

Dear Parents and Carers,

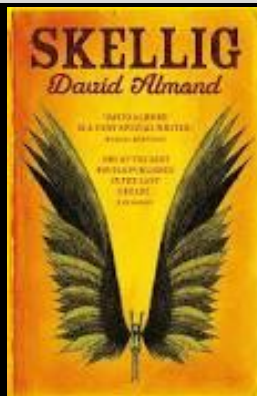
We've put together another selection of recommended reads that we think your child might like to choose from if they are stuck for ideas. Perhaps the list could inspire a trip to a bookshop or library...or even an idea for a Christmas present.

Recommendations for Juniors



When Stars are Scattered

Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed



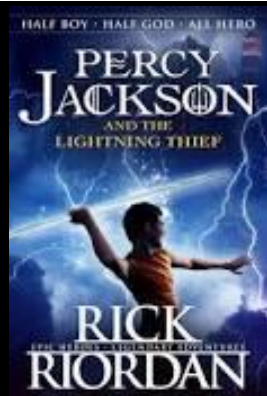
Skellig

David Almond



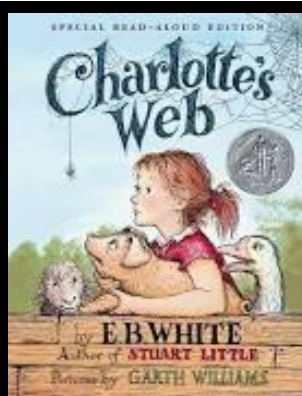
Letters from the Lighthouse

Emma Carroll



Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief

Rick Riordan



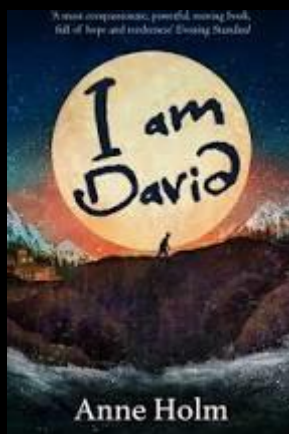
Charlotte's Web

EB White



Murder in Midwinter

Fleur Hitchcock



I am David

Anne Holm



The Explorer

Katherine Rundell



The Island of Thieves

Josh Lacey

Staff recommendations...

Mrs Childs-Evans

When Stars Are Scattered Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed

This brilliant book tells the true story of Omar Mohamed who fled his country at the age of 4 with his younger brother and found himself in a refugee camp in Kenya. The story is about life in the camp as well as how Omar managed to go to school and get an education. The book is written in the style of a graphic novel and the illustrations are colourful and expressive. There are some sad moments shared in the story but also many experiences of daily life and funny things that happen too. The story has lots of twists and turns right to the very end and is of course still on-going for Omar who is now a young man and an author!

A recommended read for ages 9 – 12 years and an introduction to a very different life for many children in today's world.

Ms Al-Mubaydeen

Skellig David Almond

Skellig by David Almond is a highly original novel. The main character, Michael, finds someone or something (we don't find out which for some time) in the crumbling garage of his new home. This 'creature' is suffering and hungry and Michael and his neighbour, Mina, try to secretly nurse it back to health, not knowing exactly what it is or what impact it will have on their lives. The writer does not use elaborate descriptions but clear simple language. Despite this, the book deals with complex ideas and creates an atmosphere of adventure and mystery that keeps the reader on the edge of his/her seat.

The fact that it is written in the first person and that there is a lot of dialogue helps to make the reader feel involved in the story. It also allows us to empathise with Michael. The simple style with the realistic dialogue helps to move the story along at a fast pace. It is a thought-provoking story full of interesting ideas and I think that it will appeal to a wide range of readers as it did to me.

Mr Joy

Letters from the Lighthouse Emma Carroll

Letters from the Lighthouse is a book set around WW2. When an air raid happens, Olive's sister -Sukie - goes missing. Oliver and her brother (Cliff) have to be evacuated and meet some people on the way. Now Olive has a mystery to solve because she has found a note and she is determined to solve it and find her sister.

