



St. Andrew's Reading News



St. Andrew's Reading News Issue 2 – Summer 2019

Welcome to the second issue of the St. Andrew's Reading News, a termly newsletter to celebrate all that is happening to foster our children's growth as lifelong readers and promote a love of reading within our school community at St. Andrew's.

This year, the theme of the Summer Reading Challenge is 'Space Chase' and we are hoping for a St. Andrew's record in the number of children taking part! Please see below for further information about how to take part.

Our collaboration with our Patron of Reading & Illustration, Sarah McIntyre, has really taken off this term and this edition includes the first of the 'insights' that she has generously agreed to write for inclusion in each newsletter.

Happy Summer Reading!

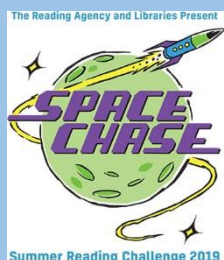
Claire Williams, Reading Lead

'Space Race' Summer Reading Challenge!

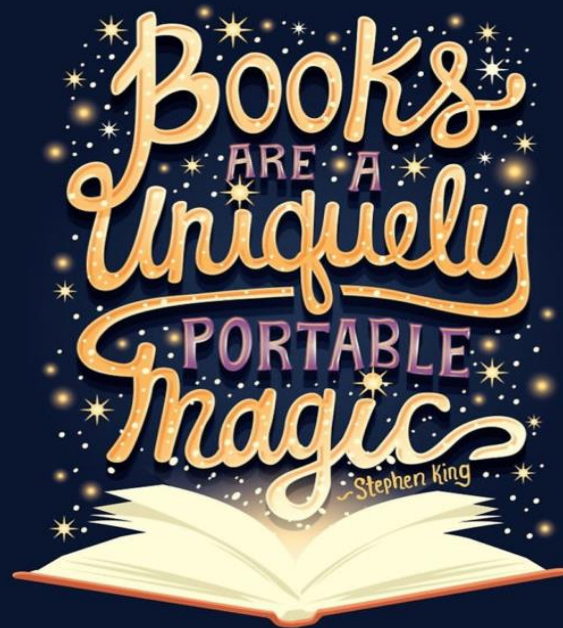
We would like to encourage the children to take part in this year's 'Space Race'-themed Summer Reading Challenge, the country's biggest reading challenge for children run by The Reading Agency in partnership with the public library network.

Commonly known as the 'Summer Slide', children's reading can 'dip' during the summer holidays if they don't have regular access to books or encouragement to read for pleasure. The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to get to the library to keep up their reading skills and confidence.

Children can read whatever they like – fiction, non-fiction, picturebooks, joke books – just as long as they read six books borrowed from the library. They will receive a special reward each time they finish a book and there will be a certificate for every child that completes the challenge.



The Summer Reading Challenge has now been launched at participating public libraries, including Halstead Library – sign up now **for free!**



Huge Thanks to SASHA!

Huge thanks to SASHA for contributing £1500 to new books over the course of this academic year. The money has been used to help fund our new non-fiction collections for half-termly topics in each class as well as whole-class sets of poetry books, ensuring that our children are reading a wide range of high quality texts.

Department for Education Film Reading at St. Andrew's!

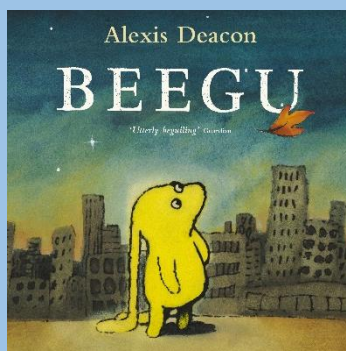
Earlier this half term, the Department for Education sent a film crew to St. Andrew's to spend some time filming independent reading in Year 5 for their 'Teach Effect' film series. The children were such a credit to St. Andrew's, showing such impressive engagement and stamina. It was so wonderful to see the children choosing to read such a wide range of texts and discussing what they were reading with such enthusiasm.



Thank you to everyone that supported this year's Year 5 and 6 production of 'Matilda' – we hope you enjoyed being transported into Matilda's world with us!

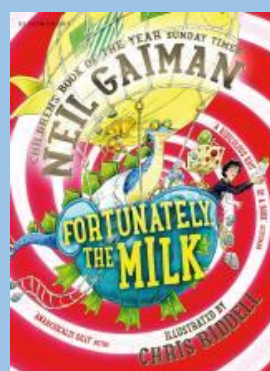
Top Texts!

In line with the 'Space Chase' theme of the Summer Reading Challenge 2019, this edition's 'Top Texts' are guaranteed to transport you to infinity and beyond!



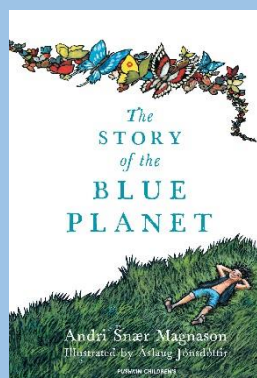
Beegu – a heart-warming story of friendship follows when a little creature from another world somehow gets lost on Earth.

Recommended for: EY/KS1



Fortunately the Milk – comically captured in illustrations by Chris Riddell, the tales of a father becoming lost in space and time when he goes out to buy some milk ...

