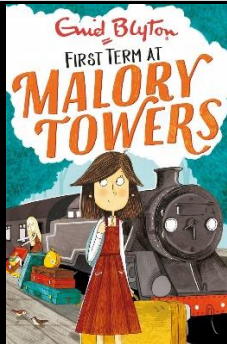


Dear Parents and Carers,

We believe reading regularly at home is one of the most valuable ways your child can make progress across all subjects at school. When reading becomes a pleasure, it can dramatically enrich a child's experiences and set them up for a life that is fulfilled and happy.

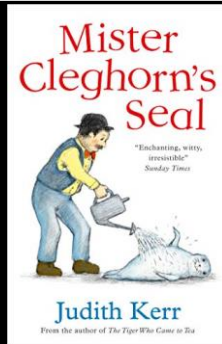
We've put together another selection of recommended reads that we think your child might like to choose from if they are stuck for ideas. Perhaps the list could inspire a trip to a bookshop or library...or even an idea for a Christmas present.

## Recommendations for Juniors



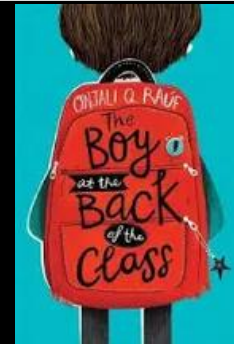
***First Term at Mallory Towers***

Enid Blyton



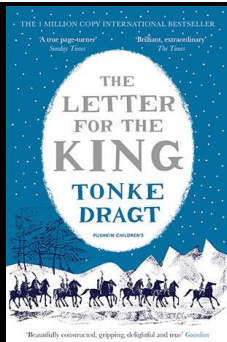
***Mister Cleghorn's Seal***

Judith Kerr



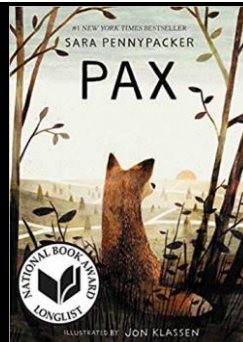
***The Boy at the Back of the Class***

Onjali Q Rauf



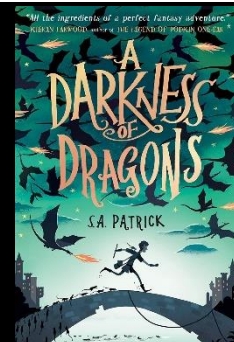
***The Letter for the King***

Tonke Dragt



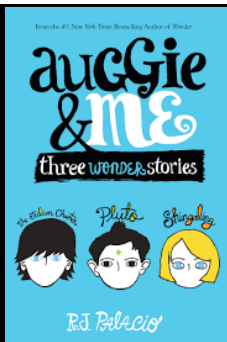
***Pax***

Sara Pennypacker



***A Darkness of Dragons***

S A Patrick



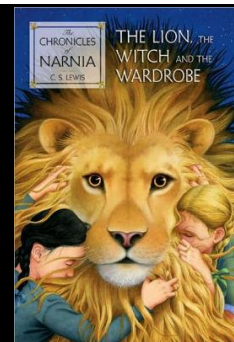
***Auggie & Me***

R J Palacio



***The Way Past Winter***

Kiran Millwood H



***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe***

C.S. Lewis

# Staff recommendations...

**Miss Leins recommends:**

## **First Term at Malory Towers, Enid Blyton.**

Twelve-year-old Darrell Rivers is off to boarding school for the first time! Although excited for her new adventure, term one holds many challenges for Darrell as she struggles to make friends with the other new girls. Gwendoline is a very spoilt only child and Sally is extremely quiet and hardly ever speaks to anybody. Consequently, Darrell finds herself making friends with the mischievous Alicia and Betty, whose tricks in class get her into trouble and behind in her work. Darrell is determined to do well, but in order to do that, she must control one thing – her bad temper...

I loved reading this book when I was a child! It is the first in a series of books by Enid Blyton and having finished it, it wasn't long before I had read them all; I just couldn't put them down. I was frequently told off for reading after my bedroom light had been turned off! There is so much fun to be had at Malory Towers, and you will be wishing that you were there to join in the many adventures with Darrell and her friends.

**Mrs Norgan recommends:**

## **Mister Cleghorn's Seal, Judith Kerr**

This is a delightful tale of a lonely man who discovers an orphaned seal, Charlie, at sea. Mister Cleghorn must now decide what to do. Does he rescue the poor creature? Throughout the story, the two become firm friends in their determination to find a home for Charlie and, incidentally, they both discover happiness.

