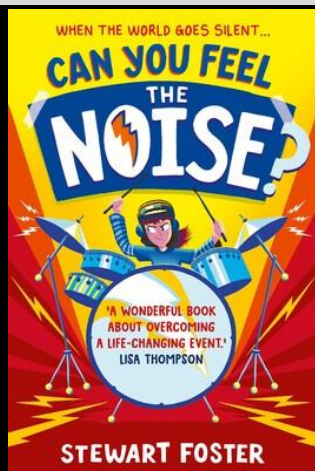


Dear Parents and Carers,

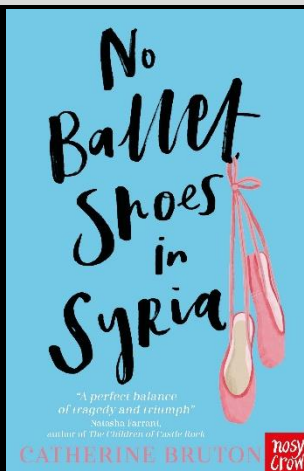
We love reading and we want your child to love reading too! We've put together another selection of recommended reads that we think your child might like to choose from if they are stuck for ideas. Perhaps the list could inspire a trip to a bookshop or library over the holiday...

Recommendations for Juniors



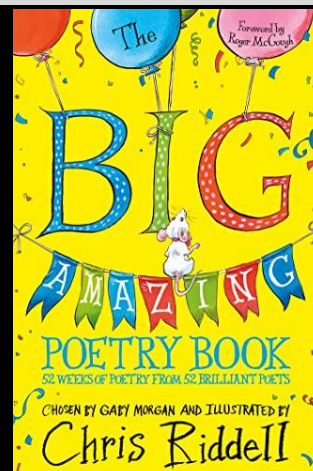
Can you feel the noise?

