



# IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

# Reading Newsletter



# Welcome

Welcome to our May edition of the Reading Newsletter! I hope you enjoyed our last edition. This month's is packed with even more reading-related information. I hope you enjoy what is included, but if there is anything you want to see that isn't here yet why not drop the Academy an email and let me know what you would like to be included?

This newsletter is a chance to find out about:

- fiction
- non-fiction
- poetry
- authors and their work
- Bedrock Vocabulary
- how to help your child with their reading journey
- what's new in reading;
- local libraries
- and much more.

So, sit back, grab a cuppa and enjoy our Reading Newsletter.

As always, your support is hugely appreciated,

Mrs Chapman-Jones



# this MONTH in history

# M A Y

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p><b>1923:</b> Joseph Heller (Catch 22) born.</p>	<p><b>1903:</b> Benjamin Spock (The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care) born.</p>	<p><b>1469:</b> Niccolo Machiavelli is born.</p>	<p><b>1950:</b> William Rose Benet dies.</p>	<p><b>1818:</b> Karl Marx (The Communist Manifesto) is born.</p>	<p><b>1919:</b> L. Frank Baum (The Wonderful Wizard of Oz) dies. <b>1940:</b> John Steinbeck wins a Pulitzer for <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>.</p>	<p><b>1812:</b> Robert Browning (My Last Duchess) born. <b>1940:</b> Angela Carter (The Bloody Chamber) born.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>1880:</b> Gustave Flaubert (Madam Bovary) dies. <b>1940:</b> Peter Benchley (Jaws) is born. <b>1943:</b> Pat Barker (Union Street) is born.</p>	<p><b>1814:</b> Mansfield Park by Jane Austen published. <b>1860:</b> J. M. Barrie (Peter Pan) is born. <b>1920:</b> Richard Adams (Watership Down) born. <b>1934:</b> Alan Bennett (The History Boys) born.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>1933:</b> Barbara Taylor Bradford (The Woman in His Life) born</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>2001:</b> Douglas Adams (The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy) dies.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>1907:</b> Daphne Du Maurier (Rebecca) born.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>1997:</b> Laurie Lee (Cider with Rosie) dies.</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>1886:</b> Emily Dickinson dies. <b>1856:</b> L. Frank Baum born.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>1799:</b> Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais (The Marriage of Figaro) dies.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>1908:</b> Ian Fleming (James Bond – 007) born.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>1925:</b> Malcolm Little (The Autobiography of Malcolm X) is born.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>2000:</b> Barbara Cartland dies.</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>1859:</b> Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes) born. <b>1527:</b> Niccolo Machiavelli dies. <b>1885:</b> Victor Hugo (Les Misérables) dies.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>1906:</b> Henrik Ibsen (Hedda Gabler) dies. <b>1958:</b> Mitch Albom (Tuesdays with Morrie) born.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>1927:</b> Robert Ludlum (The Bourne Identity) born.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>1959:</b> Raymond Chandler (The Long Goodbye) dies.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>1940:</b> Maeve Binchy (Firefly Summer) born. <b>2014:</b> Maya Angelou (I know why the caged bird sings) dies.</p>
<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>1797:</b> Mary Wollstonecraft – Mary Shelley – (Frankenstein) born.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>1819:</b> Walt Whitman (Leaves of Grass) born.</p>				



# Author spotlight



## This month's author: Trudi Tweedie

This month's featured author grew up very close to the school. Trudi Tweedie was born and raised in Stockton-on-Tees; to be precise, in Hardwick. She attended Bishopsgarth School and a local college. She does, however, have a strong link with Ian Ramsey CE Academy as she is related to one of the staff! We're not telling you who though – that's up to you to find out!

Trudi studied economics at Manchester before ending up in Edinburgh, researching beer for Heineken. She later relocated to beautiful Aberdeenshire, where she now lives with her husband and two children.

