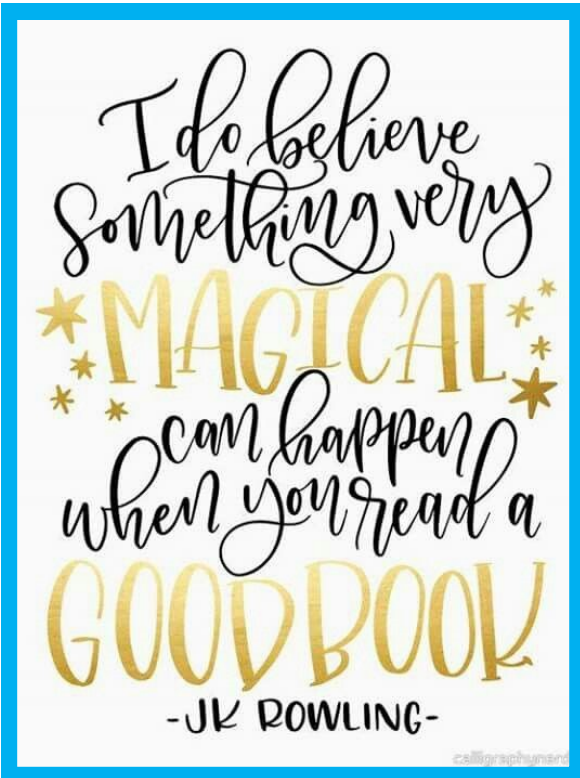




# Reading Newsletter

Issue 3  
May 2021



Welcome back!

Can you believe we are on our third issue of the reading newsletter? I hope that so far, it has opened your eyes to a range of new authors and books and given you some top tips about reading.

I completely agree with J.K.Rowling's quote here—getting lost in a good book is one of my favourite things to do. I love to sit in my reading chair with a cup of tea and escape for an hour!

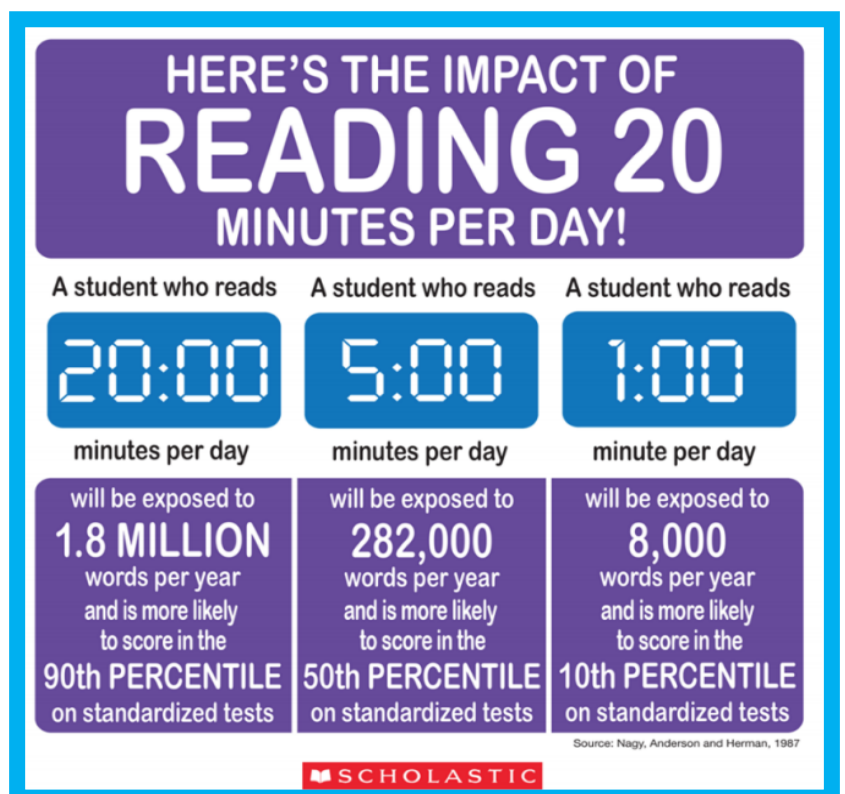
As mentioned in the last issue, this month is National Share-a-Story month. The theme is Myths, Magic and Mayhem. My reading challenge for you this month is to share a story with somebody that has the theme of Myths Magic or Mayhem. Examples of books can be found here: [National Share-a-Story Month | Federation of Children's Book Groups \(fcbg.org.uk\)](https://www.fcbg.org.uk) Have a look at the competition at the end of this month's newsletter!

