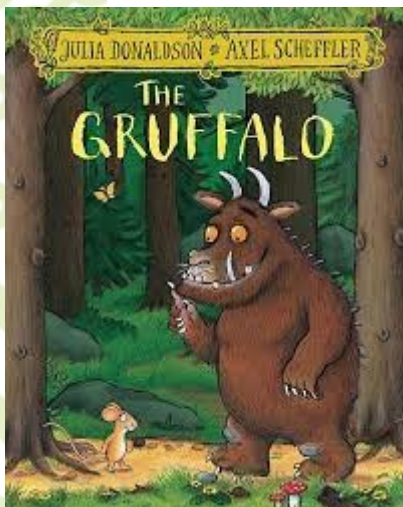
Maisy, Charley and the Wobbly Tooth by Lucy Cousins

Charley has a wobbly tooth! He's going to the dentist for the first time and he's a little nervous but Maisy is there to help.

This book is available to borrow on ePlatform, our online library.

Classic book recommendation

Each issue we recommend a classic children's book. This may be one you remember from your own childhood!

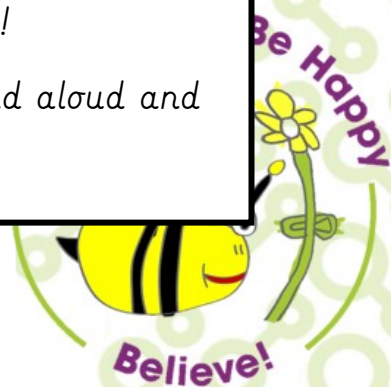


The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

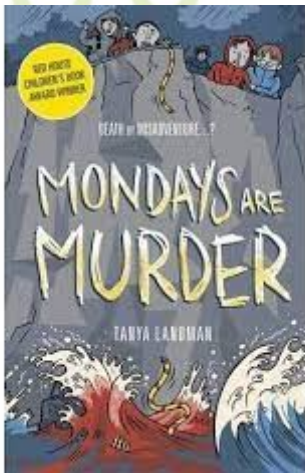
'A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood.'

Follow the mouse on his walk through the wood as he comes face to face with a fox, an owl, a snake and a hungry Gruffalo!

A fantastic story to read aloud and enjoy together.

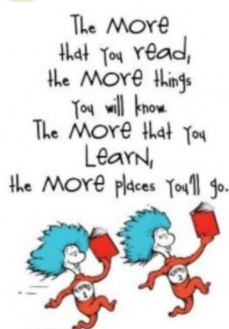


Students in Bradgate, Phoenix and Foxton class have been enjoying their reading for pleasure lessons. Have a look at what they've been reading this term.



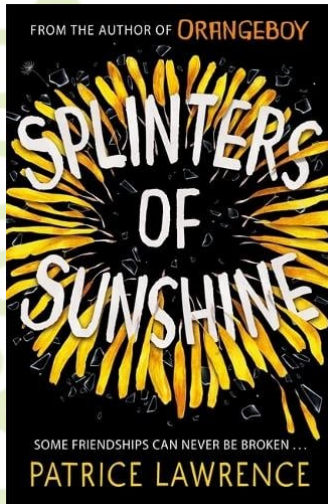
When Poppy Fields goes on an activity holiday to a remote Scottish island, she is looking forward to a week of climbing, hill-walking and horse riding. But things take a bad turn when their instructor has what appears to be a fatal abseiling accident. When Poppy discovers that his rope was cut, and more of the instructors start to have "accidents", she and best friend Graham suspect foul play and decide to investigate.

Bradgate and Phoenix classes have absolutely loved the first in the Poppy Fields series. Jaws have dropped at the twists and turns and there have been predictions aplenty. No-one saw the ending coming. We have already ordered the second in the series and can't wait to start it.



Reading
IS NEVER
a waste of
TIME



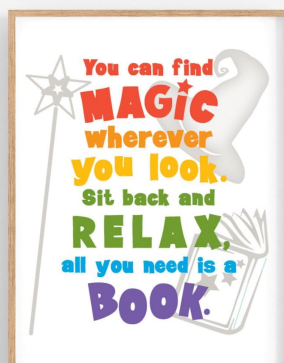


Spey recently received two surprises. The first: his ex-prisoner dad turning up unannounced, and the second: a mysterious package containing torn-up paper flowers.