Stewart Foster



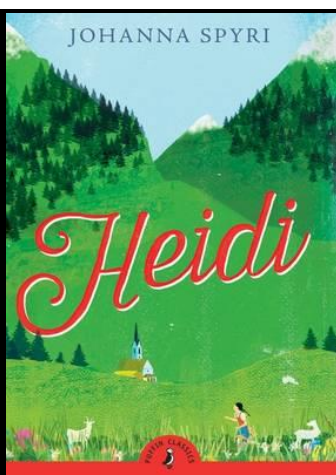
No Ballet Shoes in Syria

Catherine Bruton



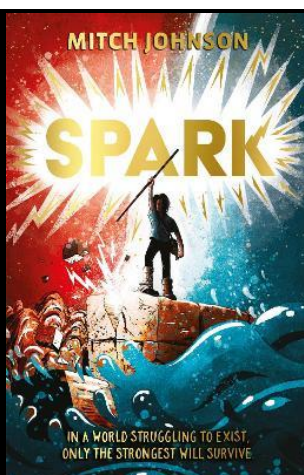
Big Amazing Poetry Book

Chosen by Gaby Morgan



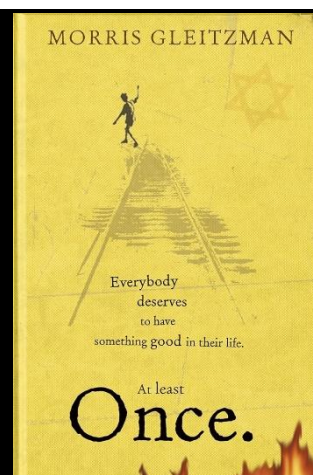
Heidi

Johanna Spyri



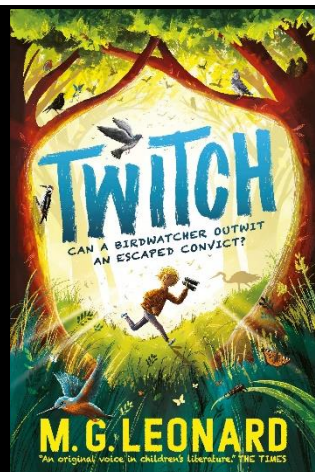
Spark

Mitch Johnson



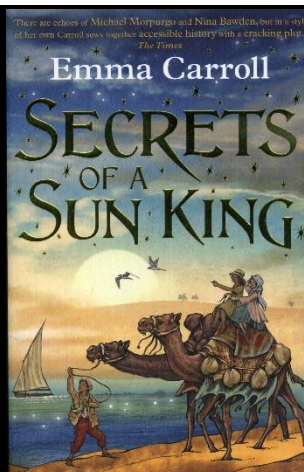
Once

Morris Gleitzman



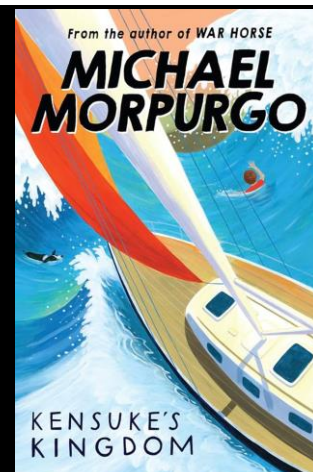
Twitch

M G Leonard



Secrets of the Sun King

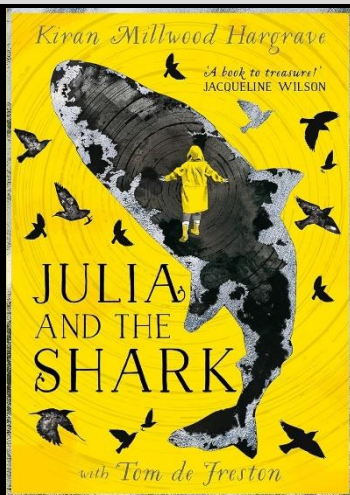
Emma Carroll



Kensuke's Kingdom

Michael Morpurgo

Recommendations for Juniors



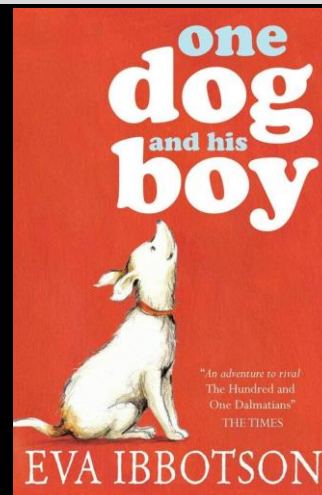
Julia and the Shark

Kiran Millwood Hargrave



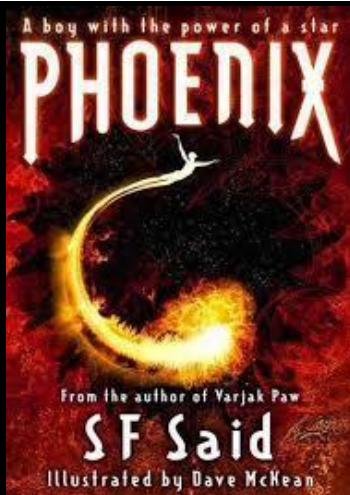
Goldfish Boy

Lisa Thompson



One Dog and His Boy

Eva Ibbotson



Phoenix

SF Said



For more recommendations, try

**The Oldfield Park Bookshop
Moorland Road**



**Centre for Literacy in
Primary Education**

Staff recommendations...

Mrs Callow recommends...

Spark

Mitch Johnson

Ash has always lived in Last Village, but he has never felt like he belongs there. Since the death of his mother, and the disappearance of his father, Ash lives a lonely existence with a priestess in the house on the hill.

The world is unbearably hot, water is drying up, and life is hard. After a vicious thunderstorm, Ash wakes to find that the village's water has completely run out and all the other villagers have mysteriously disappeared.

With the knowledge that he cannot survive if he stays, Ash sets out on a long journey full of danger and mystery to find a place which can sustain life. This dystopian tale is full of intrigue and adventure. Suitable for mature readers from Y4 upwards.

Mrs Stock recommends...

No Ballet Shoes in Syria

Catherine Bruton

This book was given to me a couple of years ago by a pupil at the end of year 6. It combines two of my loves – reading and dancing.

