



Parkgate Juniors Reading News

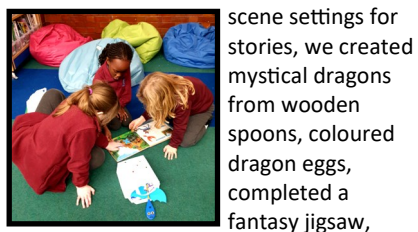
February 2025 / # 18

Fabulous Fables...



Thank you so much to all the children and parents who came to our 'Fabulous Fables & Mystical Dragons' event.

We had so much fun! We heard about the Scottish traditional tale of *The Dragon Stoorworm*, children created and wrote their fabulous



scene settings for stories, we created mystical dragons from wooden spoons, coloured dragon eggs, completed a fantasy jigsaw,

coloured mythical bookmarks and created designs from dragon stencils. We also had a lovely display and collection of dragon and myths books for the children to look at and borrow. Thank you to Miss Osborne for her wonderful scene-setting writing session and to Mrs Wallis and Mrs Wills Osborne for helping out. Mrs Parr.

BOOKSALE

Friday 21 February 2025

12pm - 5pm

Saturday 22 February 2025

10am - 2pm

&

Monday 24 - Friday 28 Feb.

10am - 2pm

at THE RETREAT

(Corner of Gallows Hill/Abbots Road, WD4 8LT)

Thousands of new and nearly new books. Regret No Dealers

As a general rule: £2 for paperback fiction or children's, £4 for hardback fiction, other prices individually marked

Future 2025 Dates: 20, 21 June; 26, 27 September; 21, 22 November



Book Trade Charity

The Book Trade Charity (BTCS)

The Book Trade Charity (BTCS), The Book Centre, The Retreat, Kings Langley, West Midlands, WD4 8LT

Welcome!

Year 6 Author Visit



Year 6 recently had a fabulous virtual visit from the author Sufiya Ahmed. Sufiya told us about her favourite authors and books when she was a



child, what work she did before she became an author and about the books she has written. She then read aloud a chapter from her latest book (Rosie Raja: Undercover Code - breaker) and we had a brief Questions and Answers with her. A very enjoyable event indeed!

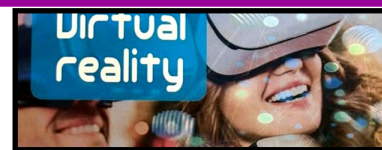


Book Week 3—7 March

World Book Day will soon be upon us! As with every year, we will be having lots of booky-related fun during the week of 3-7 March—so watch out for further details nearer the time.



North Watford Library Half Term Events



Virtual Reality: Wednesday 19th February, 10.30am-12.00pm.

Explore the sights and sounds of a brand new world. Fun for the whole family. Drop in event. Donations welcome.

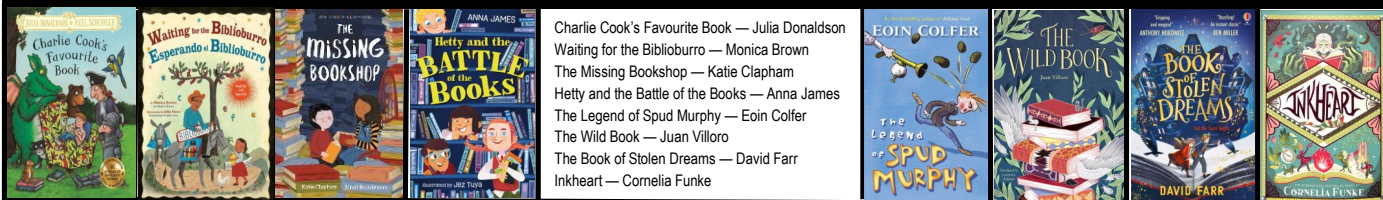


The Great Big Dinosaur Show with Mole and Gecko: Friday 21st February, 10.30-11.30am.

Tickets £5 each ([click here](#)).

Join poet Simon Mole and musician Gecko for a family show full of poems, raps and songs about all your favourite prehistoric protagonists (and some you haven't heard of yet!). Expect some spine-tinglingly funny scares and get your groove on to some Jurassic Classics! The show is inspired by Simon Mole's 4th book, *A First Book of Dinosaurs*.

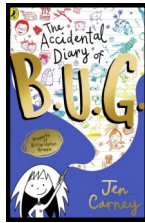
Great Reads : Books About Books!



Top Book (Y3&4)

The Accidental Diary of B.U.G.

Author: Jen Carney
Age: 7+



There is a new girl at Billie's school, and Billie takes it upon herself to show her around, teach her the Biscuit Laws, and remind her that yes, two women can get married (after all, Billie's mums' wedding is the event of the year).

But then suspicion sets in.

The new girl seems very close to Billie's best friend Layla. And doesn't she know a little too much about the latest big school heist - the theft of Mrs Robinson's purse... ? A fun filled and amusing story that will be enjoyed by many.

Top Non-Fiction

Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor

Author: Patricia Valdez
Age: 6+



Back in the days of long skirts and afternoon teas, young Joan Procter entertained the most unusual party guests: slithery and scaly ones, who turned over teacups and crawled past the crumpets. While other girls played with dolls, Joan preferred the company of reptiles. She carried her favourite lizard with her everywhere - she even brought a crocodile to school!

