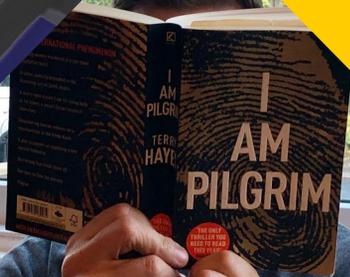




# IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

# Reading Newsletter





# Welcome

Welcome to our January 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 and email and let me know what you would like to be included?

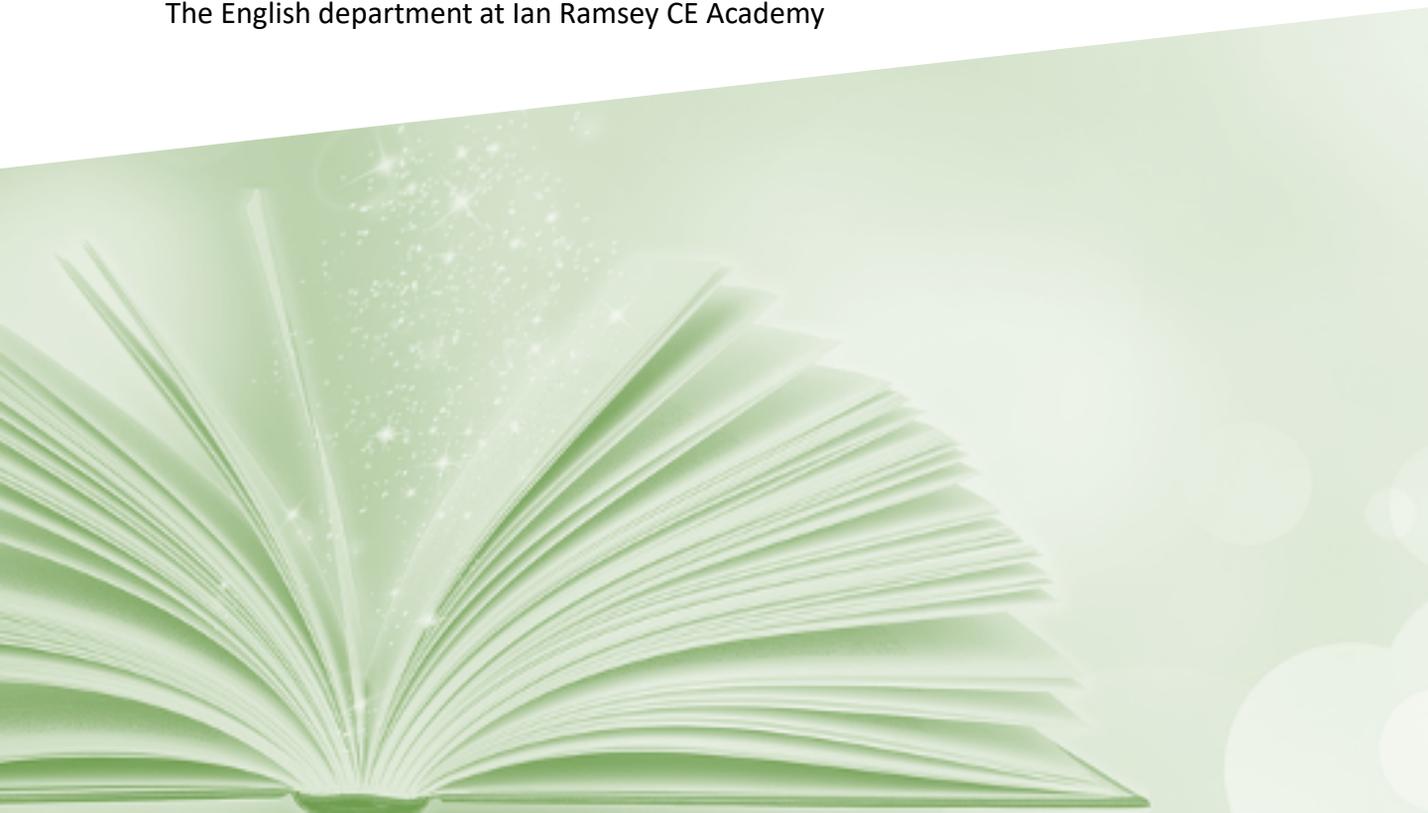
This newsletter is a chance to find out about:

- fiction
- non-fiction
- poetry
- authors and their work
- 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,

The English department at Ian Ramsey CE Academy



# Author spotlight



This month's author: Emma Perry

Emma Perry is a captivating UK author known for her talent in crafting enchanting children's literature. With a magical touch that resonates with young readers, Perry weaves delightful stories that transport children to whimsical worlds filled with imagination and wonder.