It tells the story of Aya, a Syrian asylum seeker, looking after her mother and baby brother in the cold, unfamiliar city of Manchester, but she is also a talented ballet dancer. A part of her life that seemed lost forever when she fled her homeland comes back to her when she encounters a ballet class led by the elegant Miss Helena. The formidable dance teacher spots her exceptional talent and believes that Aya has the potential to earn a prestigious ballet scholarship. Will she succeed and be reunited with her father, from whom she became separated whilst fleeing Syria?

It is a lovely, heart-warming story but also tackles some difficult and current issues. It's an excellent read especially for anyone who enjoyed *Ballet Shoes* and *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*.

Miss Ashby recommends...

Can you feel the noise?

Stewart Foster

Sophie loves music. She plays the guitar in a band who are about to perform on the stage in the Battle of the Bands. I love music too. If you love music, then you will know how music can make us feel. Music helps to calm me down when I am stressed or anxious. It cheers me up when I am feeling sad or lonely. I can't imagine a world in which I don't have the pleasure of music. It's the same for Sophie - music is everything for her. It's the one thing she's really good at. Her friends are all part of the same band, and they spend every moment they can practising for the Battle of the Bands competition. But suddenly, in a seemingly cruel and unfair turn of events, Sophie finds herself unable to hear. Unable to listen to the music she so loves. Alone, in a silent world, pushed out of her band, unable to communicate with her family and friends, can Sophie find the joy in life again? Will she ever find a way to keep music in her life?

'Can you feel the noise?' is a book that has changed the way I think about communicating with other people. It has made me appreciate some of the hidden challenges that other people persevere with on a daily basis and consider how I communicate with others to include everyone. It is one of those rare books that will stay with you long after you have finished reading.

Mrs Unsworth-White recommends...

Kensuke's Kingdom Michael Morpurgo

This is a modern-day Robinson Crusoe story full of twists and turns. Find out how an ordinary eleven-year-old boy, Michael, ends up marooned on a Pacific island. If you like exciting adventures and finding out about other lands and animals, this may be the book for you. I couldn't put the book down and highly recommend it for juniors.

Mrs Morris recommends...

Big Amazing Poetry Book

chosen by Gaby Morgan

As it says on the front cover, this book is filled with 52 weeks of poetry from 52 brilliant poets. Each poet has included 7 poems and there is stunning artwork throughout the whole book. There is also a short biography introducing each poet. It is a collection of many different styles, ballads, riddles, tongue-twisters, sonnets, and raps about seasons, friends, family, animals, food, fish, football and lots more. It will make you laugh out loud as many of the poems are very funny.

I have always enjoyed poetry, especially ones as warm and funny as these. This book is great to just pick up and put down and read a poem a day.

Mrs Ardelean and Mrs Brindley both recommend...

Heidi Johanna Spyri

Mrs Ardelean writes...

The story is about five-year-old Heidi, a clever and kind-hearted little girl, growing up in Switzerland. Even when she's sent to live with her lonely, grumpy grandfather in a remote house in the Alps mountains, she's determined to make the best of it. She meets Peter, her grandfather's shepherd and Clara, a rich and disabled girl and together they discover the meaning of friendship, compassion and courage.

Mrs Brindley writes...

Heidi is a free-spirited girl who loves the simple life she has with her grandfather high in the Swiss mountains. One day she is sent to live in the city where she is very homesick. The story focusses on her sense of adventure, her kindness towards people, and her attempt to do what she believes is right – even when she knows she may end up in trouble. She forges close relationships, most notably in the friendships she develops with Clara, in Frankfurt, and Peter, in the mountains. These friendships don't always run smoothly!

I first read this book when I was 8. Ever since, I have dreamed of living high in the mountains, surrounded by alpine scenery.

Mrs Childs-Evans recommends...

Twitch M.G. Leonard

If you like crime and adventure stories like me, I hope you will enjoy this book. It is the first book in a trilogy (The Twitchers) best suited for upper junior children. It is written by M. G. Leonard, a pen name, her real name is Maya Gabrielle. She wrote the book during covid, inspired by many walks, lots of bird watching and her love of the outdoors.

