



"The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss



The children have enjoyed the range of graphic novels we have had in the library. It has opened some children's eyes to a different type of reading experience and when I go to the display there are always another one or two children have found and added to the display.

Next term we will include a range of mystery books. These will be introduced to the library in September.

We have opened the library up to Key Stage 2 to visit with their adults. Some children enjoyed having the library 'to themselves' and could choose any book that appealed – some of the Tin Tin and Asterix graphic novels were borrowed and have been shared with their families since.

Broke Hall Librarians

We are always looking for ways to manage the organisation of the library. The School Council Reading Group wanted to train some Year 5s to ensure we had more help in the library and that they would be ready to keep the library working next year. We have now got 7 more librarians. All have a different area of the library to keep organised and tidy. Initially this will be a big job, but they will soon reap the benefits of their dedication and lunchtime visits.

We have also sent every class 4 library reminders for when they use the library themselves.



Author Visit – Andrew Halas

We have been very lucky to have a visit from Andrew Halas who writes books based on three children - Harry, Isla and Hugo. These are his grandchildren, 2 of whom attend Broke Hall. What an experience to go on an adventure in a written book!

We are looking forward to hearing how he writes the stories and where he gets his inspiration from.



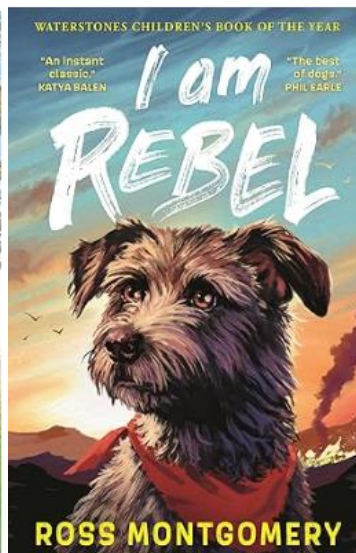
Children's Book Award

The Federation of Children's Book Groups
Registered Charity 268289

The winners have been announced!



This was Broke Hall's favourite too!



This was the winner overall too!

We are now beginning the process for the 2025-2026 picture books.

It is always such a lovely time, being read to in class, and no matter your age, sharing a picture book at the end of a lesson is a great way to relax and provides a positive shared experience with the class.



Local Bookshops

Dial Lane and Woodbridge Books

We are lucky to have two local book stores who promote children's literature and invite authors to our area.

Dial Lane – A local bookshop

Sunday 27th July at 3pm

Dial Lane holds regular books groups for children and the next meeting is on the 27th July. Perhaps a good opportunity to get stuck into a good book for the summer holidays.



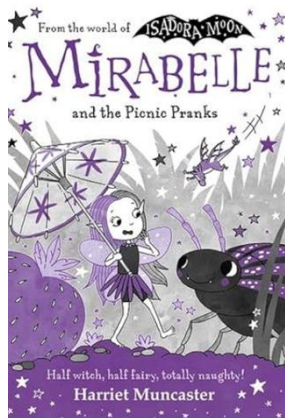
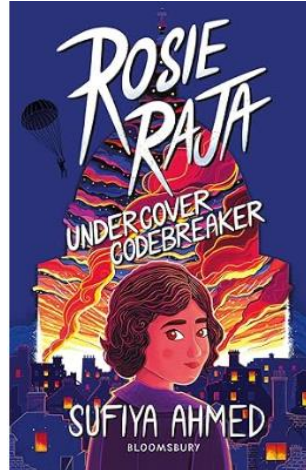
Recommendations

We are lucky to win many new books. These are shared around the school and children are asked to write a short review. They are then put in the library for all to read.

Rosie Raja Undercover Codebreaker

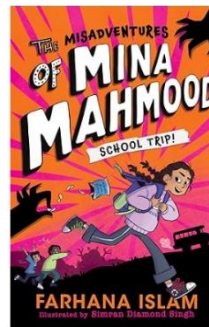
Hollie in 5JA said: This is based in WWII when Hitler was trying to kill all the Jews. Rosie and her father are spies and they are trying find the undercover Nazi spies and get them to send messages to the Nazis through the Enigma machine. An exciting adventure story about who to trust.

She would also recommend 'The Mummy Snatcher of Memphis'.



