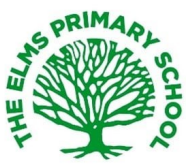


# Reading Newsletter

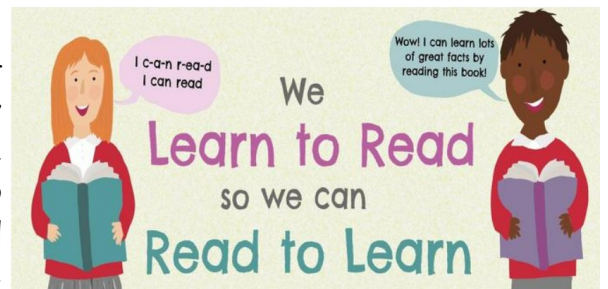


At The Elms, we grow Readers

Edition 2

Term 6 2024

Here is our second edition of the Reading Newsletter: three times a year, we would like to celebrate all things reading with our whole school community. Reading is a key intention for our curriculum and we are hugely aware of its importance both to academic success and well-being and escapism. We hope sharing some of the exciting reading events in school will help to convey our love of reading across the whole school community. Mrs McIntosh



## They've arrived!!! Our Updated Texts!

In our last newsletter, I shared the exciting news around our rejuvenated book corners and their new lease of life. Since then, we have ordered hundreds of the best books for our children. From pre-school to Year 6, each class is enjoying exploring their new books. Children will be able to enjoy these in school for the rest of this term in their current year group. Each book that a child reads, we would love a small book review so that next year's children will know what the book is about and who might love it!



Children will be able to enjoy these in school for the rest of this term in their current year group. Each book that a child reads, we would love a small book review so that next year's children will know what the book is about and who might love it!

The books were selected to include a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. There are graphic novels, picture books and longer novels– it includes a huge range of texts showing a range of diversity and represents the children in our school (mirrors) and shows a view of the world our children may not have considered (windows).

The purchase of these books was made possible with a generous donation from the Faringdon United Charities and help from our incredible PTA– Thank you for your support!



## Faringdon Library

Are you a member of our local library? We

would love all of our families to be enrolled at the local library– it is right next to the school and completely **FREE!**

From the 6th July, they are launching their summer reading challenge: Marvellous Makers with lots of arts and crafts activities being run in the library. This will be shared with the children in a special assembly in school with a visit from the local librarian.

Click the picture for more details.



## Author Visits

Since our last newsletter, we have celebrated World book day and some incredible plates were brought into school to celebrate a huge range of characters– choosing a winner was tough!



As part of our World Book day opportunities, the PTA arranged for two authors to visit the school and share the process of planning, writing and editing their books.

In Year 2, the children had actually studied one of the author's books, 'The Queen's Handbag' by Steve Anthony. Steve visited the class specially and read some the work that his book had inspired– he was very impressed!

## Have you read?



**EYFS and KS1 Fanatical about Frogs** A beautiful book sharing all the magic of everything Frog! Did you know there are over 4,000 known species of frog. This would be perfect for your own explorer or the next David Attenborough.

**Year 3 and 4 El Deafo** An uplifting, funny and realistic graphic novel of a young girl who is faced with hearing loss from a young age. This shines a light on a disability and how it can become your

own special superpower! A story of friendship and resilience– a real windows and mirrors book!



**Year 5 and 6 Aarti and The Blue Gods** A book of adventure, hope and determination. The main character Aarti is so well liked by the

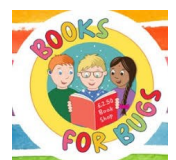


reader and as the twists and turns of the book unfold– you can't help but to worry. Not all is as it seems though as the author mixed Hindu and Druid gods set on a remote Scottish island. An excellent read!

Look on our school website for more book recommendations for your young readers. Click here: [Reading at The Elms](#)

## Virtual Book Fair

Thank you to those of you who purchased books through our virtual book fair. I know the children loved receiving their bright, individually packaged books! From your purchases we were able to select 8 books for our school library for all children to enjoy! Keep your eyes peeled for more next year!



## A Summer Competition...

Have you read a book and wanted to tell everyone they should read it? Well, now's your chance! Send us a review of your must-read book and you could win books for you and your school.

You can use one of these templates for your book review, one from school, or you can create your own.

If there isn't a book that you would like to review, you can choose an e-book (Oxford Owl have some great free ones) or alternatively write your own short story (maximum 600 words).

### Some things to include in your review:

- Paint a quick picture – explain what the book is about, but no spoilers please!
- Opinion – why do you like it? Why didn't you like it?
- Who else would like this book?
- Would you recommend it to others, or not?



## A huge thankyou!

Over the year, we have had an incredible group of dedicated volunteers who come in each week to listen to some of our beautiful readers.

The children love these sessions and it is a highlight of their week.

If you would like to volunteer your services to the school to listen to readers, please contact School Readers and complete the application form.

<https://www.schoolreaders.org/volunteer-application-form>

**Schoolreaders**   
improving literacy • increasing life chances

I love the fact that I get to read to another adult and show how good I am at reading– J (Yr 3)

She listens to us read and then I can learn how to read books better. I like that she asks questions about the books and when I get a word wrong, she helps me. D (Yr2)

I love the fact that I get to read to another adult and show how good I am at reading– J (Year 2)

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**SUMMERTIME**   
**BOOK REVIEW**   
**COMPETITION**



The Summertime Book Review Competition is back!

Win a full library of 200 books for your school, and the winning KS2 class will get the chance to talk to 'Skandar' author A F Steadman!

### What could you win?

A F Steadman is the globally bestselling author of the 'Skandar' series, a gripping story set on a mysterious island off the British mainland and featuring young unicorn riders.

Skandar and the Unicorn Thief received widespread acclaim and went on to scoop the prestigious Waterstones Children's Book of the Year 2022. The second instalment of the series, Skandar and the Phantom Rider, followed in 2023 and the third, Skandar and the Chaos Trials, published in April of this year. The fourth book, Skandar and the Skeleton Curse, will be out on 10th October this year.

With thanks to our partners at Wob, the two winning schools will each receive the fantastic prize of 200 books to boost their school library! The winning pupils will each receive a certificate and a £25 book voucher.



### When by?

All entries need to be submitted by 5pm  
on Saturday 30th September 2024!



### Important information

This is a competition for pupils of primary school age in the UK. By entering the book review competition participants and their parent(s) or guardian(s) are deemed to have accepted and agreed to be bound by the terms and conditions.

The child's name and age and an adult's contact details must be included with each entry. Please also include the name and town of the entrant's primary school so we can contact them. Any entries will be anonymised if publicised, see T'c and C's for more information.

You can use one of the templates on our website, one from your school, or create your own.

**Send entries by e-mail to [admin@schoolreaders.org](mailto:admin@schoolreaders.org) or post them to:  
Schoolreaders, Bedford Heights, Brickhill Drive, Bedford, MK41 7PH.**

To find out more visit [www.schoolreaders.org](http://www.schoolreaders.org)

For full details about the competition; suggestions for what to include in your review; templates; and terms and conditions, visit: <https://www.schoolreaders.org/bookreview>

