

# Reading Newsletter

## Spring 1 2024

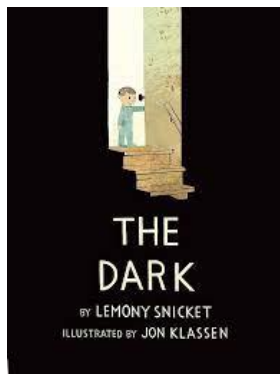


### Reading Assembly

#### Early Years and Key Stage One

In Autumn 2 our assemblies had a dark, yet peaceful, theme to them! The books chosen by Mrs Wall led to discussions around fears that we have, including nightmares, and how we can work to overcome these. We read an information book about sleep; the importance of it and how to make sure a good night's sleep is had. This led to us reading *The Screen Thief* and talking about the use of screens at night time before bed. The children were also eager to talk about the wider use of screens, leading to this very pertinent comment by one of our six-year-olds,

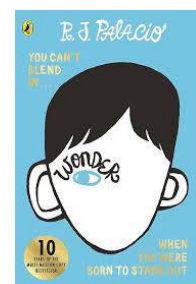
*"Things on screens are good because we can learn new stuff from them, but they do stop us talking to each other as well".*



#### Key Stage Two

As we know, the Autumn term focus for Key Stage Two was the book *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. Key Stage Two children have still attended weekly Reading Assemblies related to this Author of the Term, but they have also had this book read aloud to them each day by their class teacher. This has ensured that aspects of the story that interest the class can be discussed. Here is one stand out comment from one of our eight-year-olds.

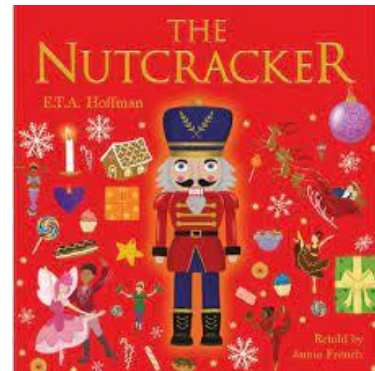
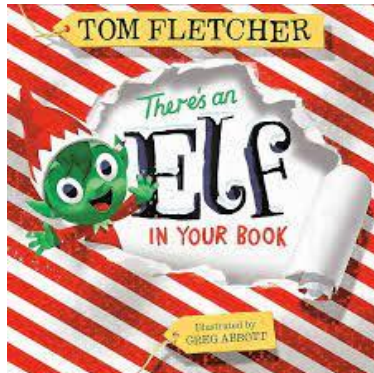
*"This story has taught me loads, not really about how to behave with others who might be different, 'cos I already knew that really. But it did make me think about the other people around that person, like what they go through and how they need help as well".*



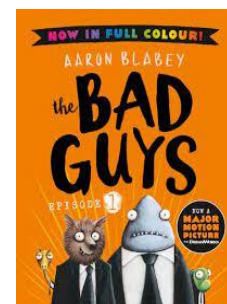
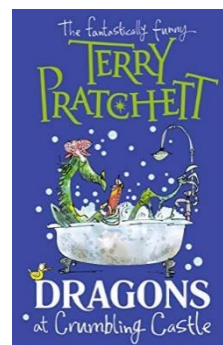
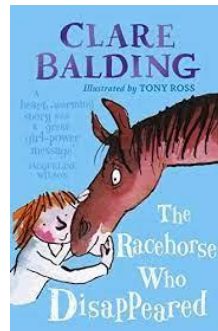
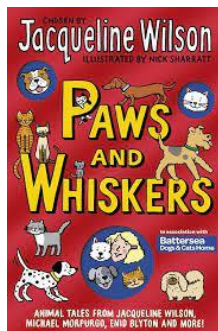
## Reading Raffle

Our Early Years and Key Stage One children decided to save their tickets and have a bumper raffle on the run up to Christmas, so they were in with a chance to win a Christmas themed book!

Congratulations to Ariya, Olivia, Lucy, Hugo, Dadiso and Max who won the first round of Reading Raffle. Further congratulations to Ashdon, Annie, Arthur, Miya, and Tiwayi who won the second round of Reading Raffle. We are so proud that you have read every night for 11 weeks- amazing commitment!



The Reading Raffle winners from Key Stage Two include; Brody, Lottie J, . They have chosen from a selection of books as recommended by Mrs Wall.



## Reading Questionnaire 2023

What do children at our school think about reading?

Each year we collect pupil voice around Reading. Our Reading Ambassadors carry out a reading questionnaire with pupils from across school, to find out what children really think about reading. This helps Mrs Wall action plan around next steps, and helps to inform staff what is working well, and what needs tweaking. The questionnaire is anonymous, so that children can really feel at ease with taking part. Children from year 2 to 6 are invited to take part, with an equal number of girls and boys participating from each year group. Here are the headlines.

98% of pupils enjoy reading.

96% of pupils choose to read for enjoyment.

28% of pupil choose to read to learn new things.

5% of pupils find reading a challenge.

93% of pupils think they will need to be good at reading for the job they want as an adult.

98% of pupils have enjoyed the class text this half term (English Lesson)

94% of pupils have enjoyed the school text this half term (Reading Assembly)

### What are the Next Steps?

To remember the names of authors, so we can recommend them to our friends and speak about them with our teachers.