*The Pure Heart*, her debut novel, won the 2018 *Times*/Chicken House Children's Fiction Competition. An extract of it is below:

**It was early evening, mid-September when the boat came to the bay. The craft cut effortlessly through the storm-crested waves, their tips crowned orange by the evening sun.**

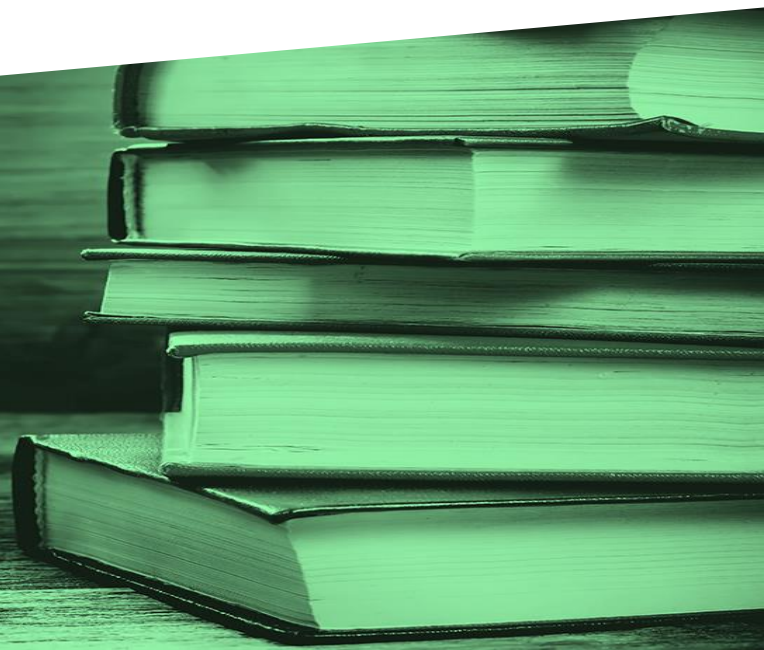
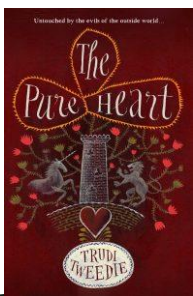
**Down below on the shore the men gathered like swarming ants, whilst we girls watched from outside our stone cottages, readily distracted from plucking the last rabble of summer puffins. Artair was down there too, part of the huddle of island men who had mustered in the shallows ready to take the measure of the sailor. But although they all wore the same black shirts and tam-o'-shanters, Artair stood out like a beacon to me, for not only would he one day be chief of these islands, but by the next full moon I would be his wife.**

### About the book:

When Iseabail is employed by a wealthy merchant to be his daughter's companion, her life changes for ever.

Transported from her remote island home to the Scottish borderlands, Iseabail is unnerved both by her precocious young charge and the house's secrets: a hidden chapel, servants who speak in a foreign tongue, a mute stableboy. And then the merchant returns with a mysterious cargo. Why has Iseabail really been summoned here? And will she ever make it back home?

A stunningly atmospheric YA Elizabethan horror set in the Scottish borderlands; Jane Eyre meets Susan Hill with a YA twist.



# Author to academy

Greetings pupils, parents and staff of Ian Ramsey CE Academy,

And thank you for inviting me into the realm of your fabulous newsletter.

I grew up in Stockton (Hardwick estate to be precise) and attended Bishopsgarth School where I was blessed with fabulous English teachers who really enthused me (the novels of John Steinbeck and WW1 poetry are still firm favourites). But I have to admit, that I didn't really get into reading until my early twenties. Now I honestly can't imagine having a book on the go- or two or three which is more typical of me.



Reading and writing are my greatest escapes; both have the ability to transport me to another world. Mainly, I am drawn to writing historical fiction (though I didn't take history at school) mixed with a generous dollop of the supernatural. Think gothic horror of the type presented by Mary Shelley, rather than the toe-curling terror of Stephen King.

And I suppose that is what led to writing *The Pure Heart*. In terms of intent, I wanted to share a lifelong fascination with the island of St Kilda, and the isolation that its people lived in, especially back in Elizabethan times. The supernatural element compliments the period nicely – where science clashed with superstition and it was hard to see where one ended and the other began. Mostly though, the book is entertainment in the form of suspense and tension building which culminates in the revelation that the girl Maria isn't the innocent that she portrays.