Last Summer, on some of our long holiday drives, my family all listened to this book on audio books... there were times when we had to sit in a carpark to get to the end of a cliff hanger! Suitable for upper juniors.

Miss Leins

Charlotte's Web EB White

Charlotte's Web is a wonderful story about friendship between Wilbur the pig, his devoted owner –Fern– and his barnyard friends. But most importantly, Charlotte the spider.

With Wilbur at risk of being slaughtered by the farmer, Charlotte has a brilliant idea to try and save him. Her idea miraculously turns Wilbur into a famous pig with thousands of people flocking from all over the country to visit the "terrific" pig in his barn.

This is a lovely story perfect for all children in KS2. I read it to my class last year and they absolutely loved it!

Mrs Callow

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief is the first book in a series of five. Suitable for mature readers from Y4 upwards, the series combines real-life adventure and Greek mythology. This story starts with a 12-year-old boy, Percy Jackson, who quickly discovers that his life is about to change. He is drawn into a world of Greek gods, demi-gods and mythical creatures: some who become trusted friends and others who seek to harm him.

Both of my children loved this series so much when they were younger, they pestered me to read it too. Having planned to just read Percy and the Lightning Thief to see what all the fuss was about, I found myself reading the whole pentalogy. These books have also been very popular with children in my class over the years, and the fast-paced, gripping storyline will have you hooked!

Mrs Stock

Murder in Midwinter Fleur Hitchcock.

When Maya takes a photo from the top of the bus, she has no idea of the trouble it will bring. The bright shop window is gorgeous but the couple arguing in front of it look as if they want to kill each other. And when her flash goes off, they look as if they want to kill her too...

I first read this book in a guided reading session with a group of pupils from the then Owl Class and all of us were gripped from the start; we couldn't wait for the next session to see what happened as the events unfurled. Lots of action and adventure and several twists along the way – I guarantee this story will not end how you expect!

This story is written by a local author and I enjoyed it so much that I was inspired to read other books by her.

Mr Bentley-Taylor

I am David (also known as 'North to Freedom') **Anne Holm**

This is a book that I read over the summer and one I won't forget easily. David is not an ordinary child – he's not experienced an ordinary life, far from it. He is, in fact, a war refugee.

The book begins with an escape and (without giving too much away) we follow the main character (David) as he seeks to find out who he is, where he belongs and who he belongs to.

David isn't an easy character. He doesn't play like normal children; he speaks in an old-fashioned manner and finds making friends hard. But he thinks – an awful lot: Who can he trust? Is anyone good? Where is he safe? What is freedom? Is it ever all right to hate?

I really enjoyed this book and I think anyone reading it will feel (as I do) like they've actually met David.

Mrs Morris

The Explorer **Katherine Rundell**

This book was recommended to me by a friend's daughter who had read it many times and told me I had to read it and review it. It is set in the Amazon jungle where four children find themselves lost and alone when their plane crashes. It is a story of survival and adventure and is funny at times. The four main characters (Fred, Con, Lila and Max) are very different to each other, and I enjoyed learning more about them as the story unfolded. It took me a while to warm to the character of Con, whom I found quite rude and standoffish to start with, but it is great to see how their friendships (as a four) grow as they work together to survive. The author's description of the jungle is great and I think it really makes it come alive. It shows the harshness of the environment the children have to battle against just to survive. I don't want to give too much away, but the story unfolds with the discovery of a map and perhaps the feeling that they are not alone in the jungle.

Mr Richmond

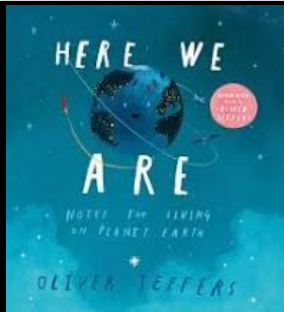
Island of Thieves **Josh Lacey**

Tom's parents have gone on holiday without him and his friend's mum isn't keen on him staying with them after he burned down the garden shed; the only option left is hanging out with Uncle Harvey but he isn't exactly a role-model of responsibility.

