

Summer Reading Challenge 2024

We are very excited to invite children to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge - the UK's biggest reading for pleasure programme for children.

Children can sign up for free at their local library or [online](#).

Last year, in Wandsworth, 4,092 children joined the Challenge. Make sure you're part of it this summer!

Some the benefits of taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge are:

- Children will be better prepared to return to school in the autumn;
- The Challenge supports the move into a new year group;
- Becoming more independent in their reading boosts children's confidence and self-esteem;
- Local libraries provide free access to books and fun family activities all through the summer; and
- Library staff are on hand to offer support and book recommendations.

The Challenge launched on the 6th July so head to your local library to sign up!



WITH WANDSWORTH LIBRARIES



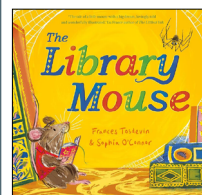
Buy books and support the school

Buy your books from [Love Reading 4 Kids](#) 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

The Library Mouse - Frances Tosdevin and Sophia O'Conner



Another inspiring tale from the author and illustrator combo who created 'The Bear and Her Book'. Quill, a mouse who loves to read and write books, longs to write stories and share them with children in his beloved library. A lovely message about the importance of following your dreams and persevering even when things don't go to plan.

Farah Loves Mangos - Sarthak Sinha



Join Farah and her dog Mali as they try to help a mango tree that isn't bearing fruit. Farah learns that there's more to the tree than producing fruit. A fun book with colourful illustrations bursting with humour and emotion, which shares the message about appreciating natural things in their entirety.

Classics

Where the Wild Things Are - Maurice Sendak



A wonderful story about a childhood tantrum. Max is sent to bed without his supper and his imagination transforms his bedroom into an extraordinary setting where he tames wild monsters. Despite his fun, he's glad to return to the place where he is loved.

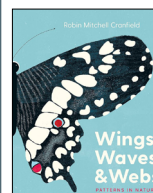
The Lorax - Dr Seuss



The Lorax is a hilarious story with typical quirky humour and silly rhymes that you would expect from a Dr Seuss book. At its heart, there is an important and powerful ecological message that rings true today as it did when it was first published in 1971.

Non-fiction

Wings, Waves & Webs - Robin Mitchell Cranfield



Part of the Patterns in Nature series, Wings, Waves and Webs is a great way to introduce the wonders of nature. Learn about: the spots on a ladybird and how it helps with identification and how the stripes on a skunk send warnings to predators. You'll definitely be keeping an eye out for patterns in nature.

It's Our Business to Make a Better World - Rebecca Hui

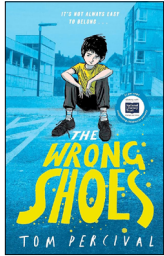


An inspiring book full of hope teaching children that they don't need to wait until they're grown up to start making a social impact. Learn about 12 children who are making positive changes to the world such as Aahan and Amal from the UK who set up their bamboo straw business in response to single use plastic straws.

Book Recommendations Juniors

Fiction

The Wrong Shoes - Tom Percival



The award-winning author-illustrator of the Big Bright Feelings collection has written a sensitive, hard-hitting yet hopeful novel about child poverty, life choices and the power of art. You can read a blog written by the author about the book from the author [here](#).

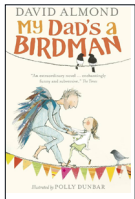
Dungeon Runners: Level 1 Hero Trial - Keiran Larwood



This book has all the excitement of a computer game and will enthral young fantasy fans with its characters such as gnorfs (half-gnome, half-dwarf), spidlings (a human-spider hybrid) and troggles, an ogre/troll-type creature. There will be at least 4 books in the series so get started now.

Classics

My Dad's A Birdman - David Almond



A modern classic by the Carnegie award winning author David Almond. Join a father and daughter in the north of England as they find their wings together and take to the skies in the Great Human Bird Competition. A quirky and tender tale which is a favourite of Mr Budden's.