This was not my first attempt at writing a book, but it became my publishing debut after I entered it into The Times Children's Fiction prize in 2018. To my surprise, it won. Competitions are great in this respect – they give you a deadline and a motivation. Even if you don't win, you feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment for entering (and sometimes get useful feedback on your entry). Since winning I have had an amazing time getting to grips with the industry - the editing process, seeing my book in the window of Waterstones (a dream come true) and meeting really cool people from the world of publishing like Barry Cunningham (the guy who signed JK Rowling) and Chris Riddell (the illustrator).

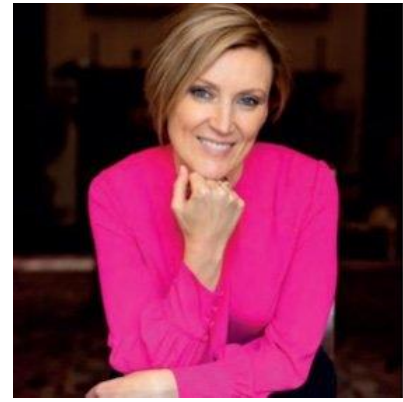
*The Pure Heart* was released just as I turned forty-nine (which I know must be completely ancient to all of you) and it just goes to show that it is never too late. I have since written another supernatural novel which will hopefully be released in 2022.



# Author to academy

My biggest tips for writing a novel (or any other type of text) are:

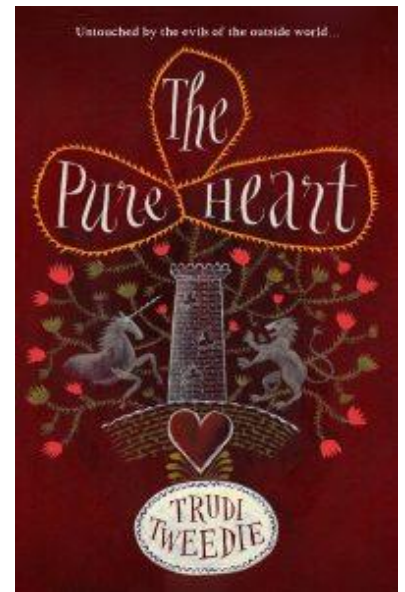
1. Read, read and read – great writers read a lot!
2. Write for yourself, nobody else. Your passion will shine through.
3. Don't worry about spelling or grammar until your final edit – just let it flow.
4. If you get stuck, go and do something mundane like hitting a ball against a wall or vacuuming. This will help unleash your sub-conscious mind – the fount of all creativity
5. Find out whether you are a 'planner' or a 'pantser' - do you like to plot the whole thing out first or just fly by the seat of your pants? Or, like me – are you a mixture of the two?



Finally, I would like to add that writing is not always easy. There are times when you might be filled with raging self-doubt, worrying that it isn't good enough or that people may laugh at your work. But the rewards outweigh the downsides – for me, writing has been essential to my mental health as well as an essential escape from the everyday (especially during lockdown!).

Stay safe, and keep writing!

*Trudi Tweedie*





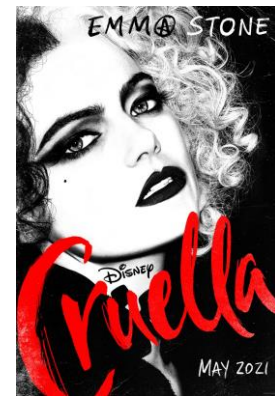
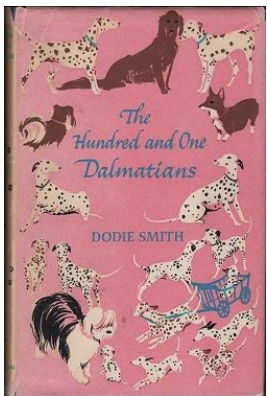
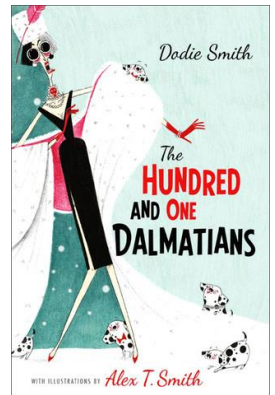
# From page to screen



*Cruella* is the latest live-action prequel from Disney. Starring Emma Stone and Emma Thompson, the story follows the early life of Cruella de Vil.