So begins a fabulous adventure taking Tom to South America in the search for lost treasure. His hunt will involve a fast-paced series of hair-raising, sometimes life-threatening, incidents.

This book is a non-stop adventure story with some funny moments and a lot of action. It's written from the point of view of Tom who adopts a wry and humorous tone; this helps the reader whizz through this book in no time at all. A lot of fun.

Recommendations for Infants



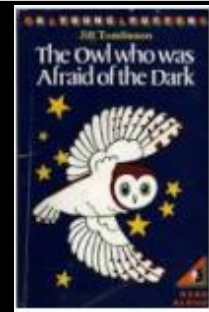
Here we are: Notes...

Oliver Jeffers



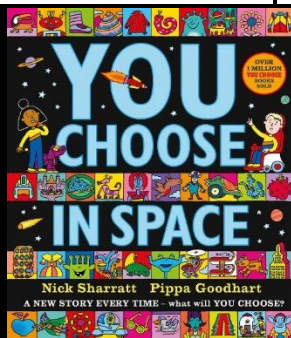
The Big Book of the Blue

Yuval Zommer



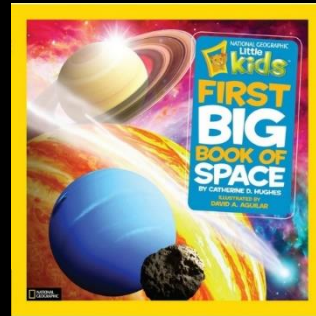
The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark

Jill Tomlinson



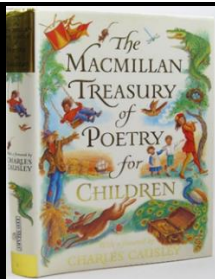
You Choose in Space

Nick Sharratt & Pippa Goodhart



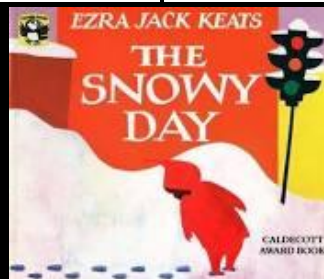
Little Kids First Big Book of Space

Catherine D Hughes



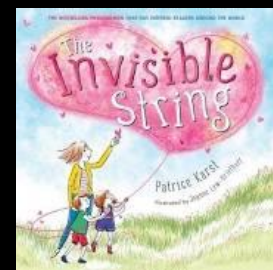
The MacMillan Treasury of Poetry for Children

Charles Causley



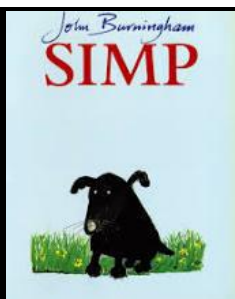
The Snowy Day

Ezra Jack Keats



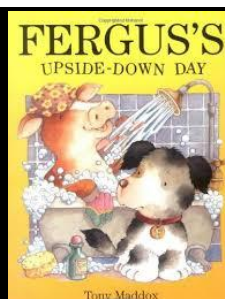
The Invisibly String

Patrice Karst



Simp

John Burningham



Fergus's Upside-down Day

Tony Maddox

Staff recommendations...

Mrs Kavanagh

The Big Book of the Blue Yuval Zommer

We have been using this fantastic book in Nightingale class this term. It is easy to read and a really good introduction to non-fiction books. Each section starts with a fun question such as 'Are jellyfish really made from jelly?' This book is one that you can read many times and refer back too over many years.

The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark Jill Tomlinson

This was one of my favourite books as a child. I have read it to many of the classes I have taught over the years and I am looking forward to reading it to my son. It is a short chapter book about a small owl called Plop who is afraid of the dark. As the story develops, he meets a range of characters who try to convince him that the dark is in fact amazing.

