

# Reading Newsletter

Issue 4  
June 2021

Hello everybody!

Welcome back to the final reading newsletter for this academic year!

This month, I have been reading 'The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh' by Helen Rutter. Helen is a comedian who writes about an 11-year-old boy, Billy Plimpton, whose dream is to become a stand-up comedian; however, he has a stammer which means speaking aloud can be quite difficult. I am trying to read books that teach me about other people's ways of life—whether they have a disability, come from another country or defy stereotypes, it is always good to open your mind to stories that make you think. As a result, all of my reading recommendations this month allow you to learn about others ways of life.

Miss C :)

## Author of the Month



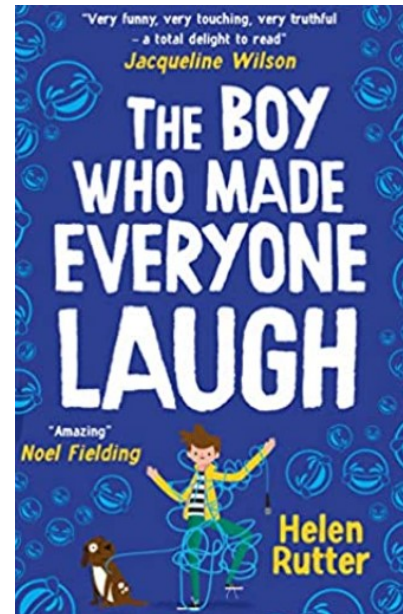
Hello everyone at Kibworth Primary!

All I remember ever wanting to do as a child was to be able to run the wrong way up a slide. And when I finally managed that, at the age of seven and three-quarters, my dream was to be a writer.

When I was eight years old I wrote my first book. I wish now that I had saved my finished novella because I can barely remember what it was about. It seemed like a good idea at the time to trade it in for two stickers and a couple of marbles. I have been an aspiring children's writer ever since.

I am perhaps best known for my Dave Pigeon series: Dave and his sidekick Skipper are on the quest to defeat the world's most evil cat!

Happy reading,  
Swapna Haddow



# Swapna Haddow's Writing Top Tips!

## I SpY

Always be on the look out for story ideas. A newspaper headline, a visit to a gallery, walking the dog, a swing across the monkey bars - inspiration is everywhere.

## Carry a notebook

A notebook is the perfect place to jot down ideas. Keep it on you at all times - inspiration can strike at any moment.

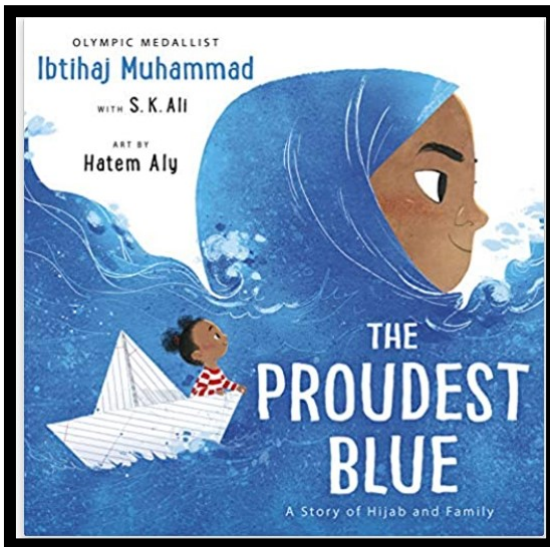
## Read, read, read!

With every book you read, ask questions. What was your favourite bit? And what didn't you enjoy so much? These questions will help you work out what you want in your own stories.

## Enjoy

The most important thing is to have fun and enjoy creating your masterpiece. Remember to share your stories and ideas with friends and fellow writers.

# Recommended Read



EYFS/KS1

## The Proudest Blue—Ibtihaj Muhammad

It's Faizah's first day of school, and her older sister Asiya's first day of wearing hijab - made of a beautiful blue fabric. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful. In the face of hurtful, confusing words, will Faizah find new ways to be strong?