The film follows the character of Cruella who was first introduced in Dodie Smith's 1956 novel 'One Hundred and One Dalmatians'. It is set in 1970's London and follows the character of Estella who is clever, creative and determined to make a name for herself with her fashion designs. Her designs catch the eye of the Baroness von Hellman, a fashion legend, but their working relationship causes Estella to embrace her wicked side and reinvent herself as the fashionable, evil and revenge-focussed Cruella de Vil.

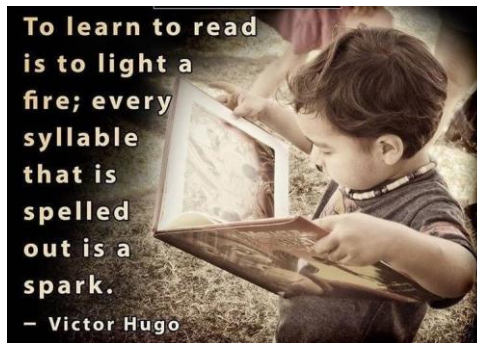
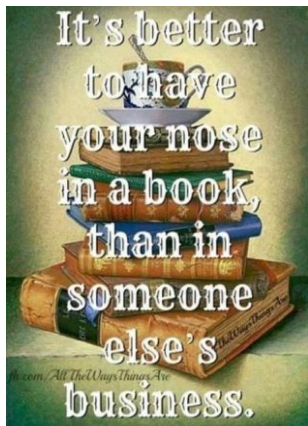
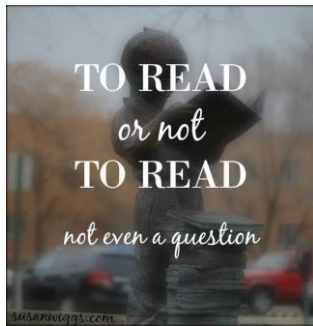
*Cruella* was originally scheduled for release in December 2020, but due to national issues, was delayed until May 2021.



# Reading Facts

If children say they don't like reading it is because they haven't found the right book yet! Reading magazines, autobiographies, fact files, blogs, memes all count.

If your child is struggling to read, then why not direct them to Mrs Bailey, Ian Ramsey CE Academy's very own Librarian, keeper of books and fount of all knowledge in book related matters? We can guarantee that she will find a book your child will love. And if you contact her via email, it will all be socially distanced, meaning your child can find a book they enjoy at no risk to themselves!



*"Isn't it odd how much fatter a book gets when you've read it several times? As if something were left between the pages every time you read it. Feelings, thoughts, sounds, smells, and then, when you look at the book again many years later, you find yourself there, too, a slightly younger self, slightly different, as if the book had preserved you like a pressed flower, both strange and familiar."*





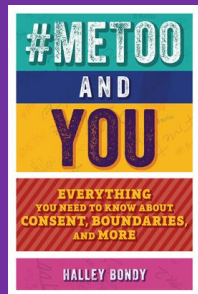
# What's new?

## Non-fiction

### '#METOO AND YOU' by Halley Bondy

The #MeToo movement has changed the way many people view the world, but how well do tweens understand it?

'#MeToo and You' includes essential terminology, from *consent* to *assault*, from just plain yes to just plain no. Author Halley Bondy explores the nuances of emotions, comfort, and discomfort in sexually charged and emotionally abusive situations. Detailed scenarios, both real and hypothetical, provide valuable examples of what's acceptable and what is not, along with tools to help everyone treat others appropriately and to stand up for themselves and their peers.



## Fiction

### 'Concrete Rose' by Angie Thomas

From international phenomenon Angie Thomas comes a hard-hitting return to Garden Heights with the story of Maverick Carter, Starr's father, set seventeen years before the events of the award-winning *The Hate U Give*.

With his King Lord dad in prison and his mom working two jobs, seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter helps the only way he knows how: slinging drugs. Life's not perfect, but he's got everything under control. Until he finds out he's a father...

Suddenly it's not so easy to deal drugs and finish school with a baby dependent on him for everything. So when he's offered the chance to go straight, he takes it. But when King Lord blood runs through your veins, you don't get to just walk away.