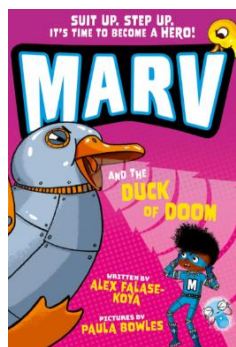
Mirabelle and the Picnic Pranks

Alice in 3V says: I enjoyed the book because it was funny and joyful. She starts doing pranks on people who are mean to her. It all turns out happy.



The Misadventures of Mina Mahmood School Trip

This was recommended by Amiya who said: I would recommend this book if you enjoy adventure stories, it includes lots of plot twists and is very fun to read!



Marv and the Duck of Doom

Austin in 3V says: I would recommend this book because I liked how the only colour was blue and when they introduced the Duck of Doom.

Sounds like one that will be popular with many children!

If your child has any recommendations they would like to share in the newsletter, please ask them to pass them onto Miss Varden.

Author Focus



Leonie Lord was the winner of one of the FCBG Book Awards. Let's find out more about her.

Her journey into children's books began at Central St Martin's College in London where she specialised in illustration on the communication design degree. On graduating she began her career as an editorial illustrator, illustrating various articles for magazines and newspapers.

In 2008 she illustrated 'The Dirty Great Dinosaur' written by the great Martin Waddell.

She says: I liked drawing dinosaurs so it was a wonderfully exciting commission to have, but also quite daunting. Illustrating picture books for children had always been my dream but it was something I had no experience in.

After that I was lucky enough to illustrate further books with some of the best children's authors. Michelle Robinson, Jeanne Willis and the much loved Whiffy Wilson series by Caryl Hart.

My first author illustrated picture book 'Sofa Dog' was published in 2017 with Alison Green Books.

'Sofa Dog' was inspired by my own lazy cocker spaniel, Lavender, and her love for 'Sofa time'.

'Sofa Dog' was followed by 'The Giggle Pigs'. A story about a group of piggy friends that go on 'a very serious and epic adventure' but just can't help getting the giggles.

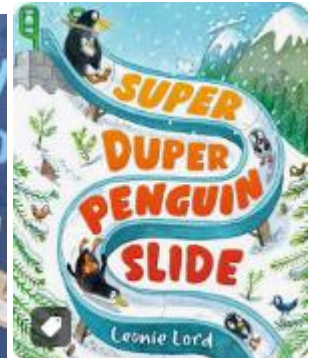
'Super Duper Penguin Slide' is my third author illustrated book. Published by Walker Books in 2021...It's about a family of penguins, and a massive slide, and their quest to get to the top. It is also quite silly! So far all my books have been quite silly... maybe one day I will write a serious book about snails or porridge (actually I'm not sure that's really going to work!)

I live with my husband, my two sons and Lavender in village near Cheltenham. Our house is extremely old and rumoured to be haunted. Sadly there have been no ghost sightings as of yet! I would love to see a ghost as long it wasn't one of those really annoying tickle ghosts!

If you would like to find out more about my work process, general doodles, scribbles and pictures of my dog, my favourite place to keep up to date is on Instagram.

<https://www.leonielord.co.uk/about>

Some of her books:



Author of I Am Rebel – Ross Montgomery

Ross Montgomery is a celebrated Author. His first book was Waterstones Book of the Month, Costa Children's Book of the Year and won the Branford Boase Award. It was also selected as one of The Sunday Times 'Top 100 Modern Children's Classics'. Having been a primary school teacher, he clearly understands what appeals to his target audience!

Here are some fun facts about him:

- He lives in London with his wife, a cat called Fun Bobby, and a cactus on every available surface.
- He once fainted in front of the Queen but doubts she would have ever remembered, but he does!
- He gets most of his ideas while falling asleep on public transport.
- He says he has weird thumbs.
- He's been writing stories since he was at primary school.
- If you look through his pockets you'll find empty crisp packets, lists of things to do, and that stuff you put on your nails to stop you biting them.
- His writing heroes are Terry Pratchett and Jacqueline Wilson.