Read well,  
Miss C

## Why is reading for pleasure important?

Reading for pleasure is by far the greatest influence in a child's academic achievement: more so than wealth or social status. Reading for pleasure sparks growing imaginations, stimulates critical thinking and helps to develop empathy, meaning that it gives children the very skills they need to succeed at school, at work and in life. In addition, it enables children to develop their vocabulary banks; the infographic shows the impact of reading for just 20 minutes a day!

It is important to remember that reading for pleasure is different to being able to read!



# Author of the Month

## CLARE HELEN WELSH



To the children and staff of Kibworth Primary School,

What an honour it is to be invited to write a little something for your school newsletter.

No doubt things have been strange for you recently due to the Corona Virus pandemic, but I hope that things are as calm and as easy as possible.

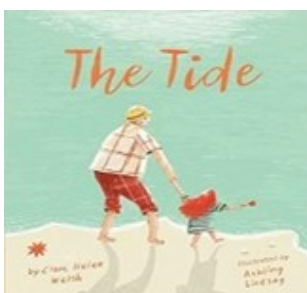
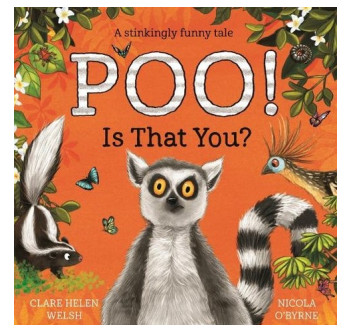
Despite the ups and downs of 2020 and the start of 2021, one thing we can all do and be... is kind to each other. Lots of the books I write are about kindness. Sometimes I write funny books and sometimes I write about more serious issues, but kindness is a theme in all of them. One of my favourite quotes is 'Kindness is

*free - sprinkle it everywhere!*

I wish you all a fantastic final few weeks at school. Remember your imaginations are like muscles - they improve the more you use them! So whether you enjoy drawing, writing, painting, sports or something else, persevere if it makes you happy. Who knows where it'll lead you in life? You might even make a guest appearance on a school newsletter one day!

With love and kindness,

Clare xx

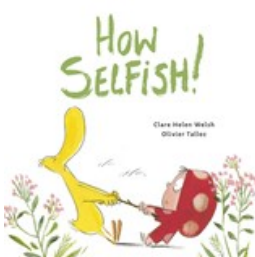


### The Tide (illustrated by Ashling Lindsay)

*Grandad's memories are like the tide. Sometimes near and full of life, other times far away and distant. Despite the challenges one thing is for certain - the girl loves her Grandad and her Grandad loves her. A story to help families live well with dementia.*

### The Perfect Shelter (illustrated by Asa Gilland)

A beautiful, powerful and uplifting story, exploring the complicated emotions we feel when someone we love is diagnosed with a serious illness and about the importance of seeking emotional shelter during difficult times.

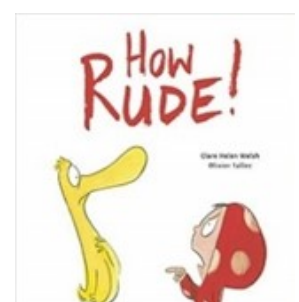


### How Rude and How Selfish (illustrated by Olivier Tallec)

Dot and Duck are two friends with a lot to learn. These stories initiate conversations about sharing, solving problems and how to play nicely with friends.

They are also great

fun to act out and read aloud!



# Recommended Read

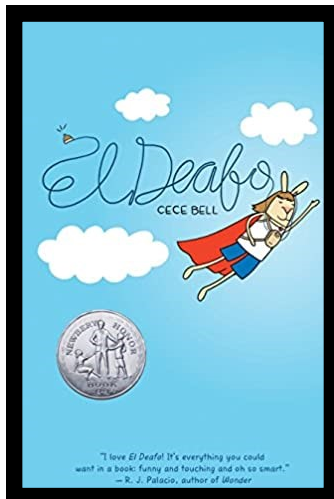
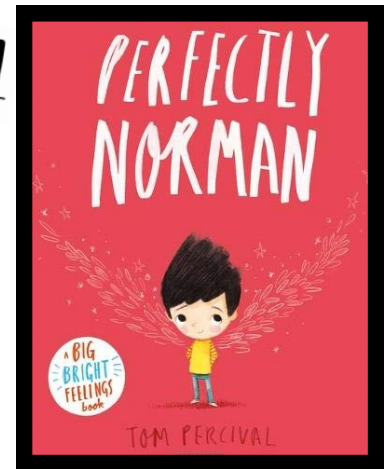
## Perfectly Norman—Tom Percival

EYFS/KS1

Norman had always been perfectly normal... until the day he grew a pair of wings!

Norman loves his new wings, he has the most fun **ever** with them. But he wonders what everyone else will think and hides them away in a big coat. But hiding the thing that makes you different can be tricky and upsetting. How can Norman every truly be himself?