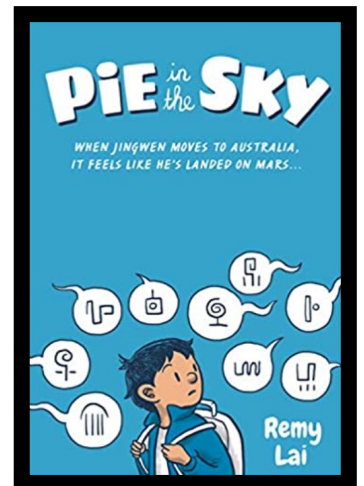
This is an uplifting, universal story of new experiences, the unbreakable bond shared by siblings and of being proud of who you are, from Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad.

LKS2

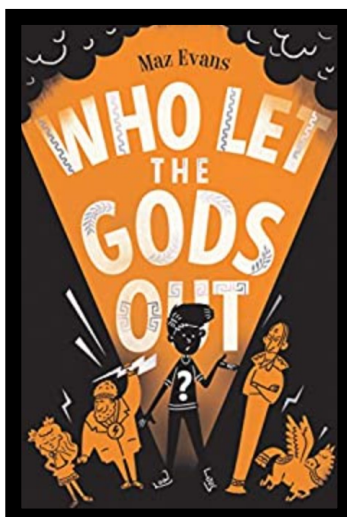
## Pie in the Sky—Remy Lai

Jingwen and his family move to Australia and he feels like he has landed on Mars! He finds school incredibly difficult: making friends is impossible because he cannot speak English! Even worse, his annoying little brother, Yanghao is learning English much faster than he is.

To distract himself from the loneliness, Jingwen dreams of making all of the cakes his father had on the menu in his bakery before he unexpectedly passed away. However, their mother had one rule- no using the oven while she is at work!



LKS2



## Who Let the Gods Out? - Maz Evans

I read this book not too long ago and thoroughly enjoyed it! Elliot's mum is ill and their home is under threat. Elliot spends most of his free time caring for his mum—he is a young carer. However, when a shooting star—Virgo, a Zodiac on a mission- crashes to earth, Elliot's life changes forever.

Follow Elliot and Virgo on their journey to defeat the wicked death daemon Thanatos with the help of Zeus and his crew. Can they save the world as well as solve Elliot's problems?

# TOP TIPS FOR KIDS

In April, I shared the reading for pleasure lines that can be found in the library. These help you to choose books that are similar to your favourite author. Since then, Mr E the Reader Teacher has released **50(!)** of these for a variety of books and authors called '#bookmatch'. Each #bookmatch has 10 similar books- that's 500 books to choose from! You can access them by searching in Google: #bookmatch the reader teacher. Below are a couple of examples:

## #BOOKMATCH

© The Reader Teacher

Books for fans of David Baddiel



**IF YOU LIKE DAVID BADDIEL, READ THESE**

For more #BookMatch & similar suggested reads, visit [TheReaderTeacher.com](http://TheReaderTeacher.com)

## #BOOKMATCH

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Books for fans of Christopher Edge



**IF YOU LIKE CHRISTOPHER EDGE, READ THESE**

For more #BookMatch & similar suggested reads, visit [TheReaderTeacher.com](http://TheReaderTeacher.com)

# TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

*Supporting your child reading at home. Ideas from a BBC article written by Tara Parker, Senior Early Years Programme Manager at the National Literacy Trust.*



## 1. Take breaks while reading

Reading and sharing books doesn't have to be a lengthy process: any time talking about or sharing books is beneficial! Reading for just a couple of minutes at a time is better than not reading at all. Reading can be mentally draining for children, particularly younger children, so take breaks and slowly build mental stamina.

## 2. When is reading happening?

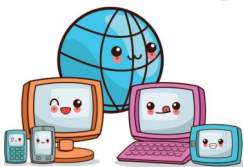
Children prefer to read at different times of the day. Some love to share a story at bedtime snuggled up; however, for others they are just too exhausted at this time. Is it better for your child to read just after dinner, or in the morning after breakfast when they have more energy?

