



# **Ferndown First School's Reading Newsletter**

**February 2021**

# Reading at home

Life is just not as we know it at the moment and we understand the challenges you are facing at home with current government rules and restrictions, whilst juggling work and home learning with your children. It isn't easy.

Whilst we are working incredibly hard to provide a full, broad and balanced curriculum for the children at home, we appreciate that sometimes it is just not possible for you to do everything on our suggested timetables. Some days don't go to plan and this can be out of our control. On these days, which we hope are few and far between, we would like you to just focus on one thing with your child.... **reading**.



# Reading at home

We cannot emphasise enough how important it is to keep reading going, even in these trickier times. Reading aloud to your child and hearing them read are equally valuable. Here are some top tips for reading at home with your children which you may find helpful.

Little and often works well.

If they get bored... stop. It shouldn't be a chore. You just need to find the right book!

Audio books count!

Do the silly voices. Children love it!

Be led by your child's interests for book choices. Information books are just valuable as stories.

Decide on a cosy place for reading with a blanket and favourite teddy. Or you could even make a reading den!

If you're reading chapter books aloud to your child, sometimes end on a cliff hanger to keep them motivated!

Use technology to help you out sometimes.

Read together, even if your child can read independently. Reading can be a special, bonding experience.

**Reasons to read to your children for 20 minutes every day**

- Reading aloud gives you different topics of conversation
- Reading aloud builds vocabulary which is linked to higher marks in school
- Reading aloud improves concentration, which is important for school
- Reading aloud exposes children to complex sentence structures, which will be used in school
- Reading aloud strengthens the parent-child bond
- Reading aloud fosters imagination, which is important for story writing
- Reading aloud builds general knowledge, which is important for comprehension and being a well-rounded person

**TOP TIP**  
PICTURE WALKS ARE A GREAT WAY TO START A BOOK: FLICK THROUGH AND LOOK AT THE PICTURES, TALK ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AND THEN START READING.

**20 minutes per day** = 1.8 million words, 86 hours per year and 861 hours of reading by Grade 6

**5 minutes per day** = 282 000 words, 21 hours per year and 212 hours of reading by Grade 6

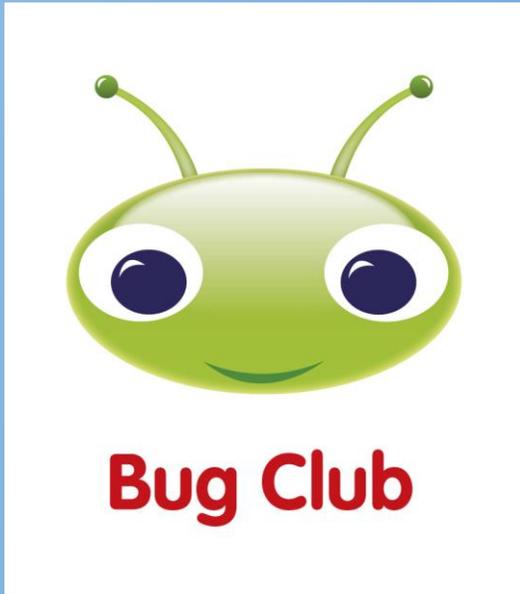
**1 minute per day** = 8000 words, 4 hours per year and 42 hours of reading by Grade 6

www.kidsfirstcentre.co.za

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CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

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# Bug Club



Whilst we are unable to provide physical books please use Bug Club daily in place of your child's school reading book. These books are allocated by class teachers who are able to monitor children's reading online. Don't forget, in order for a new book to appear in the My Stuff area, your child needs to have clicked on all the bug icons (shown above) and answered the comprehension questions. Unless this is done, the app will not register the book as completed. Thank you!

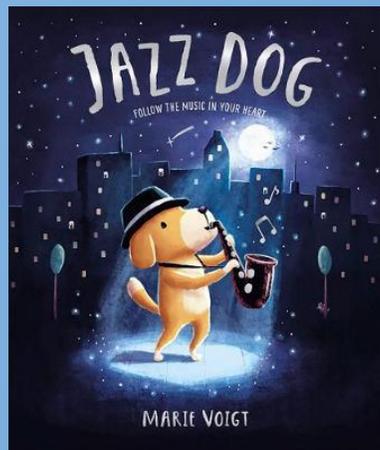
# Oxford Owl e-Book Library

In addition to Bug Club, Oxford e-book library offers a range of colour banded books for reading online. If you are unsure which colour books to choose, please ask your child's teacher via a message on Tapestry. In order to access the books, you need to register but this is free.



