

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As part of my new role, I will lead in helping to develop further the reading culture at Belleville. Reading is something that I feel passionate about, particularly given how powerful a factor it is in determining children's future aspirations, irrespective of their parents' level of education or their socio-economic background. It is a reality that when children read for pleasure, they are enhancing their life chances.

Given the imminence of the summer holiday, I thought it might be helpful to produce reading lists for Key Stage One (1/2), Lower Key Stage Two (3/4) and Upper Key Stage Two (5/6). Irrespective of year group, I appreciate that children will be at different levels, so it may be that some of you will look at books on lists other than those that apply to your children.

It is also the case that, further down the school in particular, there might be a difference between those books which children can access and read by themselves and those which they have read to them. In order to help you and your children decide whether particular books may be of interest, I have included a link to information about each text (usually from the Book Trust website, a fine source of reviews and information about children's books).

Children's books can tackle difficult themes and you are best placed to decide whether they are suitable for your children.

In choosing the books, these were some of the considerations: avoiding books that are studied (or will be studied in future) in English lessons in school; selecting books and authors that have received critical acclaim; and reflecting the diversity of our community. I hope that there are books on there that your children will enjoy.

Neil Gaiman, award-winning children's author, wrote the following in his contribution to *A Velocity of Being: Letters to a Young Reader* (the book we chose to celebrate World Book Day in Key Stage Two in March this year):

*"Somewhere, there is a book written just for you. It will fit your mind like a glove fits your hand. And it's waiting.*

*Go and look for it."*

I look forward to helping your children to find that book (if they have not already done so).

Wishing you all well for the summer.

Kind regards,

**Simon Hudd**