Tom has written a range of fantastic books such as 'Ruby finds a Wor-ry'; 'Meesha makes friends' and 'The Invisible'.



## El Deafo—Cece Bell

This book is actually a graphic novel (and yes, comic books do count as reading books!). It documents Cece Bell's hearing loss at a young age and her experiences. She is given an awkward hearing aid which allows her to hear things—sometimes things she shouldn't- but also isolates her from her class mates. She really wants to fit in and find a **true** friend and feel like she belongs in the world.

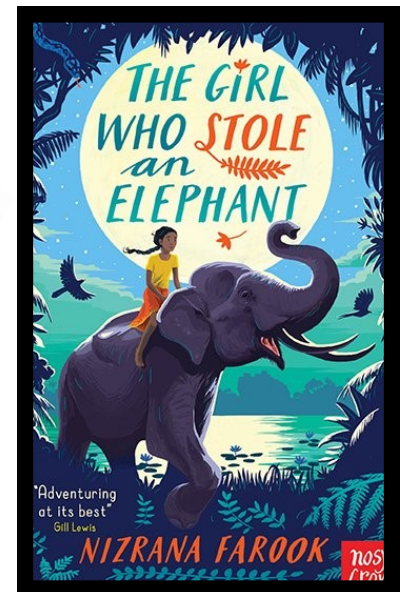
LKS2

## The Girl Who Stole an Elephant—Nizrana Farook

This book has come as recommended by Miss Parrott!

Chaya, a no-nonsense, outspoken here, leads her friends, and a gorgeous elephant, on a noisy, fraught journey through the jungle where revolution is stirring and leeches are lurking. Will stealing the queen's jewels be the beginning or the end of everything for the intrepid gang?

Miss Parrott says: 'This is a gloriously fast-paced adventure through the jungle with many twists and turns along the way as Chaya tries to save her friends, even if it means breaking a few laws!'



UKS2

Have you ever found a book that you just can't put down? Have you recently read a book that you just **have** to tell everybody about? Then, I need your help!

I am looking for some of our fantastic readers to write their own book reviews to recommend some books to the rest of the school (children and teachers alike).

Just ask your teacher for a book review slip and write away- you never know, it could be the first time you see some of your own writing published! I can't wait to hear your recommendations.



# TOP TIPS FOR KIDS

## What can I read?

Reading doesn't have to just be of fiction books. Whilst these books offer a range of excellent vocabulary and ideas for your own writing, reading can take place in lots of different ways.

## Magazines

Magazines are great if you are interested in a particular subject; they are themed and also have fun content such as quizzes and word searches. In addition, they help you to learn lots about a certain subject.

The National Geographic Kids is a great magazine to try if you love animals!



## News



There are lots of places where you can read about child-friendly news. Reading the news is great to keep you up to date with what is happening in the world. Sometimes, the news may be online.

*First News* and *Reach Out Reporter* are a good place to start.

## captions

As mentioned in our first issue, turn the captions on of your favourite TV programme or movie and you can read as well as watching—this could turn you into an ace at reciting your favourite shows too!

## Recipes

Love baking or cooking? Reading and following recipes is another form of reading! Great news for you, even better news for you belly!

## Programmes

Tigers, Riders or Foxes fan? Enjoy cheering your favourite team along (when we are allowed to)? Next time you watch a live sports event, why not buy a programme for the fixture and learn some more about the two teams playing.

If you're more into theatre, you can also buy a programme about the show you are watching and learn some more about the story behind it and the actors involved.



# TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) offers these 7 Top Tips to support reading at home.

**1** Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

**2** Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

**3** Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

**4** Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

**5** Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

**6** Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

**7** Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'



# CREATE YOUR OWN MYTHICAL BEAST

Myths and legends are full of fascinating creatures such as griffins, phoenix and unicorns. Can you use your imagination to create a mythical beast we have yet to meet?

**DEADLINE TO ENTER:**

**1 JUNE 2021!**

**IMAGES/PHOTOS CAN BE SENT TO**

**[NSSM@FCBG.ORG.UK](mailto:NSSM@FCBG.ORG.UK)**

**5-8, 9-12, 13+ AGE CATEGORIES**

# COMPETITION RULES:

1. There are 3 age categories- please state your age clearly on your illustration.
2. The illustration must be submitted electronically to [nssm:fcbg.org.uk](mailto:nssm:fcbg.org.uk)
3. The image must be clear
4. Entries must be submitted by 12 noon on the 1st June 2021
5. Entries will be shortlisted by FCBG judges and final winners will be chosen by our guest judge.
6. Winners will be contacted and prizes sent by end of June 2021.