This is a heart-warming and funny read where you feel like you become good friends with the main characters. I love the fact this is based on a true story. I can't imagine what it would be like to rescue a baby seal! This is a great read for children in the lower juniors, particularly those who love animals.

**Miss Ashby recommends:**

## **The Boy at the Back of the Class, Onjali Q Rauf**

There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it. He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite! But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one.

This book was bought for me by someone in my class last year. I loved reading it because (like all good books) I got completely swept up in the story and fell in love with the characters. Funny and a little sad at times, this book is a modern take on the refugee crisis. Sometimes, when I read the news, global problems seem like they are too big to resolve. This book is a shining ray of hope. It reminds us that no matter how young we are, we can all make a difference -even to global issues- if we start in our own classrooms, one kind gesture at a time.

**Mr Bentley-Taylor recommends:**

## **The Letter for the King, Tonke Dragt**

This is a brilliant book that begins slowly but casts a spell over the reader, drawing them in chapter by chapter. We begin with our main character, Tiuri, seeking to become a knight of the Kingdom of Dagonaut along with four of his friends. There is one condition: they must spend a night of vigil in a chapel and on no circumstances can they leave the chapel during the night. Tiuri expects no problems until there is a desperate knock on the chapel door:

'it was quiet, but there could be no doubt. The five young men held their breath, but stayed exactly where they were. Then there was another knock.'

What will Tiuri do? Will he resist the temptation and leave the door locked or will he lose his opportunity of knighthood and find out who the knocker is? You'll have to read it to find out. I read this book earlier this year, and am already looking forward to its sequel. To say I was gripped is an understatement. A must read. Perfect for Yr 5 and above.

**Mr Taylor-Weeks, governor, recommends:**

## ***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, c.s. Lewis**

Can you imagine what it would be like to live in a land where it is always winter, but never Christmas? This is the second book in the Chronicles of Narnia series, although it was the first written. It follows the adventures of four children: Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, who are evacuated, for safety, during World War II, from London to the countryside. They find themselves in the huge house of a professor with not a lot to do. One rainy day, they discover a magic wardrobe which is a door to the land of Narnia: a cold, icy and wintry land in the clutches of the evil White Witch. In Narnia, they discover their mission – to help Aslan, a talking lion and the rightful, benevolent, King of Narnia, to save the land from her grip.

**Mr Eldridge, governor, recommends:**

## **Pax, Sara Pennypacker**

Great language and a lovely story, brings in an interesting angle about the consequences of war.

## **A Darkness of Dragons (Songs of Magic), S A Patrick**

Just a great story and a twist on the piper of Hameln story.

These are stories I've enjoyed reading with Nick and Emily.

**Mrs Callow recommends:**

## **Auggie and Me, R.J. Palacio**

For those of you who have read my last book recommendation, *Wonder*, by the same author, *Auggie & Me* will become the next book to add to your list of favourites!

It is not exactly a sequel to *Wonder*, but rather an addition to it. We do not continue with Auggie's story- a 10-year-old boy with a severe craniofacial difference- instead we hear from three young people whose lives were shaped in some way by knowing Auggie.

Each of them has a unique relationship with Auggie. One is a life-long friend, another a girl who met him on his first day at Beecher Prep, and a third who made Auggie's life a misery in his first year at the school. Although all three of them have different opinions of him, one thing links all of their accounts together: knowing someone like Auggie can be both a struggle and the most rewarding experience you'll ever know; one that changes you on the inside and makes you a better person. This is a heart-warming tale full of friendship, forgiveness, gratitude and kindness.

If you haven't read *Wonder* either, then read them both! They're super addictive!

**Mr Richmond recommends:**

## **The Way Past Winter, Kiran Millwood Hargrave**

This a wonderfully mysterious and magical story that's perfect for reading in a warm comfy corner of your house when it's freezing outside.

Mila and her sisters live with their brother Oskar in a small forest cabin in the snow. One night, a stranger arrives seeking shelter for himself and his men. By the next morning, they've gone and they've taken Oskar with them. Worried for his safety, Mila and her sisters set out to bring Oskar back – even it means crossing frozen wild-lands and befriending magical characters- and find a way past a winter that never seems to end.

Chases in the snow, magical characters, adventurous hunt for a loved one... this is a brilliant read for Years 5 and 6.