Her writing is characterised by its warmth and accessibility, making her books cherished favorites for both children and their families.

Through her creative storytelling, Emma Perry has left an indelible mark on the literary landscape, fostering a love for reading and sparking the imaginations of generations to come.



# Author to academy

Hello!

*...yes, even you at the back scratching your ear!*

*How are you all doing?*

*My name is Emma Perry, I have the brilliant job of mucking around with words and putting them in to an order that makes me smile... and giggle. I am a picture book author.*

*Here's a little bit about me... I didn't grow up wanting to be a writer. I liked writing, I liked telling stories, I absolutely LOVED reading stories - but I had absolutely no idea that I, ME, could become an actual real life author. It took me awhile to realise that I definitely could... I just had to believe in myself.*

*This is me when I was 3...*



*I didn't always look that grumpy. Honest!*

*In this picture I was just heading off to the postbox with my mum, sending off a letter - which I'd probably scribbled ALL over - to a book character called Noddy. I don't think Noddy ever replied!*

*Reading offers lots of chances to dive into your imagination, your dreams. I bet you've heard this before, right?*

*But.*

*Just stop for a minute.*

*Then. Imagine JUMPING into a book. ANY book of your choice.*

*What adventures would you have? Who would you meet?*

*Mabel, from I Don't Like Books, met some brilliant people when she fell into books.*

*And Alfonso, from This Book Has Alpacas and Bears? When he couldn't find the book he wanted to read, guess what he did? He wrote it himself! Alfonso is awesome.*

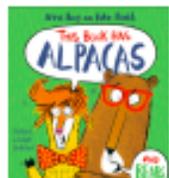
*I hope YOU have lots and lots of book adventures.*

*Forever, and ever.*

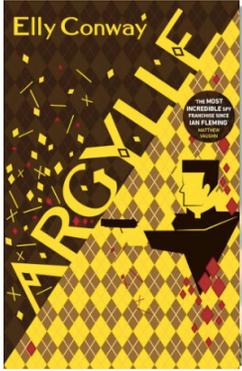
*The End.*

*Emma Perry*

[www.emmaperryauthor.com](http://www.emmaperryauthor.com)



# From page to screen: Argylle



Reclusive author Elly Conway writes best-selling espionage novels about a secret agent named 'Argylle' who's on a mission to unravel a global spy syndicate. However, when the plots of her books start to mirror the covert actions of a real-life spy organization, the line between fiction and reality begin to blur.





## ? DID YOU KNOW ?

The most sold book is the Bible. The Bible is sold all over the world, which makes it the most sold book there is! At an estimate, there are 5 billion printed copies of it around the world.

The longest book in the world is 'Remembrance of Things Past'. According to Guinness World Records, 'Remembrance of Things Past' is the longest book in the world. It has 9,609,000 characters, including spaces. It was written by Marcel Proust who was from France, in 1912.

The Codex Leicester is the most expensive book in the world. You're not going to believe how much it sold for... The science book sold for 30.8 million dollars in 1994. It was Leonardo da Vinci's science diary!

It is believed that the first ever book written was 'The Epic of Gilgamesh'. The story was written in 2100 BCE in the cuneiform script, which is one of the oldest forms of writing.



# 2024 Reading Challenge

2024

## READING CHALLENGE



A BOOK WITH  
MULTIPLE  
POINTS OF  
VIEW

REREAD YOUR  
FAVORITE  
BOOK

A SPICY  
ROMANCE

A BOOK  
BEING  
ADAPTED FOR  
TV/FILM

A BOOK WITH  
A 1-WORD  
TITLE.

PART OF A  
DUOLOGY

A NON-  
FICTION  
BOOK

A BOOK  
PUBLISHED  
IN 2024

A BOOK WITH  
OVER 350  
PAGES

A BOOK YOU  
OWN, BUT  
HAVE NEVER  
READ

A BOOK  
WITH A KING  
OR QUEEN

LISTEN  
TO AN  
AUDIOBOOK

A BOOK YOU  
MEANT TO  
READ LAST  
YEAR

READ A  
BOOK IN A  
DAY

A BOOK  
ABOUT  
MENTAL  
HEALTH

A BOOK SET  
IN A  
DIFFERENT  
CENTURY

A BOOK THAT  
WON AN  
AWARD

A THRILLER  
OR  
MYSTERY

RETELLING OF  
A FAIRY TALE  
OR CLASSIC  
NOVEL

A BOOK BY  
AN AUTHOR  
YOU'VE NEVER  
READ

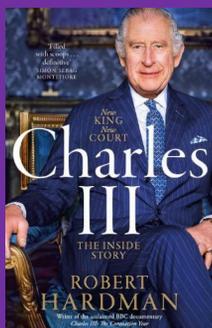
# What's new?