## Poetry

### 'The Crossover' by Kwame Alexander

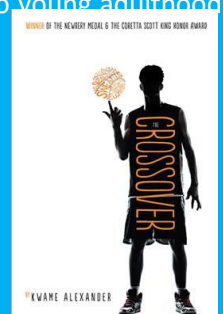
Kwame Alexander is a poet, children's author, playwright, producer, performer, and winner of the Newbery Medal for his novel-in-verse, *The Crossover*, and was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal with *Rebound*.

Josh and JB are basketball legends at their school. They also happen to be identical twins, but it's easy to tell them apart if you know how to look.

As the boys build up to one of the most important matches of their lives, tensions grow between them and things at home and at school also add to the pressure. The only time they feel truly themselves is on the court. But is basketball enough to help them navigate the tricky transition to young adulthood when they have a major falling-out and it seems that Dad is hiding something?

With impressive attention to detail, the powerful, dynamic illustrations fizzle with energy and do so much more than just follow the series of events. Using shades of orange, grey and black, the graphics bring out the soul of the characters allowing readers to feel their joy, pain, frustration and anger.

Although it reads like a novel, the twins' story is told through poetry in many different forms from rap to haiku and free verse. If any book is likely to turn sports fans into book fans or convince readers that poetry is cool, this is it.



# Staff Recommendations



Mr Reed recommends:

**'Noughts and Crosses'** by Malorie Blackman

I really love all the books in this series. As a reader you feel immersed in the alternative reality in which the story unfolds. It makes you consider racism from a different perspective and draw parallels with our country and society.



Mr. Lupton recommends:

**'The Empire Strikes Back. From a Certain Point of View'**

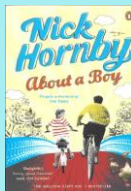
I'm currently reading a book of short stories based around my favourite film 'The Empire Strikes Back'. Each short story describes events in the film, but from an unusual or unexpected point of view. So far, it's very clever!



Mr Burt recommends:

**'About a Boy'** by Nick Hornby

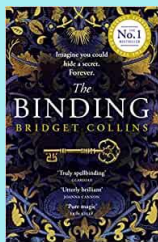
This book instantly grabbed my attentions and I devoured it from cover to cover when I first read it in sixth form. It is aimed primarily at young adults and is very quick and easy to read. A funny, happy story about friendships.



Mrs Kelly recommends:

**'The Binding'** by Bridget Collins

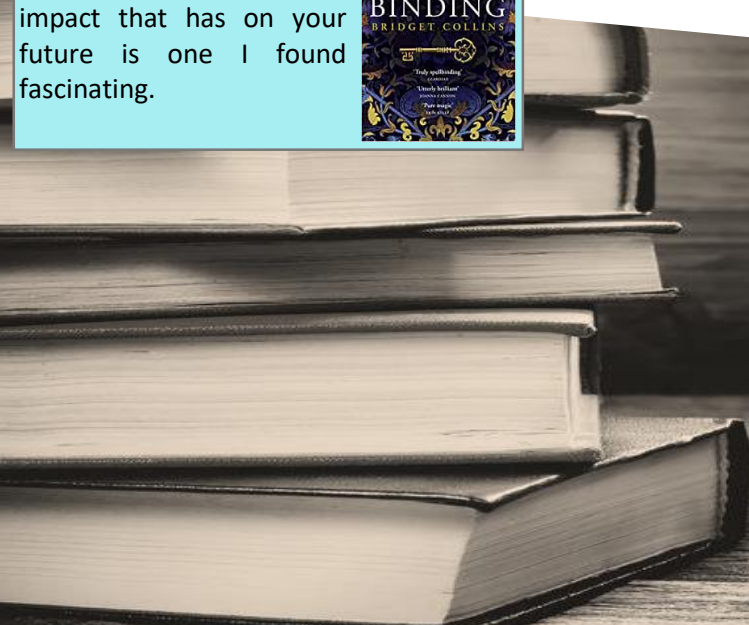
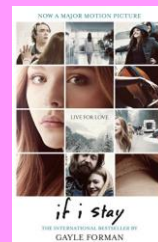
I couldn't put this down. The concept of hiding painful secrets or parts of your life you wish you could forget and the impact that has on your future is one I found fascinating.