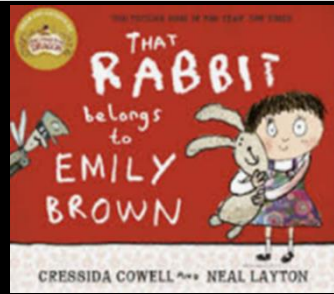
“Research [e.g. from the National Literacy Trust] presents overwhelming evidence that literacy has a **significant relationship with a person's happiness and success**. It gives a clear indication of the dangers of poor literacy and also the benefits of improving literacy for the individual, the community, the workforce and the nation. **Reading for pleasure has been revealed as the most important indicator of the future success of a child** (OECD, 2002), and improvements in literacy, at any point in life, can have a profound effect on an individual.”

## Recommendations for Infants



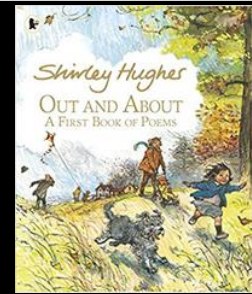
***Shh! We have a plan***

Chris Haughton



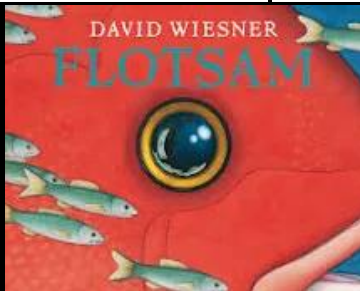
***That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown***

Cressida Cowell & Neal Layton



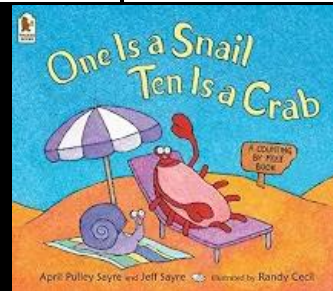
***Out and About***

Shirley Hughes



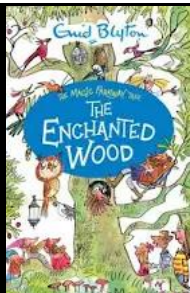
***Flotsam***

David Wiesner



***One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab***

April Pulley Sayre



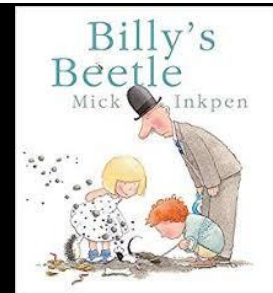
***The Enchanted Wood***

Enid Blyton



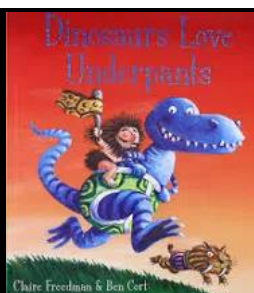
***The Jolly Christmas Postman***

Janet and Alan Ahlberg



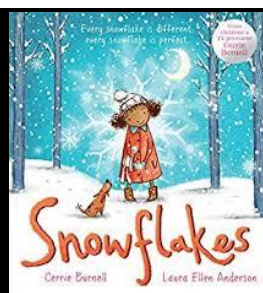
***Billy's Beetle***

Mick Inkpen



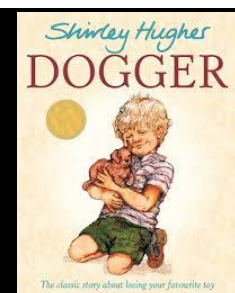
***Dinosaurs love underpants***

Claire Freedman



***Snowflakes***

Cerrie Burnell



***Dogger***

Shirley Hughes

## Staff recommendations...

**Miss Aston recommends:**

### **The Enchanted Wood (The Faraway Tree) Enid Blyton**

Having received this book as a child at Christmas, I highly recommend this thrilling and compelling adventure story. Following three children on their journey through the enchanted wood behind their new house, they encounter a rather interesting tree. As they begin their climb up this tree, you become hooked on the adventures they take and the creative and diverse characters they meet along the way. This book offers a glimpse into a fairy world full of intrigue and magic.

**Miss Holder recommends:**

### **Shh! They have a plan... Chris Haughton**

Who is that creeping through the woods? Shh! They have a plan....

A group of friends take a stroll through the woods when they spot a beautiful bird. They decide that they must have it! Luckily their farcical attempts at capturing the bird result in failure. The smallest of the group realises that kindness is more important than catching the elusive bird. But will the other friends learn from him?

*Shh! We have a plan* is a silly kind of book that makes every child smile. The repetitive nature of the story encourages younger readers to join in and engage with the tale. The theme of kindness is evident throughout and it generates great discussion. The illustrations are also fantastic.

