



Autumn 1 2025

(Issue 20)



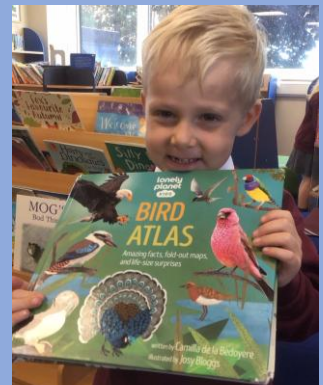
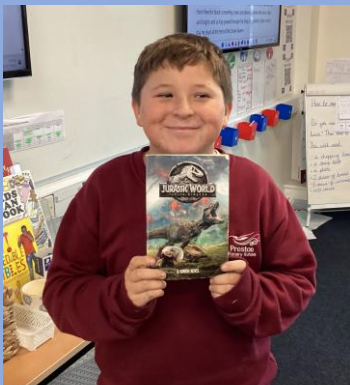
Preston Primary

Reading Matters

Children's Choice

This half term, classrooms have been buzzing with excitement as part of our Children's Choice reading activity! Each week, children have brought in their favourite books to share with the class, proudly recommending stories they love to their friends. From magical adventures to laugh-out-loud tales, we have discovered a wonderful variety of books that reflect the unique interests of our young readers.

Children spoke confidently about why they enjoy their chosen book, and some were even read aloud in class, sparking lively discussions and inspiring others to give them a try. It has been a fantastic way to celebrate reading for pleasure and build a community of enthusiastic book lovers.



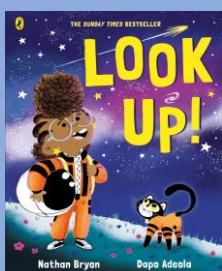
World Space Week OCTOBER 4-10

In school, we celebrated World Space Week with an assembly from Mrs McDade.

This year's theme, **"Living in Space,"** which explores the technologies, challenges and innovations that will enable humans to thrive beyond Earth. From spacecraft going to the Moon to the future Space Station Starlab, the themes spark global conversation about how we can sustain life in space and shape the next era of human exploration.

To link this wonderful week to our love of reading we've chosen some brilliant space-themed books to spark curiosity and imagination across the school. Let's explore the wonders of the universe through reading!

EYFS and KS1:

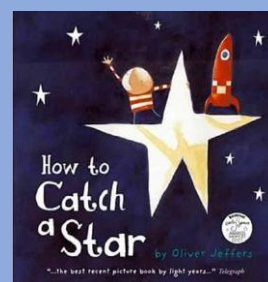


Look Up! By Nathan Bryan

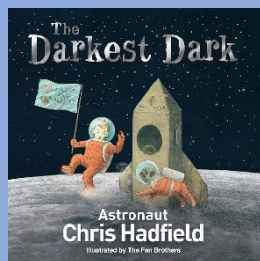
Follow Rocket, a space-loving girl who dreams of becoming an astronaut. A joyful story about passion, science, and believing in yourself.

How to Catch a Star by Oliver Jeffers

A gentle tale of a boy who wants to catch a star - perfect for inspiring wonder and perseverance.



KS2:

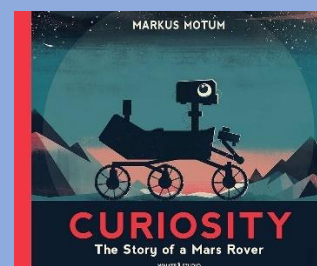


The Darkest Dark by Chris Hadfield

Written by a real astronaut, this story explores overcoming fears and dreaming big.

Curiosity by Markus Motum

A beautifully illustrated non-fiction book that tells the story of NASA's Mars rover



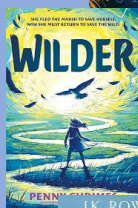
Reading Ambassadors

This half term the new Reading Ambassadors were announced. Every class from Unit 2 to Unit 4 has a representative. Being a Reading Ambassador is about sharing a deep enjoyment of reading and being a role model. The Reading Ambassadors are excited to share their love of reading with the rest of the school. At their first meeting they had lots of wonderful ideas about how they can share and promote a love of reading.

The Reading Ambassadors would like to introduce themselves and share some of their favourite books.



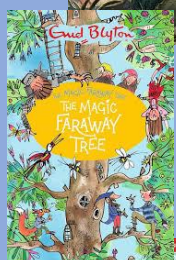
Freya – Two of my favourite books are Wilder by Penny Chimes and The Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave. These are really exciting books and the author makes you feel like you are there in the story.



Gideon – My favourite book is Harry Potter and the goblet of fire. I like the part of the story when Harry has to do different challenges – The Triwizard Tournament.

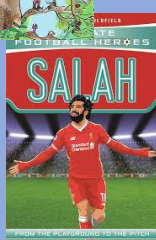


Ruby – My favourite book is The Magic Faraway Tree. This is a collection of fun books. They climb up the tree and have a different adventure each time. I like the character Silky.



