



Parkgate Juniors Reading News

March 2024 / #16

Book Sale

Thank you to all who came along to our very popular book sale in March. Over 230 books went home with children, which makes us very happy!



Our Pupil Library Assistants were a great help in running the sale, so thank you to them as well.



Non-Fiction Event 'Chameleons are Cool!'



Welcome!

Non-Fiction Event 'Chameleons are Cool!'

We had a fabulous event in the library after school —all about amazing animals. Thank you to those who came along; we hope you had a great time.



There were 20 spaces available (plus parents if they wished to come along) and although 9 children did come, we were disappointed that the remaining 11 didn't—especially as we had a waiting list. If you book your child on any of these events, could you please let us know if they are unable to attend (as one parent did), preferably in advance so we can re-allocate spaces.

Anyway, we enjoyed listening to a read-aloud of the lovely *'Chameleons are Cool!'* book and learned some amazing facts about the reptile. We also did activities including making a hedgehog from a discarded book, making a snake from a paper plate and lots of animal bookmark colouring in. All of our animal non-fiction books were on display so children could browse, read and borrow them if they wanted.

Design a Bookmark Competition

Thank you so much to all those children who created such amazing bookmarks for our competition. We had a huge number enter and it was very difficult to choose the winners.



After lots of thought, we finally chose a winner from each class, with one also being the overall winner.

The winners were: Faye (3R), Dua (3O), Asher (4P), Jessica (4H), Abishaya (5T), Clara (5P), Anaisha (6E), Olivia (6F). The overall winner was Abishaya, who will have her design printed professionally and everyone in school will receive one. All winners also received the prize of a book.



Great Reads : Exploration and Adventurers



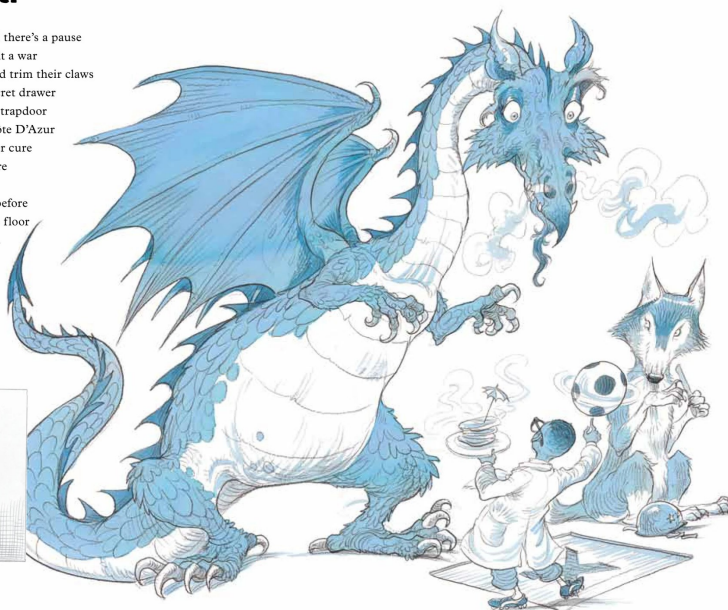
- Journey by Aaron Becker
- Women Who Led the Way
- Sophie in the Sky
- Race to the Frozen North
- The Explorer
- Shackleton's Journey
- The Polar Bear Explorer's Club

Poetry: *Daydreamer* by Rachel Rooney (illustration by Chris Riddell)

Daydreamer

His name is called and there's a pause
just long enough to halt a war
tame timber wolves and trim their claws
hide diamonds in a secret drawer
lure dragons to a trick trapdoor
eat pancakes by the Côte D'Azur
discover one last cancer cure
take a penalty and score
then simply teleport
back to where he was before
sat cross-legged on the floor
to answer with a yawn.

Good Morning.



World Book Day Packs

To celebrate World Book Day, all of our children were gifted their WBD pack. This consisted of one of the WBD titles, a fun bookmark and a WBD voucher. We hope the children enjoyed reading their book.



Top Book (Y5&6)

The Girl Who Stole an Elephant

Author: Nizrana Farook
Age: 9+

Chaya can talk her way out of anything - except stealing the Queen's jewels. Even if she had the best of reasons.

So she escapes on the back of a stolen elephant and leads her friends on a jungle adventure, where leeches lurk and revolution is stirring. And this gives Chaya an idea. Maybe she can leave her village a thief but return a hero?

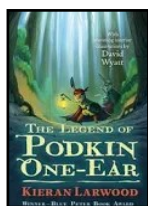
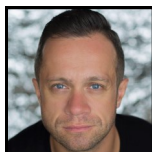


Illustrator Spotlight

David Wyatt

Aged 17, David Wyatt's first professional work appeared in British comic 2000AD, illustrating a strip for Neil Gaiman. Since then he has focused on Children's books, working with authors

including Philip Pullman, Diana Wynne Jones, Terry Pratchett, Geraldine McCaughrean and Philip Reeve.



He lives on Dartmoor where the ancient landscape provides much inspiration for his particular brand of mythic art.