Miss Fishpool recommends:

**'If I Stay'** by Gayle Forman

I couldn't put this down when I read it both beautiful and heart wrenching. This book made me feel so much empathy for the characters and I found it delicately paired both joy and sadness.



# The Masked Reader

## Who's that behind the book?



It's like Ordinance is a foreign word for this member of the D of E staff!



A change from the usual numbers and data; but which member of SLT is enjoying a break?



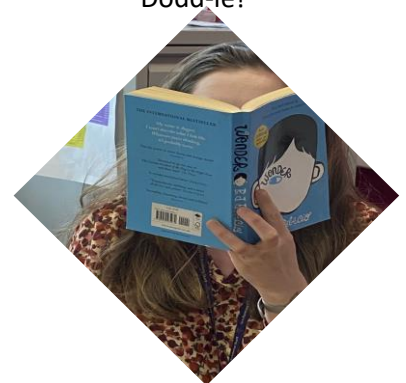
Bored at the cricket? No fear – beating boredom with a book is a Dodd-le!



Is she looking for tips for How to deal with unruly Y8 and 9 pupils?



Which member of staff is reading this aWard winning novel?



We Wonder which member of the English Department is taking a break with this book?

### Featured books:

**The Ordinance Survey Puzzle Book** by

**Troy** by Stephen Fry

**Three Hours** by Rosamund Lupton

**Buried** by Lynda La Plante

**The Shadow Sister** by Lucinda Riley

**Wonder** by R. J. Palacio





# Local Libraries

## Fairfield Library

Fairfield Library is located next door to the school on the corner of Fairfield Road.

Unfortunately, due to the current Lock Down, Fairfield library is not open for people to visit but will be open as soon as lockdown permits.

The library is open:

- Monday to Friday: 10am-5pm (closed 1pm-2pm for lunch)
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed

You can check when the library reopens by visiting: <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/my-stockton-utis/buildings/libraries/Fairfield-library/>



# Have you been to..?

## Alnwick Castle

Alnwick Castle has featured in many films and Literary adaptations: Transformers: The Last Knight; Brancaster Castle in Downton Abbey's 2015 and 2016 Christmas Specials; Hogwarts in the first two Harry Potter films; Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves among others. This castle is no stranger to film crews and has been used for more than fifty years as a location for various feature films and television series.

When fully open, the castle boast numerous activities such as Broomstick training, lead by resident wizarding professors, on the very spot where Harry had his first flying lesson in the film production of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Sessions are free with admission and take place daily at intervals. Broomstick Training will resume on 12<sup>th</sup> April with strict Covid guidelines. There is also a wealth of activities and sights to see including archery, the replica Napoleonic Cannon, the Artisans Courtyard, the State Rooms, 'Capability' Brown Walk, tours and more.

The castle is currently open for recreation and exercise, and tickets can be booked online where more information on extended opening in line with easing of Covid restrictions can also be found. Contact them on: 01665511100 or email [info@alnwickcastle.com](mailto:info@alnwickcastle.com) for more information on opening times and prices.





# First liners



Can you guess the title of the book from the first line?

1. The Mole had been working very hard all morning spring-cleaning his little home.

2. Lyra and her demon moved through the darkening Hall, taking care to keep to one side, out of sight of the kitchen.

3. Long ago on the windy isle of Berk, a smallish Viking with a longish name stood up to his ankles in snow.

4. If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book.

5. They were not railway children to begin with.

6. Once I was living in an orphanage in the mountains and I shouldn't have been and I almost caused a riot.

7. 'I'm going shopping in the village' George's mother said to George on Saturday morning.

8. The monster showed up just after midnight.

9. Mr and Mrs Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much.






# Bedrock Learning

Research has shown that children with wide vocabularies make excellent progress at school and in further education. For this reason, we have invested in an innovative literacy improvement tool called Bedrock Vocabulary. It is a website that helps children to learn very important academic vocabulary, whilst encouraging them to read regularly.