When Joan grew older, she became the Curator of Reptiles at the Natural History Museum. She went on to design the Reptile House at the London Zoo, including a home for the rumoured-to-be vicious komodo dragons. There, just like when she was a little children's tea parties - with her komodo dragon as the guest of honour.

Top Author

Swapna Haddow



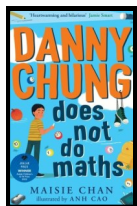
Londoner Swapna Haddow is the award-winning children's author of the *Dave Pigeon* series. She loves to write about boisterous animals that cause mayhem and is working to make sure mean cats, grizzly bears and big-hearted little rabbits find their place on the bookshelves. Friendship and humour are always at the heart of what Swapna loves to write. Swapna lives in New Zealand with her husband, son and their dog, Archie.

<https://swapnahaddow.co.uk/>

Top Book (Y5&6)

Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths

Author: Maisie Chan
Age: 9+



Eleven-year-old Danny Chung loves drawing more than anything - certainly more than maths, which, according to his dad and everyone else, is what he is 'supposed' to be good at.

He also loves having his own room where he can draw in peace, so his life is turned upside down when a surprise that he's been promised turns out to be his little, wrinkly, ex-maths-champion grandmother from China. What's worse, Nai Nai has to share his room, AND she takes the top bunk!

Nai Nai can't speak a word of English, which doesn't make things easy for Danny when he is charged with looking after her during the school holidays. Babysitting Nai Nai is NOT what he wants to be doing!

Before long though it becomes clear to Danny that there is more to Nai Nai than meets the eye, and that they have more in common than he thought possible.

Top Poem

THE MOON SPEAKS

*I, the moon,
would like it known - I
never follow people home. I
simply do not have the time. And
neither do I ever shine. For what you
often see at night is me reflecting solar
light. And I'm not cheese! No, none of
these: no mozzarellas, cheddars, bries, all
you'll find here - if you please - are my
dusty, empty seas. And cows do not
jump over me. Now that is simply
lunacy! You used to come and
visit me. Oh do return,
I'm lonely, see.*

© James Carter

Year 6 Visit North Watford Library



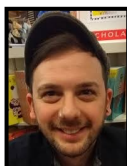
Year 6 recently took a walk to North Watford Library. The children took part

in discussions about authors and genres and they had the opportunity to look at some of the books they talked about. We love a bit of 'book talk'!



Top Illustrator

Alex T. Smith



Alex T. Smith has drawn and written stories since he could hold a pencil. After considering several career options (space traveller, cake maker, professional rabbit), Alex decided to train to do the job he'd wanted to do since he was five - an illustrator specializing in the world of children's books. He is the author and illustrator of many books (see weblink below). He lives with and under the constant 'supervision' of his canine companions in Warwickshire.

<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/author/2993/Alex-T-Smith.html>

A Classic Read

Stuart Little

Author: E.B. White
Age: 8+



This story follows the adventures of a small mouse in the large world of New York.

Top Picture Book

Title: Walk With a Wolf
Author: Janni Howker
Age: 6+



Once wolves roamed nearly all the lands of the northern hemisphere. But they have been hunted and killed by humans for centuries. Today they are nearly extinct or very rare in places where lots of people live, including Europe and much of North America. Most wolves now live in the far north of the world - in Alaska, Siberia, and parts of Canada such as the Yukon Territory, where this story is set.

Pupils — Share Your Recommendations!

Writing book reviews helps other readers decide if they want to read the book for themselves.



Why not share a review of a book you've recently read and tell others what you thought of it?

What to do with your reviews:

1. You can email your reviews to:

library@parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk

or

2. Leave a review in google classroom

or

3. Write a review or give stars out of 5 (5 being fantastic!) on a sticky note and put it up in your classroom reading area or the library.

or

4. Log on to Librosoft library system and add your review there. Login details are on the wall by the library computers.

We will add some of the reviews here in Reading News and display the rest in the library and in your classroom.

Reviews usually include the following information:

- Title
- Author
- Illustrator (if any)
- Is it Fiction, Non-Fiction, Picture Book, Poetry, Graphic Novel, etc?
- Recommended age
- Brief summary of the book (but not giving away any spoilers or endings!)
- Main character(s)
- Strengths and weaknesses of the book
- A rating (sometimes stars) or recommendation.

Think about...

- The language and vocabulary used.
- If there are illustrations or photos, what are they like and how do they complement the book?
- What type of genre or subject is it about (humour, mysteries, animals, etc)?

Contact Us

Problems or questions about your library books? Want advice about reading choices?

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, teachers, 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/>

Family Library Drop-Ins

Join us again for our lovely family library drop-ins. All welcome — children, siblings, parents/carers, grandparents, aunts, uncles—everyone invited! We also have a small selection of books for adults to borrow.

Browse, borrow, read, relax.

Every Monday after school.



Your Favourites?

If you would like to recommend a favourite book, author, illustrator, magazine or reading website, just email us at library@parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk



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.

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

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

We love reading!

Some new books in our library...