Ipswich Book Festival – 3rd-5th October

Many towns and cities have their own book festivals and Ipswich is no different. The promotional information says:

A brand-new chapter begins! Ipswich Book Festival is making its debut, and we're celebrating the magic of firsts; from debut authors to the wonder behind a book's very first cover. Join us as we journey from manuscript to publication, discover fresh voices, and honour the moments that shape readers and writers alike. Our festival will bring books, authors, and readers together in a joyful celebration of new beginnings.

What a positive way to promote Reading for Pleasure with your children by showing them how reading interests you and how exciting it is waiting to visit authors or read newly published books.

They have announced their first headliner Larry Lamb, a British actor and presenter, best recognised for his acting roles in the BBC soaps Triangle and Eastenders, and the sitcom Gavin & Stacey, who will talk about his [debut fiction novel "All Wrapped Up"](#) with Camilla Barnes, author of "The Usual Desire to Kill" on Friday 3rd October with tickets going on sale in June.



Reading Challenges

At this time of year there are many reading challenges to encourage children to keep reading over the 6 week holidays. Here are just a couple to inspire your children.



Suffolk Libraries



Reading Quest is back for 2025! Children of all ages can sign up at any library and receive their reading passport from 19 July onwards. You can sign up at any time during the school holidays to start your quest.

You don't need to read a set number of books – Reading Quest is designed to encourage children to enjoy reading at their own pace in a fun, interactive way by taking part in different challenges and activities to suit them. Reading for pleasure helps children build self-esteem and improve wellbeing throughout life.

For each activity you complete, bring your passport back to the library to receive a stamp and a reward! Collect a passport from the library to get started.

Be sure to bring your certificates in on the first day back so we can celebrate your achievements at school too.

The Reading Agency

Story Garden



If going to the library regularly in the summer holidays, or have a pile of books you want an excuse to sit and read, why not begin this challenge.

Children can log their books online.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



“The Summer Reading Challenge continues to be a bright light in what has recently been an uncertain picture of children’s reading. Story Garden will create magical spaces where children can explore and be curious, combining the joy of reading with the proven wellbeing benefits of connecting with nature. Libraries will be hosting inspiring events and activities where nature and wildlife will take children on adventures and plants inspire their next story. We’re particularly excited to be working with Dapo Adeola, whose wonderful illustrations will help bring these adventures to life.”

– Karen Napier, CEO, The Reading Agency

The impact of the Challenge is clear:

- 95% of participants continue reading at least once a week after taking part
- 70% report increased reading confidence



Books for Topics

They have a great selection of recommendations which

will help you to guide the best books to suit your child's reading age.

They also have 'Best Books This Month'. This is a great way to help keep your child excited about reading and looking forward to the new books they may be able to find.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/books-of-the-month/>



GET Free Books Ipswich

Have you been to GET Free Books Ipswich in the town centre? It is exactly as it says – free books.

You can take up to 3 a day. As it is run on donations, you never know what exciting stories you may uncover and what will appear next time you visit. It is volunteer led so to avoid disappointment, find their opening times on Facebook.

Reading Well for Children

Reading Well for children provides quality-assured information, stories and advice to support children's mental health and wellbeing. Books have been chosen and recommended by leading health professionals and co-produced with children and families.

The booklist is targeted at children in Key Stage 2 (aged 7-11), but includes titles aimed at a wide range of reading levels to support less confident readers, and to encourage children to read together with their siblings and carers.

The books are available to borrow from your local library. Selected titles are also available to borrow as e-books and audiobooks. Visit your local library website to find out how to join the library and access books electronically.

Click here for the link to the book lists available:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/get-reading/our-programmes-and-campaigns/reading-well/reading-well-for-children/>



Useful Links



Suffolk libraries are an invaluable resource. Visiting the library with your own library card is a gateway to new worlds and knowledge. It is easy to borrow eBooks, audiobooks and physical copies enabling you to have a steady stream of new or recommended reads throughout the year, absolutely FREE!! Ideal for the long car journeys over the summer holidays.

Kesgrave and Felixstowe Library does offer a Sunday craft session which is a great opportunity to visit the local library and occasionally have a Lego Club too.



Join the Blue Peter Book Club —

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-book-club>

you don't need to sign up. Just visit their website, take the quiz to find out which of the current Book Club titles would suit you best and get reading! By sharing reviews of the books you have read, you can win a special Blue Peter Book badge.



The Reader Teacher: <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>