James – I enjoy lots of Beast Quest books. There are so many books in the series but they are all amazing to read.

Casper – My favourite book is a football book about Mo Sala. It goes through his football journey and I think it is inspiring for everyone.



Oliver – I really enjoy the picture book 'The Dragon with the Blazing Bottom'. It is really funny. The dragon tries and tries to breath out fire but he has to come up with another way to set fire to things!



Alfie – I really enjoy funny stories. The Dog Man books are some of my favourite. They are easy to read and there are lots of different Dog Man books.



Annabelle – My favourite book is 'The Velveteen Rabbit'. It is all about friendship and about looking after your friends, even friends you have had for a very long time because they are so important.



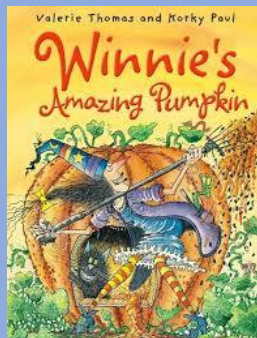
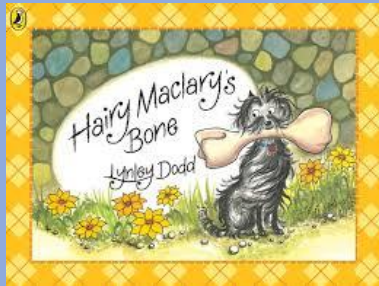
Alfie – My all time favourite book is 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Micheal Rosen. I have enjoyed this story for a long time and like sharing it with my friends.

Staff Videos

Staff have recorded themselves reading from some of their favourite books. This includes fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Here is a selection for you to enjoy.

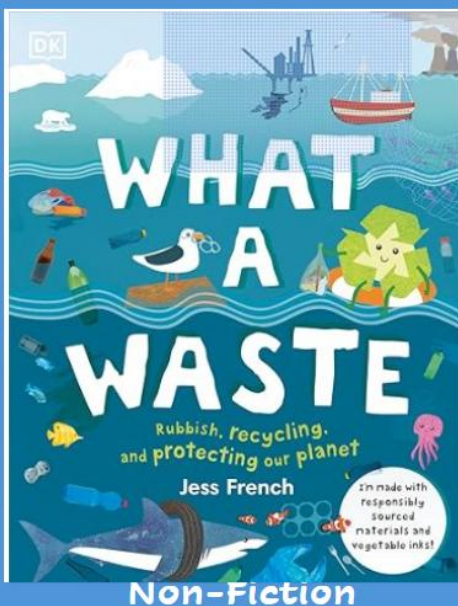
Mrs Wenman – Hairy Maclary's Bone - <https://youtu.be/Re8BpZILwei>

Mrs Bastin – Winnie's Amazing Pumpkin - <https://youtu.be/1pII1MhxjKI>



Staff's Reading Recommendations

Below are our staff's top reading recommendations for fiction, non-fiction, and poetry! Take a look at the books they love and why they're excited to share them. From inspiring stories to fascinating facts and beautiful verse, there's something here for every reader to enjoy!



Title: What a Waste

Author: Jess French

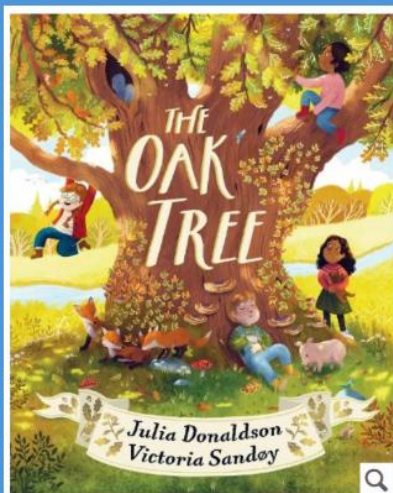
Aimed for: 5-9 years old

Why would I recommend this book?

This is an informative book on recycling for children you will find everything you need to know about our environment. The good, the bad, and the incredibly innovative. From pollution and litter to renewable energy and plastic recycling.

This educational book will teach young budding ecologists about how our actions affect planet Earth and the big impact we can make by the little things we do.

Recommended by Mrs Oliver



Fiction

Title: The Oak Tree

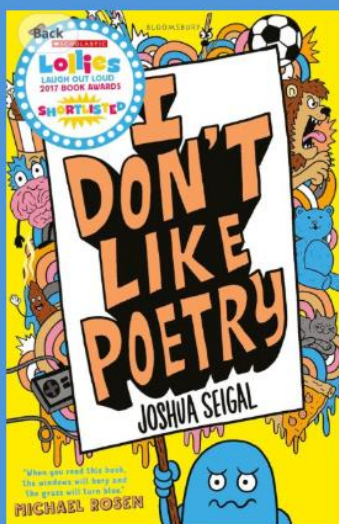
Author: Julia Donaldson

Aimed for: Young children

Why would I recommend this book?

