

### Spotlight on World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March 2025, the school celebrated World Book Day. Children and teachers dressed up as characters from their favourite books, there were assemblies marking the occasion and every child was given a book token to spend in a bookshop.

The energy and excitement in the school was palpable and we want to harness and encourage that into a lifelong love of reading.



World Book Day is a charity whose mission is to change lives through a love of books and reading. This year, the theme of World Book Day was "Read Your Way" and its aim was to remove barriers that children said made reading for pleasure challenging. Those challenges included children not finding things to read that they like and getting distracted by games and screens.

World Book Day's research found that reading can be made more fun by:

- Children choosing what to read
- Children choosing when to read
- Children choosing where to read
- Children seeing adults and friends enjoying reading too
- Children can listen to audiobooks or read a graphic novel.

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success - more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income.

You can find more information about World Book Day, its aims, approach and activities on its website [here](https://www.worldbookday.co.uk/).

We hope that you can help us to continue to support and promote a love of reading for our children, creating reading habits that will improve life chances and build a new generation of readers.



Buy books and support the school

Buy your books from [Love Reading 4 Kids](https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/) and nominate the school. Not only do you get 10% off but the school receives 25% of the cover price, which we can then spend on new books for the children.

## Book Recommendations Infants

### Fiction

#### A Better Best Friend - Olivier Tallec



A beautifully illustrated picture book which explores the theme of friendship and the idea of having a 'best' friend. Squirrel and Mushroom have fun in the forest and are best friends until another 'best' friend arrives. A brilliant book to discuss the importance of having lots of great friendships.

#### Cloud Boy - Greg Stobbs



An uplifting story which celebrates neurodiversity and people who view the world in an imaginative way. As Bobby ponders life's big questions, he floats higher and higher away from his friends and family who are trying to keep his feet on the ground. However, Bobby's loved ones learn to let him be himself.

### Classics

#### Dogger - Shirley Hughes



I'm sure every parent has experienced that frantic search to look for a child's favourite toy before bedtime. Dave is desolate when he loses his much loved toy dog Dogger. Bella, Dave's caring older sister, saves the day. A classic for every bookshelf.

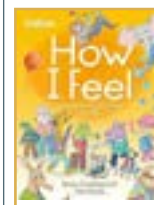
#### Peace at Last - Jill Murphy



Daddy Bear is struggling to get to sleep during the night. Wherever he tries to make a bed, he can't quite drift off and has to resort to a most unusual spot. He looks well and truly shattered in the last picture!

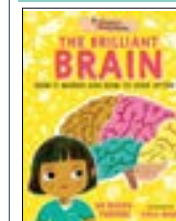
### Non-fiction

#### How I Feel - Becky Goddard-Hill (author) Assia Ieradi (illustrator)



A delightful book with 40 wellbeing activities for children, helping them to cope with different emotions. Through making a happiness list, cloud watching and talking to the mirror children will learn how to talk about their emotions more easily and feel happier, kinder, calmer and braver.

#### The Brilliant Brain - Dr Roopa Farooki (author) Viola Wang (illustrator)



This is the first book in a brilliant new series on the human body. Award-winning writer Dr Roopa Farooki explores the wonderful workings of the brain. It offers a great introduction into how the brain functions and there are also handy tips for looking after your brain!

# Book Recommendations Juniors

## Fiction

### Turtle Moon - Hannah Gold



Another wonderful book by the author of the award-winning 'The Last Bear'. Once again, Gold writes an emotional story about how human and animal life intertwines. In the book, Silver and her parents spend a life-changing three months in Costa Rica where they all learn so much about the animals and themselves.

### One Chance Dance - Efua Traoré



Jomi leaves his aunt and uncle's house in the village to try to find his mum in Lagos. There's a big problem though - he doesn't know his mum's address. His new found friends come up with a cunning plan. A heart-warming book about friendship and destiny.

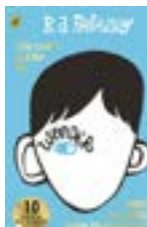
## Modern Classics

### The Wheel of Surya - Jamila Gavin



A truly moving story set during the Partition of India during 1947. We follow the epic journey of a brother and sister as they travel across India and then manage to reach England in search of their father. There are some upsetting moments in the book so it is recommended for emotionally mature readers in Years 5 and 6.

### Wonder - R.J. Palacio



A WONDER-ful (excuse the terrible pun) and original book. You will feel emotions ranging from happiness, sadness, anger to joy reading this story, which is told from six different characters' points of view. It has also been turned into a film. Which one will you enjoy the most - the book or the movie?

## Non-fiction

### Amazing Asia - Rashmi Sirdeshpande (author) Jason Lyon (illustrator)



A detailed and insightful book about the diverse continent of Asia. The reader is taken on a journey through 5 regions in Asia, learning about each region's history, people and culture as well as the spectacular sights and wildlife.

### Inside Story: How the News Works - Jane Marlow (author), Terri Po (illustrator)



This is a no-nonsense guide from real-life journalists explaining how the news works. Being able to navigate the tricky news landscape is an important skill for children to master. Readers will learn the history of the news and the different roles people play in reporting the news. There's also a fascinating section about the future of the news.

# Book Club



Belleville Book Club met up last week to discuss the two books chosen for our Spring term discussion. Our book choices were taken from EmpathyLab's primary school selection for 2025.

For Upper Key Stage 2, we selected 'The Letter with the Golden Stamp' written by Onjali Q. Rauf. There was excitement amongst the group because several teachers had read, and thoroughly enjoyed, another of Rauf's books: 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. Members of the book club commented that 'The Letter with the Golden Stamp' did not quite live up to expectations, with the beginning of the story being quite slow. However, we all enjoyed the ending of the book where it describes Audrey's eventful 'trip' to London, ending up in Scotland Yard. We also thought it was important to be aware of the role that millions of Young Carers play in our society.

The book selected for Lower Key Stage 2 was Lidia Brankovic's 'The Grand Hotel of Feelings'. There was hot debate about the illustrations with some members stating they were a bit too childlike whereas others enjoyed how the feelings were characterised. We spoke about how the book taught children how to deal with some feelings and the idea of feelings checking into a hotel might be helpful for children to realise that emotions do not hang around forever. Teachers thought that the book would be an excellent way to explain different feelings to children and the book will become part of the PSHE curriculum in the next academic year.



# Book awards and shortlists



EmpathyLab have released their 2025 ReadForEmpathy collection. EmpathyLab is an organisation that aims to build children's empathy, literacy and social activism through high-quality literature. You can download the free Primary School Guide [here](#).



Waterstones Children's Book Prize 'The Cafe at the Edge of the Woods' by Mikey Please has recently been announced as the overall winner and winner of the best illustrated book. The book was inspired by a game the author played with his wife and son during lockdown as the cafe owner tries to please a particularly picky customer. The best book for younger readers went to 'Rune: The Tale of a Thousand Faces' a graphic novel by Carlos Sanchez and the best book for older readers went to 'King of Nothing' by Nathanael Lessore.



The Yoto Carnegies Shortlists were announced on 11th March. The awards celebrate outstanding achievement in children's writing and illustration. 16 books have been shortlisted in total; eight for the Carnegie Medal for Writing and eight for the Carnegie Medal for Illustration. Books empowering young people by exploring complex emotions such as grief, low mood and anger with empathy, sensitivity and hope are celebrated across both shortlists. You can download the shortlists [here](#).