## Non-fiction

### Charles III by Robert Hardman

The dramatic story of the new king's evolution over the past year from Prince of Wales to King Charles III, from one of the most acclaimed royal biographers writing today.

No British monarch has had a tougher act to follow. Now, after seventy years of waiting and preparation, King Charles III is not just the head of the most famous family in the world. He is the custodian of a thousand-year-old institution which must redefine its place in the digital age while others insist on rewriting the past.

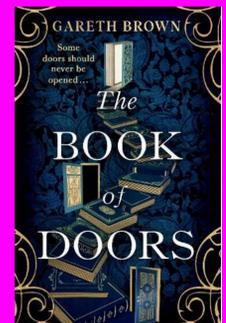


## Fiction

### The Book of Doors by Gareth Brown

Cassie is about to discover that the Book of Doors is a special book – a magic book. A book that bestows extraordinary abilities on whoever possesses it. And she is about to learn that there are other magic books out there that can also do wondrous – or dreadful and terrifying – things.

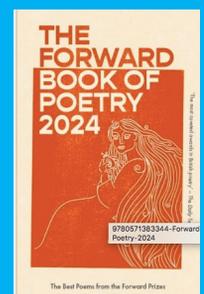
Because where there is magic there is power and there are those who will stop at nothing to possess it.



## Poetry

### The Forward Book of Poetry 2024

The Forward Book of Poetry is the indispensable annual guide to contemporary poetry. In bringing together the best new work published in the UK and Ireland, as chosen by the jury of the annual Forward Poetry Prize, this anthology offers a vital overview of the literary landscape to seasoned poetry lovers and new readers alike.



# Pupil Recommendations



## *Skandar and the Unicorn Thief* by A.F. Steadman

Thirteen-year-old Skandar Smith has only ever wanted to be a unicorn rider. To be one of the lucky few selected to hatch a unicorn. To bond with it for life; to train together and race for glory; to be a hero. But just as Skandar's dream is about to come true, things start to take a more dangerous turn than he could ever have imagined.



## *The First to Die at the End* by Adam Silvera

In this prequel to the international bestselling phenomenon of *They Both Die at the End*, two new strangers spend a life-changing day together after Death-Cast make their first fateful calls. It's the night before Death-Cast goes live, and there's one question on everyone's mind: Can Death-Cast actually predict death, or is it an elaborate hoax?



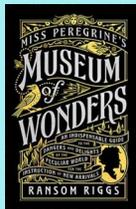
## *Five Survive* by Holly Jackson

The brand new, explosive crime thriller from Holly Jackson, bestselling, award-winning author of the *Good Girl's Guide to Murder* trilogy. Eighteen-year-old Red and her friends are on a road trip in an RV, heading to the beach for Spring Break. It's a long drive but spirits are high. Until the RV breaks down in the middle of nowhere.



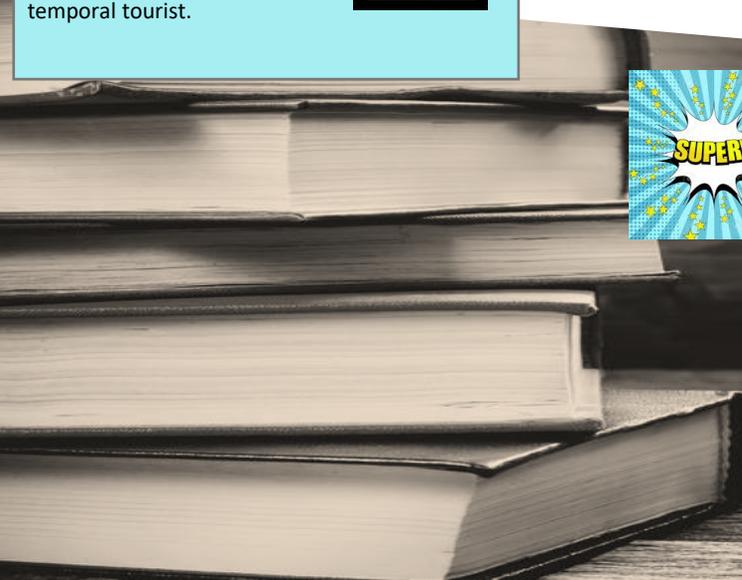
## *Miss Peregrine's Museum of Wonders - Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs

A gloriously rich and utterly delightful handbook perfect for longtime fans and new readers alike, covering everything from how to blend in with suspicious normals to the most popular time loops to visit as a temporal tourist.