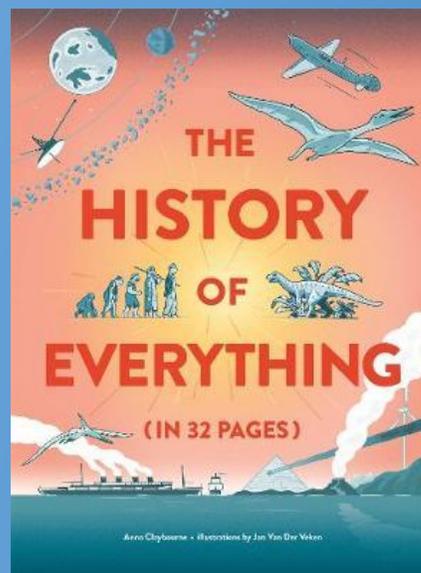
# Our Book Recommendations

Fancy reading something new with your child? Why not try one of these brilliant books? We think you will enjoy them!

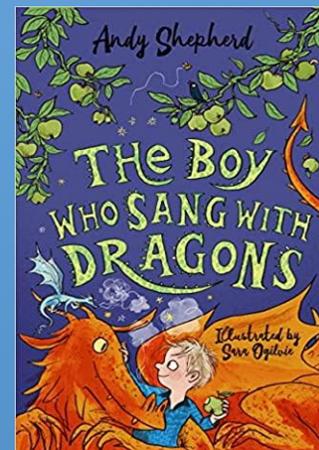


A thoughtful and entertaining story about togetherness and inclusion. Perfect for age 4 +.

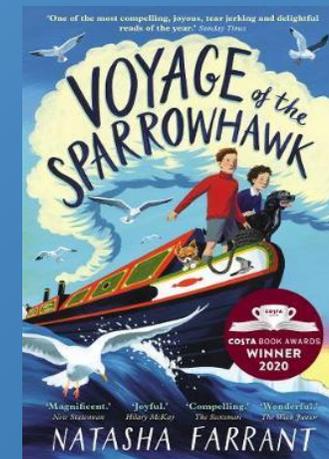
Travel through time and space to learn how the world has evolved from the Big Bang onwards! Suitable for 7 years +.



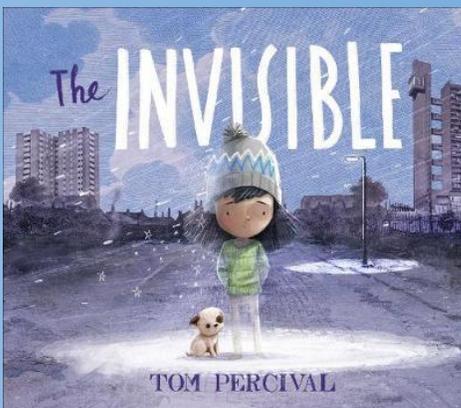
The Invisible is the story of a young girl called Isabel and her family. They don't have much, but they have what they need to get by. This book was published just last week!



A fun, magical adventure story suitable for readers age 7+. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> book in the series but they can be read in any order.



This challenging, rollercoaster of a book is perfect for avid, independent readers in Year 4. Winner of the Costa Children's Book Awards 2020.

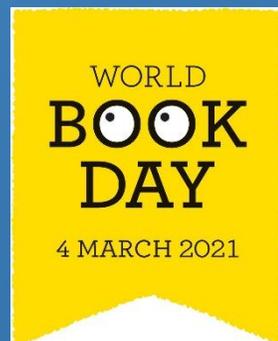


# It's World Book Day on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

We have lots planned for World Book Day including:

- Dressing up as a favourite book character and show off your costume on a video call with your teacher and class mates
- A virtual visit from a real author
- A day full of suggested, fun book related activities
- The chance to buy brilliant Usborne books at a virtual Book Fair
- Teacher story videos available to listen to, all through the day
- £1 book token to spend (digital token for those learning at home)

More details to follow nearer the time...



# Online Resources to try....

- BookTrust have a YouTube channel. Not only can you watch and listen to stories but there are also author and illustrator interviews with tips for budding writers and artists.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Booktrust/featured>



- Storyline Online have over 50 stories to listen to. Which is your favourite? <https://www.storylineonline.net/>

Storyline Online

- Lovereading4kids has lots of best seller lists and many books have an extract to read so children can decide if they think they will like the book before you commit to buy. <https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk>



# Have a lovely half term break!



## Stay safe and keep reading...

“The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you’ll go.”  
-Dr. Seuss