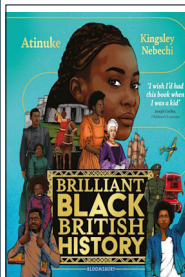
Boy - Roald Dahl



Roald Dahl's autobiography is packed with hilarious anecdotes about his childhood. You can see where some of the inspiration for his witty and original novels came from. The story about seeking revenge on the sweetshop owner Mrs Prachett will stay with you forever.

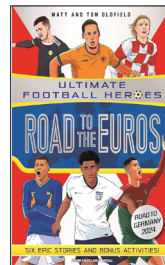
Non-fiction

Brilliant Black British History - Atinuke



A powerful book in which Atinuke tells the children of Britain to seek out their history. It offers a fascinating insight into British history spanning from the first homo sapien settlers up to the Black Lives Matter movement. The inspiring words are supported and further brought to life by Kingsley Nebechi's illustrations.

Road to the Euros (Ultimate Football Heros) - Matt and Tom Oldfield

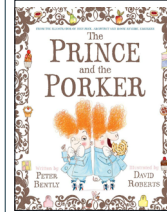


Unfortunately it wasn't to be for England's men's team at the Euros. Surely, football will find its way home one day! In this book, find out more about some of the world's best footballers including Jude Bellingham, Cristiano Ronaldo and Kylian Mbappe and how they helped their teams reach the Euros in Germany.

A word from our local librarian

Ruth Matthews is the Children's Librarian at Northcote Library and she's kindly offered some recommendations to us.

The Prince & The Porker - Peter Bentley



A hilarious picture book from Peter Bentley which re-tells the story of The Prince and the Pauper for children.

Featuring a greedy pig as our mischievous hero, if you like your stories to be delivered with gluttony, humour and exploding pumpkins(!) this is the story for you!

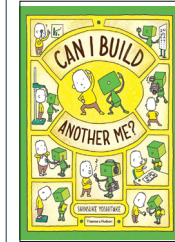
Tyger - S.F Said



One of my favourite releases of the last few years, Tyger is an alternative history set in modern day London except this London looks very different to

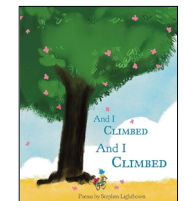
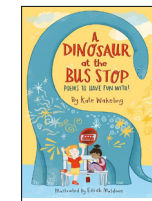
the one we know! There is magic, the British Empire still exists, as does slavery, and many animals are extinct, including the tiger of the book's title. If you liked Varjak Paw, I am confident you will love this.

Can I Build Another Me - Shinsuke Yoshitake



A highly imaginative graphic-style book which ponders the many things that make up who we are, exploring the things we like, the experiences we have and the way we feel in an attempt to see whether we could be imitated by a robot!

Bookclub



Members of Belleville Book Club met up this term to discuss the books shortlisted for this year's CLiPPA Award.

The award was won by Matt Goodfellow for his moving and powerful novel written in verse 'The Final Year'. We highly recommend the book for those children entering into their 'final year' at Belleville.

The group enjoyed the wit and humour of Kate Wakeling's collection of playful poetry in 'A Dinosaur at the Bus Stop'. How quickly can you read 'Probably the Fastest Poem in the World'?

Various poets including Karl Nova, Kate Wakeling and Joseph Coelho contributed to 'My Heart is a Poem' which celebrated feelings and emotions. A poem that stood out was 'Ache' by Coral Rumble which describes the sadness of not being picked for playground games.

Julio Serrano Echeverria's poems in 'Balam & Lluvia's House' were beautifully translated by Lawrence Schimel and offer an insight into a world seen from a child's perspective.

Stephen Lightbown's 'And I Climbed and I Climbed' is a touching story about a child whose life changed dramatically after he fell out of a tree. It was interesting to learn that the author drew on his own experience as a wheelchair user to give insight as Cosmo, the main character, comes to terms with his life.