As your child progresses through the curriculum, they will study hundreds of words, whilst reading fiction and non-fiction texts regularly. Bedrock Vocabulary supports their progression and builds the skills and competencies they need to achieve. The programme guides them through scaffolded learning at an appropriate level for their individual needs. Pupils will also fill in an online vocabulary notebook to practise using the vocabulary they learn, and you can see and edit this yourself.

Pupils should complete a minimum of two lessons per week for it to be effective. Pupils can complete two consecutive lessons, one after the other, but we recommend they wait 48 hours between lessons. Pupils will not be able to complete more than two lessons in a day.

Stars of the month:

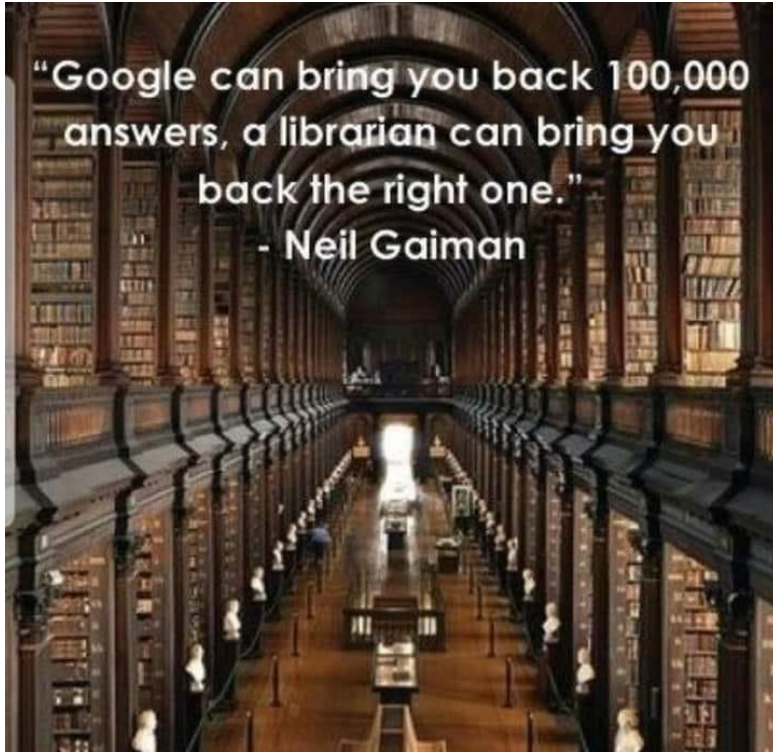


<b>April Stars</b>	<b>Most progress (Pupil)</b>	<b>Most progress (Class)</b>
Year 7	Kye E 7G2	7G2
Year 8	Jack M 8S1	8S3
Year 9	Cole F 9S2	9L1
Year 10	James C 10G/AFB	10L/ACJ
Year 11	Ben H 11G/ACJ	11G/MP



# Final Notes

Reading is so important to our Academy. The key aim of our reading drive is to encourage Reading for Pleasure. I leave you with the words of author and illustrator Neil Gaiman:



If you've enjoyed this month's edition of the reading newsletter, don't forget to visit our dedicated reading section on our website. Click on 'Curriculum' and 'Reading' (or click on [this link: https://ianramsey.org.uk/curriculum/reading/](https://ianramsey.org.uk/curriculum/reading/)) to uncover a world of books and recommendations and challenges including:

- Book recommendations. These change every term and are thematically linked to all the topics covered by each subject that term.
- Reading challenges
- Desert Island Book lists
- Reading quotes
- Recommend a book

I hope you've enjoyed May's newsletter and look forward to sending you June's edition.

## \*Answers to the Masked Reader:

1. Mrs Relph
2. Mr Nicholson
3. Ms Dodd
4. Mrs Howard
5. Miss Ward
6. Miss Wall

## \*Answers to First Lines:

1. 'Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Graham
2. 'Northern Lights' by Phillip Pullman
3. 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell
4. 'A Series of Unfortunate Events: Bad Beginning' by Lemony Snicket
5. 'The Railway Children' by E. Nesbitt

6. 'Once' by Morris Gleitzman
7. 'George's Marvellous Medicine' by Roald Dahl
8. 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness
9. 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' by J.K. Rowling