## Author of the Term – Spring

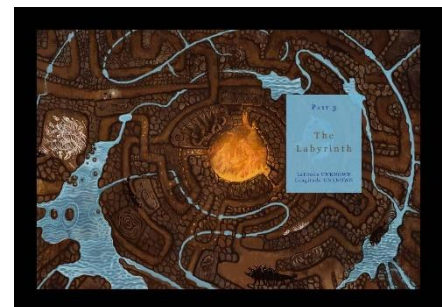
### Kiran Millwood Hargrave



Kiran Millwood Hargrave was born in Surrey in 1990, and her earliest ambition was to be a cat, closely followed by a cat-owner or the first woman on Mars. She has achieved only one of these things but discovered that being a writer lets you imagine whatever you want. The cat she owns is called Luna.

She started writing poetry in her final year at university, producing three poetry books and a play before she turned to fiction. Her bestselling debut *The Girl of Ink & Stars*, about a mapmaker's daughter who must save her island, won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2017 and the British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year. Kiran's favourite authors include Phillip Pullman, Malorie Blackman and Eva Ibbotson. We have titles by all these authors in our school library!

We will be reading *The Girl of Ink and Stars* as our Key Stage Two book for assembly and class read aloud.





## What does Mrs Wall think of The Girl of Ink and Stars?

Thirteen-year-old Isabella Riosse, daughter of a cartographer, lives on the island of Joya. The songbirds of Joya were supplanted by ravens when the Governor arrived. Under his strict rule, residents of the coastal town of Gromera are forbidden to travel beyond the forest flanking the village. When a string of unsettling events make it necessary to journey beyond the forest in search of answers, Isabella joins a team of explorers on an adventure that will test her map-making skills and her courage.

With a young islander as its protagonist, a story steeped in legend, and a wacky chicken gracing the narrative, it's impossible not to draw a comparison between *The Girl of Ink & Stars* and Disney's popular 2016 film, *Moana*. Unlike Moana, who bravely traverses the open waters, Isabella Riosse's adventure keeps her land-bound. Rather than take to the waters, she explores black forests, hidden caves, and forgotten cities. Her adventure is conveyed through straightforward, simple writing that's suitable for any age group within Key Stage Two. More mature readers will delight in the lyrical descriptions of maps and captivating stories of myth and legend.

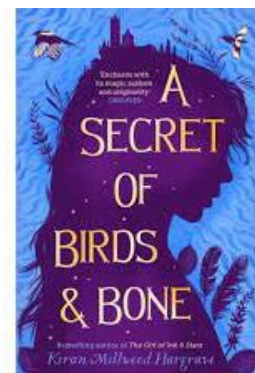
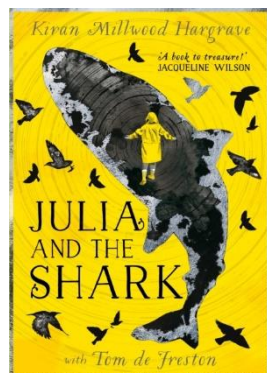
Isabella believes the legends of Joya that fill the island are factual. Her interest in confirming the truth of Joya's history – namely, that the girl-warrior Arinta really did save the island from a destructive demon – is strengthened by her father's profession as the island's only mapmaker. She absorbs his artful profession and learns as much as she can about map-making and reading the stars. Becoming a mapmaker shapes her character, and a beautiful comparison is accordingly drawn between mapping topography on paper and our lives being mapped on our physical bodies.

*We are all of us products of our surroundings. Each of us carries the map of our lives on our skin, in the way we walk, even in the way we grow.*

When evidence surfaces that suggests something sinister is poised to devastate the island, Isabella could run for safety. Instead, she defies presumptions about her gender and delves into the darkest parts of the island, moving *toward* danger, rather than away from it. At this terrifying turn in her adventure, Isabella's knowledge of maps and the stars is more important than ever.

If you like maps, puzzles, monsters, and myths – this is the book for you!

## Kiran Millwood Hargrave Books in the School Library



## Reading Raffle

**Don't forget - Everyone, every day!**

### Reading : Everyone – every day

Everyone – every day is the expectation that every child reads every day with an adult at home. Children learning to read fluently and with accuracy is a joint venture between teachers and parents. Reading ability, and the love of reading, is the biggest factor in determining happiness as an adult!

*“There is a growing body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading attainment and reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development. In short, young readers become adults with better mental health and better work prospects, they are happier and healthier in comparison to non-reading peers”.*

Table 2

Reading Fluency and Reading Attainment 2019

Christina Clark, Children's and Young People's Reading in 2019.

Findings from the 2019 National Literacy Trust's annual survey.

Reading at home	Below Expected Level	At Expected Level	Above Expected Level
Everyday	3.9%	68.2%	27.9%
A few times a week	30.7%	61.9%	7.4%
A few times a month	40.2%	53%	6.8%

The impact of a child reading every day at home is staggering. Parents who read for ten minutes a day with their child are shaping their future.

### How do we support this at school?

- Every child at school, from Nursery to Year 6, is read *to* every day.
- Every child at school, from Reception to Year 6 is listened to read three times a week by their class teacher.
- Every child who needs extra support with becoming a confident reader is listened to every day at school by their class teacher, teaching assistant or a member of our reading team.

### How can we support you?

Our top tips for reading;

- Be a role model – if you read, your children will want to.
- Do it in the morning after breakfast – when your child is more focused and has more energy.
- If they are tired, read the book to them – all reading is good reading!
- Always do it at the same time each day – routine is key!

- Find an author they love and make it a mission to read each book by them.
- Write a proud comment in their diary and tell them, then tell us! We can celebrate at this at school.

If you have concerns around literacy, or challenges around compliance at home, please speak to your class teacher. We can refer families for support at home and for adult literacy support. We are always here to help.

### The most borrowed books from the school library 2023!

Have you read them yet? Don't forget you can ask to reserve a title!