The story is about Twitch, a 12 year-old boy with many pet birds: chickens, pigeons and swallows. He has a passion for bird watching and has a secret bird watching hide-out in the local nature reserve called Aves Wood, near to his home. On the first day of the summer holidays, he discovers that a dangerous prisoner has escaped into the woods following a bank robbery. Twitch begins to turn his talent for bird-spotting to detective work to try and find the missing loot whilst trying to juggle some tricky friendships at his school.

Lots of plot twists and drama; a story of courage and friendship. I haven't read the second or third book yet, if you do, let me know how you get on!

Mrs Barnes recommends...

Once Morris Gleitzman

Once I escaped from an orphanage to find mum and dad.

Once I saved a girl called Zelda from a burning house.

Once I made a Nazi with toothache laugh.

This story, set in World War II, follows Felix – a 10-year-old Jewish boy being hidden from the Nazis in a Catholic orphanage. One day, after three years and eight months at the orphanage, a group of men (who the nuns call ‘Nazis’) arrive and begin emptying the library, burning all the books.

Not understanding why the Nazis hate books so much, Felix worries that his parents and their family bookshop may be in danger, and he escapes from the orphanage to warn them. However, some way into his journey, Felix begins to wonder if the Nazis hate the Jews for more reasons than just books...

This book very quickly draws you into Felix’s life and the dangerous journey that he embarks on. Once I started reading, it was very hard to stop – I couldn’t wait to see what happened next. A highly recommended read for children in KS2.

Mr Bentley-Taylor recommends...

Secrets of a Sun King Emma Carroll

London, 1922. The war is over, but life is tough for the book's hero, Lil. She finds her grammar school unfriendly and now her own her hero, her granddad, is unwell. An old friend of his has left a mystery outside his doorstep - a mysterious package, which Lil finds. Should she open it or not?

Inside she'll find secrets from the times of Ancient Egypt. Hieroglyphics that tell the story of an old pharaoh Kyky (Tutankhamun himself!) and his struggles growing up.

This is a rip-roaring tale that races through two time zones and keeps you hooked throughout. Not a book to leave around the house, as no doubt someone else will come and read the book in your absence. A must for all Year 5 and 6 history lovers!

Mrs Franklin-Adams recommends...

One Dog and His Boy Eva Ibbotson

All Hal had ever wanted was a dog. "Never!" cries his mother. "Think of the mess, the scratch-marks, the puddles on the floor." But on the morning of Hal's 10th birthday, the unbelievable happens. He's allowed to choose a puppy at Easy Pets, a rent-a-pet agency (a fact his parents keep from him). The moment he sees the odd-looking terrier, he knows he's found a friend for life. But no one tells Hal that Fleck must be returned and when Hal wakes up on Monday morning, Fleck is gone. If dog and boy are to stay together they'll have to run away...

I love all of Eva Ibbotson's books, from *Journey to the River Sea* to *The Abominables*, but this one has to be my absolute favourite. I read it and loved it even before I owned my first dog so being a dog-owner is not essential to your enjoyment of this book. It is a classic adventure story told with humour and manages to be both heart-warming and heart-wrenching at the same time. I was truly sorry to leave Hal and all his dog friends behind when I reached the final page.

Mrs Norgan recommends...

Julia and the Shark Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Julia finds herself living in a remote lighthouse in an island off the coast of Scotland, away from all of her friends. Her marine biologist mother undertakes a desperate search for the magnificent, yet elusive Greenland Shark- said to live for five hundred years. Julia has to navigate life in this wild, new environment, whilst trying to keep her family together.

I really enjoyed reading this book. I loved the idea of living in a lighthouse surrounded by such rugged landscapes and I really could picture myself staying there. I was also desperate for them to find this extraordinary shark which I had never heard of before reading the book. Additionally, the book is packed full of beautiful pictures, which really brought the story to life. I would recommend this book to adventurous, animal enthusiasts, aged nine and up.