## *Nick and Charlie* by Alice Oseman

Everyone knows that Nick and Charlie are the perfect couple - that they're inseparable. But now Nick is leaving for university, and Charlie will be left behind at Sixth Form. Everyone's asking if they're staying together, which is a stupid question - they're 'Nick and Charlie' for God's sake!



# Staff Recommendations



## *A Chip Shop in Poznan* by Ben Aitken

An amusing story about a British writer who wanted to experience living in Poland for a year and takes on a variety of jobs during that time. In 2016 Ben Aitken moved to Poland while he still could. It wasn't love that took him but curiosity: he wanted to know what the Poles in the UK had left behind. He flew to a place he'd never heard of and then accepted a job in a chip shop on the minimum wage.



## *Lessons In Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute take a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with - of all things - her mind. True chemistry results.



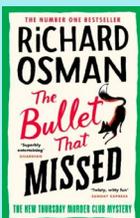
## *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover

Lily and her ex-husband, Ryle, have just settled into a civil co-parenting rhythm when she suddenly bumps into her first love, Atlas, again. After nearly two years separated, she is elated that for once, time is on their side, and she immediately says yes when Atlas asks her on a date.



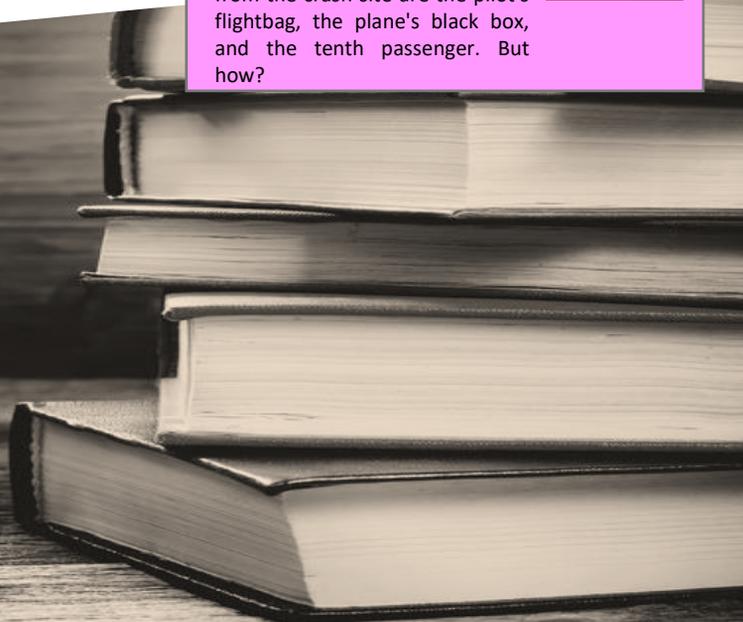
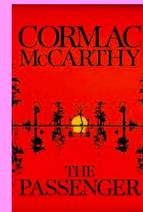
## *The Bullet That Missed* by Richard Osman

It is an ordinary Thursday, and things should finally be returning to normal. Except trouble is never far away where the Thursday Murder Club are concerned. A local news legend is on the hunt for a sensational headline, and soon the gang are hot on the trail of two murders, ten years apart.



## *The Passenger* by Cormac McCarthy

1980, Pass Christian, Mississippi: It is three in the morning when Bobby Western zips the jacket of his wetsuit and plunges from the boat deck into darkness. His divelight illuminates the sunken jet, nine bodies still buckled in their seats, hair floating, eyes devoid of speculation. Missing from the crash site are the pilot's flightbag, the plane's black box, and the tenth passenger. But how?



# Local Libraries

## BookBeat

BookBeat is a digital subscription service for audiobooks and e-books. You can choose between three different packages and discover what suits you the best. Their basic account at £5.99 per month allows you to listen to 20 hours a month. With the standard account at £9.99 per month you can listen up to 50 hours per month, and with the premium account, you get 100 hours of listening and reading for £14.99 per month.