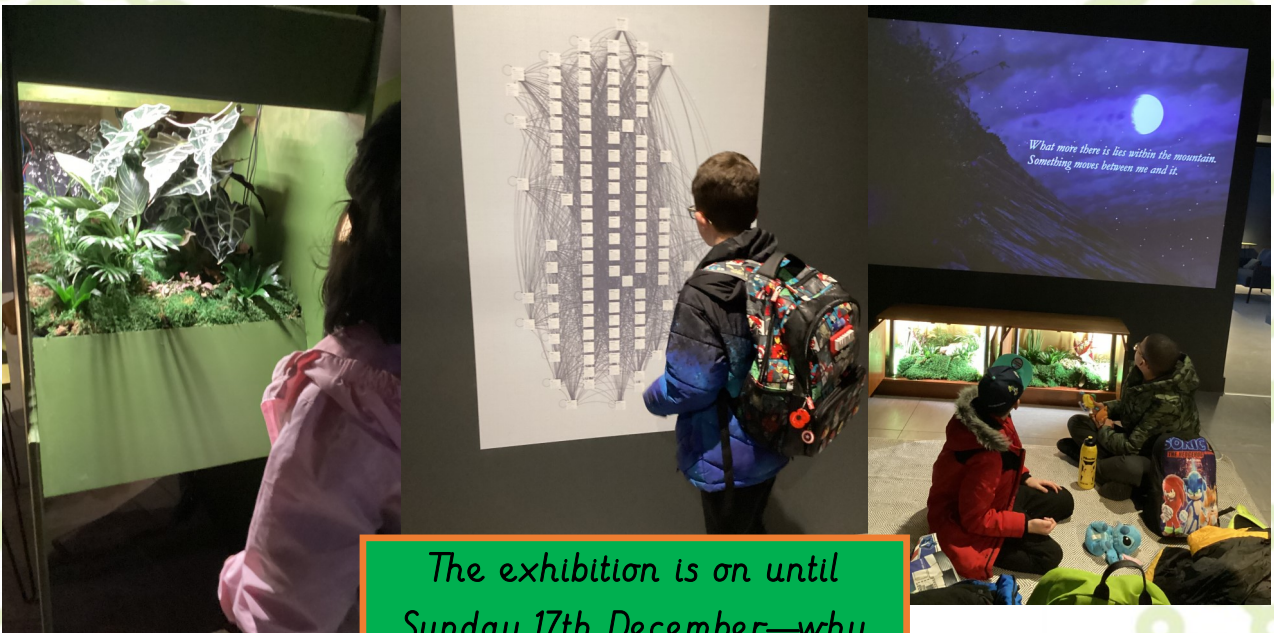
Spey instantly recognises it as a collage he made with his old friend Dee, and decides she must be in danger, but there are no clues to her whereabouts.

There's only one person he knows who can help to track her down . . . On a road trip like no other, will Spey and his dad find Dee, before it's too late?

Foxton class have been sympathetic when reading *Splinters of Sunshine*, understanding the background and hardships of the characters and looking for clue to how the story might go. It's a big book which may take us all year!



On a recent school trip, Nebula visited Phoenix Cinema's art exhibition "Virtual Textual". Children interacted with video game based art and poetry. We really enjoyed watching a poem change when we moved in front of it and reading travel writing in an open world computer game. The children said they enjoyed the poems that they read.



The exhibition is on until Sunday 17th December—why don't you go and see it for yourselves?

I have never started a poem
whose end I knew. Writing a
poem is discovering.

Robert Frost

littleinfinite.com



On Wednesdays, Munera takes the library book bus down to visit Primary. All the children and teachers have lots of fun choosing books and reading them together.

Fantastic reading everyone, well done!



We were very excited to have the Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho, visit us in October.

He performed some of his poetry, created some poems with our students and kindly answered some of their questions too. It was absolutely fantastic to see poetry being performed live and Joseph managed to engage and enthral the students for over an hour – no mean feat!

Here's the poem that Joseph wrote with our students. It uses lots of different poetic devices like metaphors, repetition and person-



M - The sun is a football

O - The sun goes boom, boom, boom

R - The sun is a bun

E - The sun feels happy but is sometimes tired

R - The square, Square, Square
Minecraft sun.

A - The sun Shining like a star

Our online library now has audiobooks!

We are delighted that we are now able to provide online access to books through ePlatform (eBooks, immersive books and audio books).

At home, students can log on and borrow a digital book of their choosing using their phone, tablet / device.

Students now have access to a customised eLibrary brimming with amazing titles.

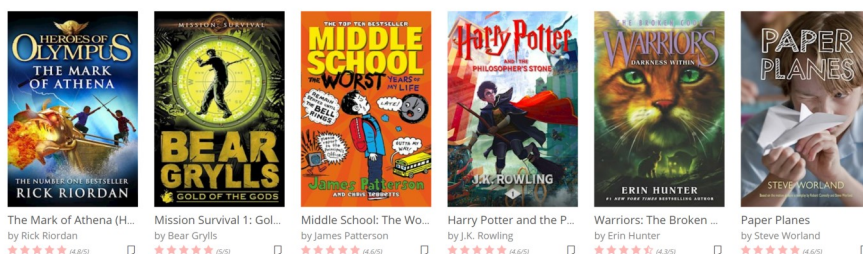
You can find a link to the library and a video guide to using it at the bottom of this page on our website:

<https://www.ellesmerecollege.org.uk/curriculum/literacy-and-numeracy>

We have sent letters home with login details, but if you're unsure, please contact reading@ellesmere.leicester.sch.uk and

Latest Additions

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New / Recent Releases

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The Winter Mini Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the school Christmas holidays – and to enjoy anything they like to read! Children aged 4-11 are invited to set a reading goal, and collect rewards for their reading.

It's FREE to take part, and children just have to read 3 books to achieve their online certificate.

The challenge runs from 1st December-19th February.

You can find out more here— <http://www.wintermini.org.uk/>

Find updates from the school library on Twitter
[@ReadEllesmere](https://twitter.com/ReadEllesmere)





Blue Peter have launched their newest badge—the Book badge!

To earn this badge, you must:

- Be aged 5-15 years old
- Apply for your Book badge online here— <https://childrens-binary.files.bbci.co.uk/childrens-binarystore/cbbc/book-badge-form-2023-v3.pdf>
- Ask your parent or guardian for permission
- Tell Blue Peter about a book you have read and what you think
- Upload your illustration of a character or a scene from the story
- Let Blue Peter know what other books and authors you have enjoyed reading and why

You can apply by post, by sending your application with the correct postage to: Blue Peter, BBC Bridge House, MediaCity UK, Salford, M50 2BH

You can find out more about the Blue Peter Book Club here— <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-book-club>

Find updates from the school library on Twitter
[@ReadEllesmere](https://twitter.com/ReadEllesmere)