My class enjoyed it so much last year that as I was asking them to 'Shh...', they replied, 'We have a plan!'.

**Mrs Thompson recommends:**

### **Dinosaurs love underpants, Claire Freedman**

This is a hilarious follow-up to the award-winning *Aliens Love Underpants!*

The mystery of dinosaur extinction is solved! Scientists have plenty of theories about why dinosaurs are extinct, but in fact, according to Claire Freedman, the dinos were really wiped out in an Underpants War!

This is a very popular, funny story in Robin Class and the children love having it read to them over and over again. The illustrations are amazing by Ben Cort and the children really love spotting and describing all the different kinds of pants. If your kids like dinosaurs and funny stories, this is the perfect book for them.

**Mrs Whitfield recommends:**

## **That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown, Cressida Cowell**

If you enjoy reading to your child using different voices then this is the book for you!

This is a fun story about a feisty female character, who is very busy having adventures; she keeps being interrupted by a 'rat-a-tat-tat' at the door. A 'naughty queen' keeps demanding to have her bunny companion Stanley. As the queen's demands for 'that Bunnywunny' increase so too do Emily's refusals. It's so much fun to read!

This is a charming, warm story of friendship, imagination and ultimately kindness; my kids love it.

**Mrs Stock recommends:**

## **The Jolly Christmas Postman, Janet and Allan Ahlberg**

This series of books was a great favourite of my children at bedtime and this one is particularly enjoyable at this time of the year.

The Jolly Postman rides again and delivers more real letters and Christmas surprises from his postbag to lots of our favourite Nursery Rhyme characters. Read Baby Bear's joke, complete Humpty Dumpty's puzzle and discover what the Jolly Postman's surprise is!

A great family read to share at bedtime.

**Mrs Carr recommends:**

## **Billy's Beetle, Mick Inkpen**

Billy has lost his beetle. It crawled out of his matchbox when he wasn't looking! Luckily a man with a sniffy dog appears and sets about helping Billy to find it. Unfortunately, the sniffy dog is great at sniffing out everything except beetles!

I have loved sharing this story over the years with countless children including my own and now my grandchildren. It is beautifully illustrated and children love spotting where the beetle is next as the story unfolds.

**Mrs Wilton-Rhead, governor, recommends:**

## **Dogger, Shirley Hughes**

Dogger is one of my all time favourite stories. I loved being read this book by my mum and now like reading it to my two children. It is a book about a boy named Dave losing his favourite soft toy, Dogger, in the excitement of the summer fair. The book is beautifully illustrated (we especially like the page with the fancy dress parade) and a lovely story about sibling kindness. This book is for anyone who has a special teddy they would never want to lose!

**Mrs Childs-Evans recommends:**

## **Out and About, Shirley Hughes**

This is a book of poems about two children, Katie and Olly, who are out and about in all the different seasons of the year. You can see them at the seaside, down by the stream and walking in the woods. All the Shirley Hughes books were favourites of mine to read to my own children - the illustrations are full and colourful with some interesting little details if you look closely! My favourite poem in the book is The Grass House - I wonder what yours might be? A great book to share with reception and year 1 children and for young readers to have a go at reading some poetry too.

**Mrs Favager recommends:**

## **Snowflakes, Cerrie Burnell**

This book is about a little girl called Mia. Mia goes to live with her grandma in a land of forests and snow. She's used to the lively nature of the city and finds it difficult settling in to her new home. Mia feels very different from the new children who are around her until one day, when out walking with her grandma, she realises that she is just like the snowflakes that are falling: unique and perfect.

This book is a heart-warming story about new beginnings and making friends. Every snowflake that falls is different and unique. We are all different and unique too, just like the snowflakes.

I hope you enjoy the story.

**Mrs Kavanagh recommends:**

## **Flotsam, David Wiesner**

While collecting flotsam – anything floating that has been washed ashore – a young boy stumbles across a barnacle-encrusted underwater camera, with its own secrets to share... and to keep.

This is a fabulous book which I have really enjoyed reading with my class. It doesn't have any words, but the illustrations are beautifully detailed so there is plenty to discuss. The children enjoyed learning about the differences between the cameras they use today and cameras from the past.

## **One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab, April Pulley Sayre and Jeff Sayre**

This is my favourite book linked to maths. It is a counting story where each number is represented by the number of feet a creature has e.g. eight is a spider, ten is a crab. Can you guess what thirty would be?

This story really develops children's understanding of number and how we can represent numbers in different ways.