MacMillan Treasury Book of Poetry for Children

Charles Causley

This book was introduced to me a few weeks ago when a child in my class brought it in. It is a fabulous collection of poems. They are helpfully organised in sections with poems around a similar theme placed together. There are enough poems in this book for everyone to find a favourite that they will enjoy reading.

Mrs Murray-Playfair

One Snowy Day Ezra Jack Keats

I've had a copy of this book for as long as I can remember, and I still think it's the perfect winter story. The book is about a little boy called Peter and his voyage of discovery as he experiences snow for the first time. Despite its simplicity, it tells an engaging story, which appeals to children far older than you'd suspect it might. It's lovely to read out loud as it's short and colourful and makes for wonderful conversation.

The Snowy Day has been checked out of the New York Public Library more than any other book in the library's 125 year existence. It was published in 1962 and is famous for being the first book featuring an African American child to win the Caldecott Medal for excellence in children's picture books. This, along with Harry the Dirty Dog, has truly stood the test of time in my family, having now been read by three generations.

Ms Isaacs

Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth

Oliver Jeffers

This book is my absolute favourite to read to my children; it really is such a wonderful book to share with the ones you love.

Oliver Jeffers writes this book as a guide to the world for his new-born baby. He explores all of the things that he thinks are important to know about Earth, using the most beautiful pictures along the way.

He teaches some lovely lessons along the way, such as how wonderful our differences are and how important it is to take care of the world. But my most favourite lesson is that "you are never alone on Earth."

Mrs Favager

The Invisible String Patrice Karst

Liza and Jeremy are woken by the storm outside one evening and they run to find their mummy. They are so frightened that they want to stay with their mummy, but their she explains that they are always together no matter what. Liza and Jeremy's mummy goes on to tell them about their invisible strings: invisible strings connect us to our loved ones no matter where they are. They even reach up to heaven. So, we really are together even if we are apart and our loved ones always know that they are loved.

Miss Holder

Simp John Burningham

Poor Simp is all alone. She has no friends and no family. She really is down on her luck. That is until the day she encounters a friendly face and discovers she has some hidden talents that make her very special indeed.

Simp is a wonderful story. It is a little sad in places but there is a very happy ending. The theme of kindness and empathy is evident throughout and it generates great discussion. The illustrations are also fantastic.

I could have chosen any book by John Burningham to recommend but this one really stands out. This has been a class favourite for many years and I'm often asked to read this lovely story. Last year we read it countless times and the children never tired of it. They thoroughly enjoyed the adventures of Simp the dog.

Read it –you won't regret it!

Mrs Carr

Fergus's Upside-down Day Tony Maddox

This picture book is full of beautiful illustrations that will make children and adults alike smile.

The farm dog, Fergus, is left in charge of the animals for the day. A nice easy job? So Fergus thinks, but the animals begin behaving very strangely indeed. Full of twists and turns this book will challenge the children to follow the clues and decide for themselves whether everything is really as it seems!

A lovely book to share with infant age children. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have over the years.

Mrs Thompson

You Choose in Space Nick Sharratt & Pippa Goodhart

Next term, the Infants are heading into space for their 'Moon Zoom' project. Here are two great books that will teach your child facts but will also inspire their imagination.

Zoom off into space for an adventure where YOU CHOOSE what happens next. Which alien would you most like to be friends with? And what fantastically freaky food will you decide to munch for lunch? The possibilities are endless. This book is full of fabulous illustrations, which is great for developing children's vocabulary and imagination. It was a favourite in my house at bedtime for a very long time and every night we had a different adventure.

Little kids, first big book of space Catherine Hughes

This is a brilliant non-fiction book which explains all about space in simple language but with great pictures. It is a good first reference book for 4-8 year olds. It features fun, short entries about planets, stars, galaxies, and more. This is a great book to share and read aloud or for beginning readers to enjoy by themselves.