## 3. Encourage your child to follow their interests

Let your children choose the books they read. You can do this by keeping books on a shelf that they have easy access to, or, for a more controlled choice, offer a selection of 2 or 3 books for them to choose from. Let them read their favourite book or genre of reading materials (such as football magazines!) over and over again. This repetition develops an understanding of language structure early on.



## 4. Use technology together



Technology is everywhere nowadays and it can be a great hinderance to reading for pleasure. However, you can use it to your child's advantage by engaging them in reading activities with you. They could tell a story using pictures on your phone; watch lyric videos or their favourite YouTuber with the caption on and use apps to read e-books or listen to audiobooks.

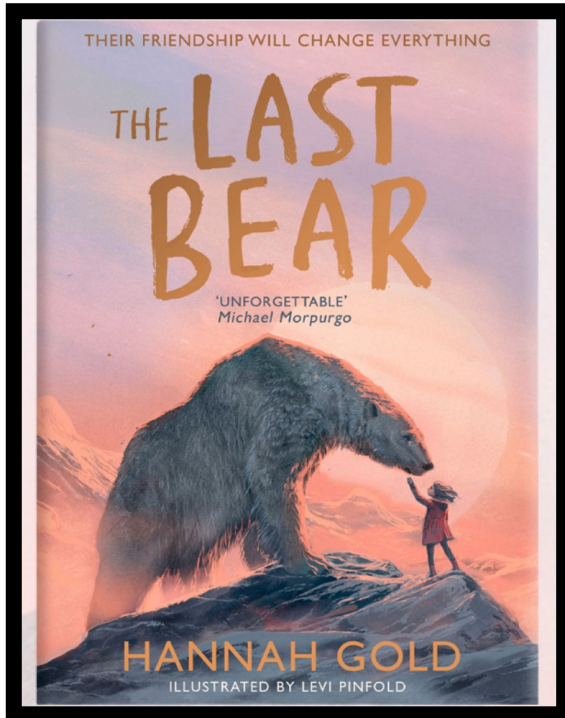
## 5. Share stories using the pictures instead of the words

For younger children and those who find reading difficult, pictures are a great way of supporting reading. They are enjoyable to look at, capture attention and help to make sense of what is being read. Try telling a story using the pictures rather than the words: this can develop both inference and prediction but all can create a whole new and exciting story!

## 6. Play with letters, sounds and words

Vocabulary is vital for understanding what is read! Engage children in games and activities that help them to learn new words. For older children these could be crossword puzzles, word searches or word hunts. For young children, they could make words using Play-Doh or alphabet magnets.

# Exciting Events



## An author visit to Kibworth

*Imagine making friends with a polar bear...*

There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to this remote Arctic outpost for six months.

But one endless summer night, April meets one. He is starving, lonely and a long way from home. Determined to save him, April begins the most important journey of her life...

Hannah Gold, the author of this story, is going to be visiting **Kibworth Books** on **Tuesday 22nd June** as part of Independent Bookshop Week. She will be signing and dedicating copies of *The Last Bear*.

You can pre-order your copy of *The Last Bear* in-store at Kibworth Books or via the website at <https://kibworthbooks.com/products/the-last-bear>

If you would like your copy signing and/or dedicating, please just state the child's name in the 'Note to Bookseller' box on the shopping basket page.

Deadline for orders is **4pm on Saturday 19th June**.

**NB. Kibworth Books will very kindly be donating 15% of book sales back to the school to allow for future purchases for the school library - your purchase will help to buy**

# Summer Reading Challenge

Each year, the local Libraries host a summer reading challenge.

This year, on **3rd July**, they are teaming up with WWF for a very special, nature-themed challenge that will inspire you to stand up for the planet.

Join the Wild World Heroes for the summer reading challenge in the library and online and discover how you can make a difference to the environment too.

Keep an eye on [News | Summer Reading Challenge](#) to learn more about the event.

