



Parkgate Juniors Reading News

October 2025 / # 19

Family Library Drop-Ins



Thank you to all those who have been coming along to our family library drop-ins last term. It's always lovely to see you! We had a special spooky themed session just before half term. We had great fun creating creepy biscuits and decorating Halloween bookmarks.



Welcome!

New Library Assistants

Mrs Parr is delighted to be working with our new library assistants for this year. They have made excellent progress so far and already have achieved their Bronze level certificate. Well done to Scarlett, Fianna, Chinwem, Hanzalah, Cecilia and Abeeha. Photo to come shortly!

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

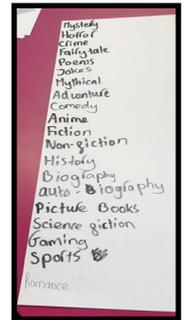
Parkgate Juniors Book Sale

We enjoyed another very successful pre-loved book sale at the end of last term. Over 200 books went home with children—which makes us all very happy! Look out for our next one coming soon.



Year 6 Library Visits

Year 6 visited North Watford library last term. We learned what the library can offer as we prepare to move up to secondary school, both in terms of books and other resources and a quiet, safe study space. We also had great fun learning more about different genres to help us expand our reading choices.



Just look at all the genres one group wrote down - well done!



Book Trade Charity – Book Sales

Thousands of brand new children's and adult's books. See <https://btbs.org/> for more info.

Dates:

- ◆ Friday 21st November, 12-5pm
- ◆ Saturday 22nd November, 10am-2pm
- ◆ Monday 24th—Friday 28th November, 10am-2pm

Location:

- ◆ The Foyle Centre (The Retreat), Kings Langley, WD4 8LT.



Great Reads : Spooky Books!

● = dyslexia-friendly



The Sand Man — Shoo Raynor
 The Vampire of Croglin — Terry Deary
 Still Water — Chris Priestley
 Pip and the Wood Witch Curse — Chris Mould
 The Ghost Garden — Emma Carroll
 The Beast and the Bethany — Jack Meggitt-Phillips
 Puffin Book of Ghosts and Ghouls — Gene Kemp
 The Haunting of Aveline Jones — Phil Hickes



Top Book (Y3&4)

Dungeon Runners

Author: Kieran Larwood
Age: 7+



Kit has dreamed of being a Dungeon Runner all his life, although being a gnorf (part gnome, part dwarf) means he's much smaller than the other competitors.

But when a space opens up for a new team in the Dungeon Running League, Kit doesn't want to miss this chance to try out! With his new friends Sandy and Thorn, they're ready to take on anything - mazes, puzzles, monsters, treasure and most of all adventure!

Are you ready for the games to begin?
Welcome to the Dungeon!

Top Book (Y5&6)

The Wrong Shoes

Author: Tom Percival
Age: 9+

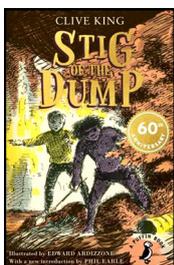


Will has the wrong shoes - he's always known it but doesn't know how to change it. Navigating the difficulties of home and school when you feel you stick out is tough, but finding confidence with the help and empathy of friends can be all you need to see the way. Highly readable with a sensitively drawn main character

A Classic Read

Stig of the Dump

Author: Clive King
Age: 8+



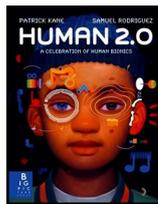
Barney is a solitary boy, given to wandering off by himself. One day he is lying on the edge of a disused chalk-pit when it gives way and he lands in a sort of cave. Here he meets 'somebody with a lot of shaggy hair and two bright black eyes' wearing a rabbit skin and speaking in grunts. He names him Stig.

Of course nobody believes Barney when he tells his family all about Stig, but for Barney cave-man Stig is totally real. They become great friends, learning each others ways and embarking on a series of unforgettable adventures.

Top Non-Fiction

Human 2.0

Author: Patrick Kane
Age: 8-12



This book celebrates medical engineering, and offers a glimpse of what the future might hold for humanity. Bold illustrations & information on all things bionic including the history and a selection of people living with bionics.

Top Poem

Thought Machine

Sometimes my thought machine makes thought like

THAT WENT WELL or YOU'RE DOING GREAT or
YOU'VE GOT THIS

but sometimes it makes thoughts like

THAT WAS TERRIBLE or HOW EMBARRASSING or
WHAT A MESS

When that happens, I dance. Write. Run. Sing.
Listen to music. Talk, Swim.
I think of ONE thing I like about myself

NICE EARLOBES or GREAT DANCING or EXCELLENT
JOKES

and I set about my day.
And somehow, that pesky little thought machine
tends to think more positive things, like

THIS IS GOING WELL, YOU'RE DOING GREAT —
YOU'VE GOT THIS!

And I have.

© Laura Mucha

Top Picture Book

Title: The King Who Banned the Dark

Author: Emily Haworth-Booth
Age: 6+



A king bans the dark from his kingdom, but his citizens revolt against him when they realise that they do not want to live in perpetual daylight.

This deceptively simple story addresses issues of childhood fears, power & control through striking illustrations and very clever writing.

Summer Reading Challenge

Before the summer break, staff from North Watford library visited us to tell us



about the Summer Reading Challenge. Congratulations to all who completed it — those children received a school certificate and wee reward in recognition of their achievements.

Top Author

Maisie Chan

Maisie Chan is an award-winning children's author who lives in Glasgow with her family and dog. Her debut novel was *Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths* and her latest book is *Nate Yu's Blast from the Past*. In between those she has written several other books, including her series for younger children, *Tiger Warrior* and also contributed to anthologies



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

Top Website

Books for Topics



A wealth of information on amazing books for you to read! Booklists by topic and age, New Book recommendations, Seasonal Reads, Reading for Pleasure, Printable Year Group Lists (books recommended for you depending on what year group you're in) and so much more. For really useful reading suggestions on books similar to your favourite author, try their 'Branching Out' booklists.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com>

Top Illustrator

Steven Lenton



Steven hails from Cheshire where he spent many a school holiday working in the family pom-pom factory, packing poms and designing new products.

He is an award-winning illustrator but has also written books.

Amongst his book illustrations are: *Head Kid* by David Baddiel, *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* adapted by Peter Bently, *The Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam* series by Tracey Corderoy, Frank Cottrell-Boyce's fiction titles and Steven Butler's *The Nothing To See Here Hotel* series.

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

We said 'goodbye' to our library assistants for 2024-25 with a farewell party



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 = 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 or ask Mrs Parr.

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:

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

Family Library Drop-Ins

Every Monday after school

Come and join us in our beautiful library!

Children (including brothers and sisters), parents, grandparents, carers - all very welcome.

We also have a small selection of adult 'Quick Read' books for the grown-ups.

Browse, borrow, read and relax. And even colour in a bookmark or two!

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.

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 or ask Mrs Parr.

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.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/

READING ROCKS

Some new books in our library...