Goldfish Boy Lisa Thompson

Matthew lives in an ordinary cul-de-sac, filled with ordinary houses and ordinary residents until one day, something extraordinary happens... Teddy the boisterous toddler goes missing from house next door. Where has he gone? Is he safe? Suddenly Matthew, whose OCD often leaves him feeling trapped inside his bedroom, is forced to leave the safety of his own home to embark on a quest to find Teddy.

I absolutely loved reading this book. Not only was it a gripping mystery that I could not put down, but it helped me to see the world through someone else's eyes. I would say, this book is the perfect read for Year 5 & 6 children who enjoy solving mysteries and learning about other people's lives.

Mr Richmond recommends...

Phoenix S.F. Said

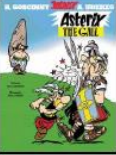








Our hero, Lucky, is forced to leave his home planet. He needs to find his father in the hope that he can get some answers about the magical powers he seems to possess. After a thrilling escape, Lucky finds himself on a spaceship of outcast aliens whom he'll need to befriend in order to succeed in his mission.

Phoenix is a space quest sci-fi story packed with action and adventure that will appeal to those of you who enjoy the magical or mythical worlds in *Star Wars*, or those found in the Percy Jackson adventures and the books by JRR Tolkien and Philip Pullman. There are also some interesting themes about how we treat groups of people (or aliens) differently. The illustrations by Dave McKean are spectacular.










SF Said is a great storyteller. Maybe you've read his first novel, *Varjak Paw*. I'm looking forward to reading his latest book, *Tyger*, over Christmas.

Check out our archive of Christmas staff recommendations on our [blogs](#).


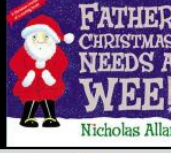

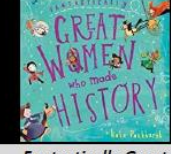


Recommendations for Years 5 and 6

		
Asterix the Gaul	When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit	The Railway Children
René Goscinny, Albert Uderzo	Judith Kerr	Edith Nesbit
		
The Silver Sword	The Magician's Nephew	Holes
Ian Serraillier	C. S. Lewis	Louis Sachar
		
The Hobbit	Framed	Charlotte's Web
J.R.R. Tolkien	Frank Cottrell-Boyce	E. B. White


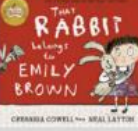

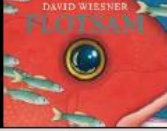



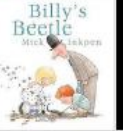


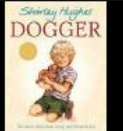
Recommendations for Years 3 and 4

		
The Butterfly Lion	One Dog and His Boy	Famous Five on a Treasure Island
Michael Morpurgo	Eva Ibbotson	Enid Blyton
		
Mr Stink	The Great Cake Mystery	The Minnow on the Say
David Walliams	Alexander McCall-Smith	Philippa Pearce
		
Dragon Rider	Robot Girl	There's a Viking in my Bed
Cornelia Funke	Malorie Blackman	Jeremy Strong

Recommendations for Infants

		
Stuck	Father Christmas Needs a Wee!	Captain Finn and the Pirate Dinosaurs
Oliver Jeffers	Nicholas Allan	Giles Andreae & Russell Ayton
		
Oil Caveboy! Iggy the Urk 1	Fantastically Great Women Who Made History	Stinkbomb & Ketchup-Face The Badness of Badgers
Alan MacDonald & Mark Beech	Kate Pankhurst	John Dougherty & David Tazzyman
		
100 Classic Stories	Werewolf Club Rules! And other poems	All Afloat on Noah's Boat
Various authors	Joseph Coelho	Tony Mitton

Recommendations for Infants

		
Shh! We have a plan	That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown	Out and About
Chris Haughton	Cressida Cowell & Neal Layton	Shirley Hughes
		
Flotsam	One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab	
David Wiesner	April Pulley Sayre	
		
The Enchanted Wood	The Jolly Christmas Postman	Billy's Beetle
Enid Blyton	Janet and Alan Ahlberg	Mick Inkpen
		
Dinosaurs love underpants	Snowflakes	Dogger
Claire Freedman	Carrie Burnell	Shirley Hughes