I love the way Julia Donaldson weaves her rhyming story around this magical tree. A tiny acorn falls, and it grows into a enormous oak tree. Over the years the tree shares its life with families and creatures from the forest. Children dance around it, and a fleeing king even hides in its trunk. The tree gives food and shelter to a host of creatures, from squirrels, badgers, birds and beetles. The illustrations by Victoria Sandoy help enrich your discussion about the text.

Recommended by Mrs Blatchford



Poetry

Title: I Don't Like Poetry

Author: Joshua Seigal

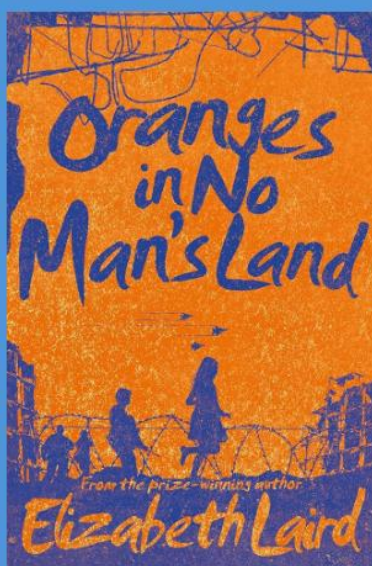
Aimed for: KS2

Why would I recommend this book?

If you don't think you like poetry, then think again! This book is full of silly and really laugh out loud poems, with just a few serious ones thrown in.

To quote Michael Rosen "When you read this book, the windows will burp, and the grass will turn blue. That's how magical these poems are."

Recommended by Mrs Light



Fiction

Title: Oranges in No Man's Land

Author: Elizabeth Laird

Aimed for: 9 – 11 years

Why would I recommend this book?

Oranges in No Man's Land is a wonderful book which tells the story of a brave girl called Ayesha who takes on a dangerous and uncertain journey across no man's land to the enemy's territory in order to get medicine for her grandmother who has become unwell.

I recommend this book as Ayesha has to really show our school value of determination and responsibility. She knows that her grandmother is too unwell to look after Ayesha and her siblings, and so Ayesha takes on the huge responsibility herself to support her family. Ayesha keeps going, no matter how hard the journey she takes gets!

Recommended by Miss Farmer

BBC 500 Words Competition 2025

We're excited to share that the BBC 500 Words Writing Competition is back, offering a great opportunity for children to showcase their creativity!

The competition is open to children aged 5-11, with two categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. They just need to write a story they would love to read, in 500 words or less. It's all about imagination—spelling, punctuation, and grammar won't be marked.

Key details:

- Deadline: Friday 7th November
- Stories must be original and typed
- One story per child, written individually

Prizes:

- 50 finalists will attend a grand final in February 2026
- Winners receive book bundles, and gold winners' schools will get 500 books, with stories illustrated by top artists!

Parents and carers will need to sign their children up for the competition via the dedicated website and submit the entry. Visit the BBC 500 Words Competition website for more details: [How to submit your stories - BBC Teach](#)

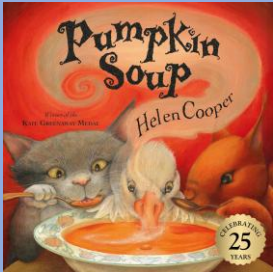
Please encourage your child to get creative and submit their stories!



Autumn and Harvest Reads

As the leaves turn and the harvest season arrives, it's the perfect time to cozy up with books that celebrate nature, change, and thankfulness. Here are some lovely seasonal reads to share:

EYFS and KS1:

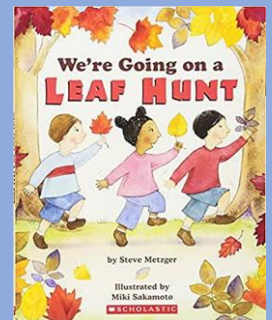


Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper

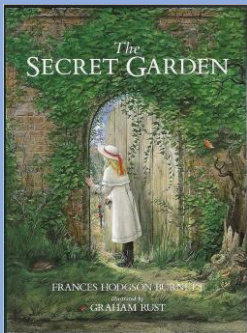
A beautifully illustrated story about friendship, sharing and making soup together – perfect for Harvest time.

We are Going on a Leaf Hunt! By Steve Metzger

A fun, rhythmic story that encourages outdoor exploration and noticing seasonal changes.



KS2:



The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

A longer read that celebrates growth, change, and the beauty of the natural world—great for confident readers.

Nature's Tiny Miracles: Bees by Britta Teckentrup

A non-fiction picture book that links beautifully to harvest themes and pollination.