Books he has illustrated include: (the fantastic) The Five Realms series by Keiran Larwood, Spooks by Joseph Delaney, Goblin Wood Adventure series by Anna Kemp, Taliesin by Maggie Pearson and Viking Mystery series by Janina Ramirez.

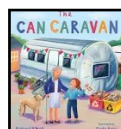
<https://www.davidwyattillustration.com/>

Picture Book

The Can Caravan

Author: Richard O'Neill
Age: 5+

When Janie's neighbour Mrs Tolen goes into hospital with a broken hip, it looks as though she will have to move out of her old caravan and into a house. Janie is desperate to help, but all seems lost until her school visits a local recycling plant. All it takes from there is imagination, a supportive community, and lots and lots of hard work to transform Mrs Tolen's old caravan into a safe and secure new home! Romani storyteller Richard O'Neill celebrates the traditional Traveller virtues of resilience, adaptability, loyalty and independence.

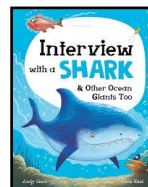


Top Non-Fiction

Interview with a Shark

Author: Andy Seed
Age: 7+

A look at 10 different endangered ocean animals, their lifestyles, food, habits, etc, in the style of question-and-answer interviews. Fun and informative.



Top Website

Reading Well



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. You can download their guide to the book collection and their booklist prescriber leaflet to use the collection.

<https://reading-well.org.uk/books/books-on-prescription/children>

Top Book (Y3&4)

The Wild Robot

Author: Peter Brown
Age: 7+

When robot Roz crash lands on an island, she's forced to fight for survival. The only way Roz can live is by learning about her new environment from the island's hostile animal inhabitants. But when she finds herself taking care of a baby goose, all the animals pitch in and teach Roz how to thrive in this new world. Heartwarming and full of action, this book will raise thought-provoking questions about the role technology plays in society, how humans affect the world around us, and what it means to be alive.



Author Spotlight

Sufiya Ahmed



Sufiya Ahmed worked in advertising and in the House of Commons before becoming a full-time author. In 2010, she set up the BIBI Foundation which arranges visits to the Houses of Parliament for children from underprivileged backgrounds. Sufiya has written several children's books including *My Story: Noor-Un-Nissa Inayat Khan*; *Rosie Raja*; *Ruby Ali's Mission Break Up*; *Princess Sophia Duleep Singh*; *Time Travellers Adventure Calling*; some *Famous Five* titles and many more. Follow her on twitter/X. <https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/>

Book Recommendations Information

Please note: Information for our book recommendations is taken mostly from *Book Trust* and *Peter's Books*.

A Classic Read

The Iron Man

Author: Ted Hughes
Age: 8+



The Iron Man came to the top of the cliff.

Where had he come from? Nobody knows.
How was he made? Nobody knows.

But one little boy realises that the Iron Man is not here to destroy the Earth. He could even save the planet from a new, more deadly danger!



Contact Us

Problems or questions about your library books? Want advice about reading choices? Or recommend a book to us?



Don't forget you can email or send a message in google classroom to our librarian, Mrs Parr and she will get back to you as soon as possible (she works Mondays and Tuesdays).

Email is library@parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk

What to Read Next?

If you're stuck on what to read next, there are a few of options for you:



- ⇒ Ask Mrs Parr or your teacher for some suggestions.
- ⇒ Have a look at the red Reading Suggestions file by the library computers
- ⇒ Complete the online form on the library web pages.
- ⇒ Again on the library web pages, there is a section on What to Read Next— have a look there.
- ⇒ Ask friends, family, librarians in public libraries and bookshop staff (children's section) what they recommend.
- ⇒ Have a look at our suggested reading lists. You'll find these on the library wall beside the computers, on the library webpages and on google classroom.

Also check these great websites:

- <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/bookmatch>
- <https://www.booksfortopics.com/branching-out>
- <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/>

Reading Activities

We continue to carry on with our reading for pleasure activities. Book blankets (getting all classroom books out to look at and discuss), D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read), Reading Rivers (charting our reading over a 24 hour period, from cereal boxes to clocks to street signs!), what a Reading Super-hero might look like and more.



Our Library Website

Plenty of information here about book-related things plus so many fun reading and drawing activities...



...writing and drawing tips from fabulous authors and illustrators, videos of them drawing or reading aloud from their books, games, ebooks, puzzles, quizzes, book reviews, information about particular books, authors and illustrators and so much more.

There is also useful information for parents and staff in their own section on our webpages.

<https://www.parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk/library/>

Librosoft Library Catalogue

Check out our library catalogue, Librosoft. Log in to see what books you have out, renew them or write book reviews.



Discover what books we have, so you have a few titles in mind when you come to borrow in the library.

Login details are on the wall by the library computers.

<https://www.parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk/library/>

Herts Libraries

Don't forget to use our excellent public libraries which are free to use and to borrow from. Our nearest one is right next to Asda.



Use your library card to borrow books, use the computers and use online services such as ebooks, audiobooks, comics, magazines, newspapers and reference information.

Note that they also have an autism-friendly hour every Saturday morning 9.30-10.30am.

If you're not a member, it's free and easy to join.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/>

Some new books in our library...