Recommended for: LKS2



The Story of the Blue Planet – translated from Icelandic, this is the extraordinary adventure of life with no adults on a beautiful blue planet, until a rocket crash lands on the beach ...

Recommended for: UKS2



The Skies Above My Eyes – a highly engaging concertina book that will whisk you up into the air, through the atmosphere and way out into space!

Recommended for: KS1/KS2

CLPE Core Booklist

Books carefully chosen by age group for their potential to support children's development as readers and provide positive, memorable experiences of reading. It's free to join!

<https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks>



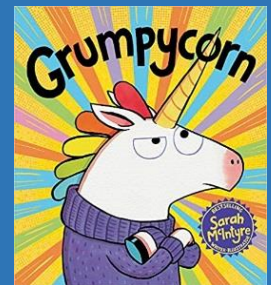
Sarah McIntyre in the Spotlight!

Hello, St. Andrew's! Thank you so much for inviting me to be your Patron of Reading & Illustration! I'd turned down other schools just because my job keeps me very busy, but I was so impressed by the enthusiasm and creativity of your teacher Miss Williams that I knew this could be an amazing partnership. I love the way she gets everyone

excited about reading and thinks up remarkable projects based on the books you've all read! In upcoming newsletters, I hope to give you little insights into what makes books amazing, how I make them, and what a privilege it is to make the stories you take to your hearts.

Let me start with **illustration**: I run a campaign called 'Pictures Mean Business' that highlights the importance of artwork in books, and encourages people to support illustrators so we can all see more top-notch illustration in our books. The way I ask for people to support illustrators is easy ... simply mention their names!

I know how long it can take to illustrate a book: *Grumpycorn* took me one hour to write, about five months to illustrate, since the pictures tell so much of the story. The words are very important but a 'picture' book wouldn't be a picturebook without the skill of the illustrator. Sometimes parents want to wean children off books with pictures, but I think that's not helpful: children need to develop their visual literacy, and also learn to love reading, so they can spend their lifetime enjoying



books. And adults read books with pictures, too; think about all the magazines and social media posts you enjoy that grab your attention because of the photos, cartoons or videos. In a world bombarding us with images, we need to be smart at knowing how to interpret these images and read them, as well as knowing how to read words.

Why is it important to mention illustrators' names? That's because illustrators rely on people following their work to get more work. And if there's upcoming talent, these new artists need to make a name for themselves in the industry and among readers. Children who are pre-literate won't be browsing the library bookshelf for, say, Julia Donaldson's words; they'll be looking for Alex Scheffler's drawings of the Gruffalo, and they may even realise other books he's drawn, based on his style. And when children realise illustrators are real people, they get excited about drawing and making and storytelling. If I put a blank piece of paper in front of a child and ask them to write a story, they often panic. But if I lead them through designing a character who looks back off the page at them, they easily come up with ideas about its favourite food, how it dresses, where it lives, what it might want, and what it might do to get what it wants ... the makings of a story! Pictures are absolutely vital, and so are the people who make them,



So introduce your children to new illustrators by name, so they can have new heroes to look out for, and perhaps they'll study and copy their artwork to learn how it's done. I spent a lot of time copying Archie comics as a child, and redrawing

Maurice Sendak pictures, and that gave me a lot of confidence that I could make pictures and stories of my own. If you look at my website, I have a lot of free tutorials about how to draw different characters from my books. Feel free to browse and download them!

www.jabberworks.co.uk

And you can find out more about the Pictures Mean Business Campaign here:

www.picturesmeanbusiness.com

Inspired to Write!

This term, each class had the opportunity to choose one of Sarah's books to have at the heart of their learning for a fortnight. From sulky Grumpycorns to manky monsters and sarcastic seaweed, there was certainly laughter ringing through the school as the children enjoyed exploring the humour of the characters together. The animated discussion that we heard in the corridors and on the playground showed how enthused the children were by these books – and it is always wonderful to hear children from different classes choosing to share their learning with each other.

In addition, these books inspired some really engaging, imaginative writing across the school, which is now being showcased on our whole-school writing display in the corridor outside Year 5 – do have a read! I was lucky to be able to pop in to see each class during 'Big Write' and there really was a palpable energy and excitement about writing.

We're already looking forward to the publication of *Kevin's Great Escape* by Sarah and Philip Reeve in September.



'If I Were a Book' Competition

It was great to have so many entries for our competition this half term, inspired by *If I Were a Book* by Jose Jorge and Andre Letria, to celebrate the magic and wonder of books!

Having judged the competition, Sarah has filmed her response to the children's entries, which can be viewed on the 'Reading News' section of our website along with the winning entries. She has also created the most beautiful 'If I Were a Book' book especially for St. Andrew's!



Winners:

- EY – Anya
- Y1 – Maxim
- Y2 – Emily
- Y3 – Ava M
- Y4 – Anna
- Y5 – Chay & Abigail
- Y6 – Holli

Honourable Mentions:

- EY – Hazel
- Y1 – Brooke
- Y2 – Eddie
- Y3 – Connie
- Y4 – Ruby
- Y5 – Nathan
- Y6 – Luca