# BookBeat



# First liners



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

1. Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy. This story is about something that happened to them when they were sent away from London during the war because of the air-raids.

2. I am an invisible man.

3. Mother died today. Or maybe, yesterday; I can't be sure.

4. It was a queer, sultry summer, the summer they electrocuted the Rosenbergs, and I didn't know what I was doing in New York.

5. Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board.

6. As Tess and Em crept soundlessly to a corner of the kitchen and crouched down to make themselves as small as possible, Tess chanted the words to herself.

7. Today will be different.

8. The Trieste neighbourhood in Rome is, one might say, one of the focal points of this story that has many other focal points.

9. My entire life's work rests on the outcome of this match.



# Word of the Month

## Prestigious

(Origin: Latin)

You might expect, based on how adjectives are often formed in English, that today's word is an extension of the noun 'prestige'. However, although both words share the same Latin root, they entered English by different routes and at different times. Moreover, both adjective and noun once had more to do with trickery than respect when they were first used. Prestigious came directly from the Latin adjective *praestigiosus*, meaning "full of tricks" or "deceitful," and had a similar meaning upon entering English in the mid-16th century.

*Praestigiosus* in turn came from the plural noun *praestigiae*, meaning "conjurer's tricks." This noun also gave English the word *prestige*, though it first passed through French and arrived a century after *prestigious*. Though it wasn't first on the block, *prestige* influenced *prestigious* in a different way, by eventually developing an extended sense of "standing or esteem." That change spurred a similar development in *prestigious*, which now means simply "illustrious or esteemed."



# Reading for Pleasure

Reading is a huge part of our academy. Throughout our school, we have implemented a number of reading strategies that will give pupils access to a wide range of literature both inside and outside the classroom.

Our *Reading for Pleasure* lessons have been met with fantastic positivity and enthusiasm from our KS3 pupils. Texts have been specifically chosen that link not only to our curriculum, but to our Christian values as well. This year, pupils will enjoy a range of texts such as:

## Year 7

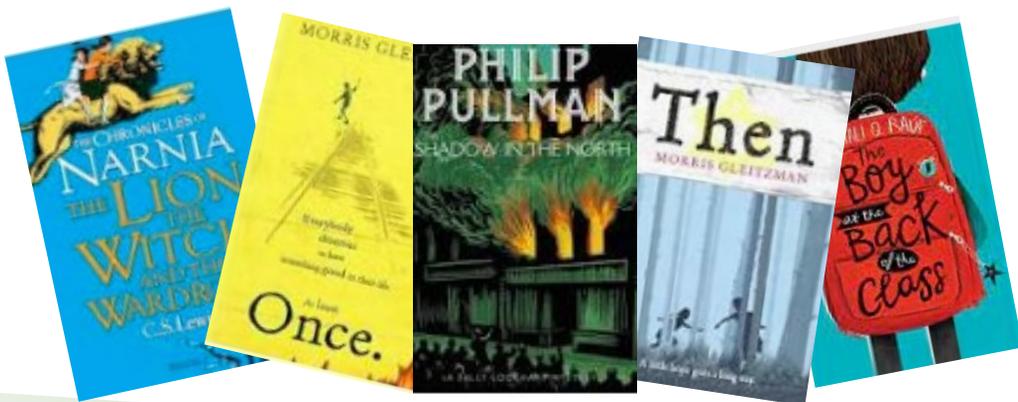
*The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis  
*Once* by Morris Gleitzman

## Year 8

*The Shadow in the North* by Philip Pullman  
*Then* by Morris Gleitzman

## Year 9

*The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Raúf



# 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 Ernest Hemingway:

**There is no  
friend as loyal  
as a book.**

—ERNEST HEMINGWAY



I hope you've enjoyed reading this month's newsletter. As an Academy, we believe you should never be stuck for reading information and recommendations - visit our dedicated reading section on our website for ideas, competitions recommended lists and more. Click on 'Curriculum' and 'Reading' (or click on this link: <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 January's newsletter and look forward to sending you our February edition!

\*Answers to First Lines:

1. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S Lewis
2. Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
3. The Outsider by Albert Camus
4. The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath
5. Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Horston
6. Secrets by Freya North
7. Today Will Be Different by Maria Semple
8. The Hummingbird by Sandro Veronesi
9. Carrie Soto is Back by Taylor Jenkins Reid

