



IAN RAMSEY CE ACADEMY

Together to learn, to grow, to serve

Reading Newsletter



this MONTH in history

MARCH

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1914 Ralph Ellison is born.	1931 Tom Wolfe is born.	1878 Edward Thomas is born.	1940 David Plante is born.	1948 Leslie Marmon Silko is born.	1888 Louisa May Alcott dies.	1964 Bret Easton Ellis is born.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1941 Sherwood Anderson dies.	1994 Charles Bukowski dies.	1940 David Rabe is born.	1952 Douglas Adams is born.	1922 Jean-Louis Lebris de ("Jack") Kerouac is born.	1914 W. O. Mitchell is born.	1989 Edward Abbey dies.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1815 William Wells Brown is born.	1952 Alice Hoffman is born.	1933 Penelope Lively is born.	1893 Wilfred Owen is born.	1916 Irving Wallace is born.	1904 B. F. Skinner is born.	1905 Phyllis McGinley is born.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1930 Stephen Sondheim is born.	1968 Edwin O'Connor dies.	1882 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow dies.	1925 Flannery O'Connor is born.	1892 Walt Whitman dies.	1923 Louis Simpson is born.	1941 Virginia Woolf dies.
29	30	31				
1913 R. S. Thomas is born.	1844 Paul Verlaine is born.	1855 Charlotte Brontë dies.				

Welcome

Welcome to our March 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,

Mrs Chapman-Jones



Author spotlight

This month's author: Nuala Ellwood

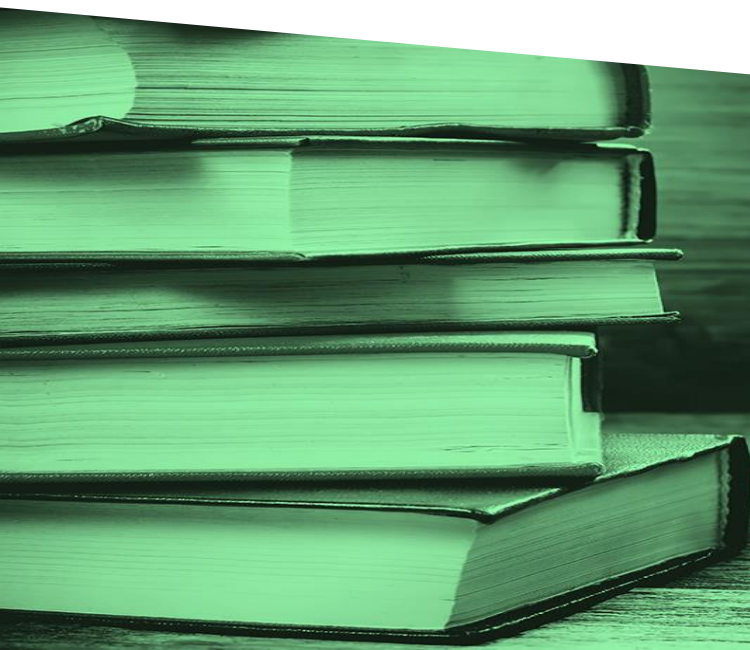


Nuala Ellwood was born in Stockton-on-Tees in 1979. She writes historical fiction under the pen name, Iris Costello, and psychological thrillers as Nuala Ellwood. Her latest historical novel, *The Secrets of Rochester Place*, was published by Penguin in December 2022 and was described as 'a triumph of storytelling.' She is currently working on her eighth novel, *The Voice Collector*, which will be published later this year. She has a BA Hons degree in Sociology from Durham University and a Master's in Creative Writing from York St John University where she is a visiting lecturer in Creative Writing. She also writes for *National Geographic Traveller* and *The Irish Times*. The author of seven highly acclaimed novels, Nuala was selected as one of the *Observer's* 'New Faces of Fiction 2017'. Her work has been translated into twenty languages and her bestselling novel, *My Sister's Bones*, is being made into a feature film. Nuala has a teenage son, Luke, and is based in York and South London.

You can find out more about Nuala and her work through her social media pages:

Instagram: @Nuala Writes @iriscostellowords

Twitter: @CostelloStories



Author to academy

10th February 2023.



Dear pupils of Ian Ramsey CE Academy,

Reading has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. Growing up in a bookish household – my dad was a broadcast journalist with a large study crammed with books and journals – storytelling, creativity and the magic of the written word felt as natural to me as breathing. I devoured stories greedily. They were my lifeblood, my signposts; precious guides that helped me make sense of the world and my place in it.

Though I had been introduced to the joy of books and stories at an early age, my reading journey began in earnest at a place not too far away from where you are sitting now: Fairfield Library. You may know it as the rather small, unassuming, building tucked on the corner between the pub and the playing fields, but to me, as a young child, it was a gateway into another dimension. There, within the pages of books such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Children of Green Knowe*, *The Dark is Rising* and *The Lord of the Rings*, I discovered magical worlds, talking fairy folk, enchanted forests, ghostly children, snow-capped mountains, and adventures beyond anything I had experienced before. Sitting at the round table by the window, I could forget about the outside world, leave my worries behind, and for the course of a few hours allow myself to escape into the realm of the story, the only sound that of the writer's voice whispering into my ear. That is the magic of reading. Not only does it transport you somewhere else, it opens up a conversation between you and the writer, it asks questions, inspires thoughts and ideas you may never have entertained before. It makes you feel that you are understood, that you are not alone and, for me, it lit a flame that would never be extinguished. It gave me the courage to believe that I could write stories of my own one day, stories that would inspire people, make them feel seen and understood, stories that would ask questions and provoke thought, stories that would be contained in books that people might come to this very library and borrow, just as I had done.



Author to academy

As I grew up, I discovered other authors, other voices, who helped me grow and develop, both as a reader and as a human being. Some writers resonated with me for a moment in time, others challenged me and my perception of the world, while a rare few have stayed with me a lifetime. Writers such as Virginia Woolf, Charles Dickens, Emily Bronte, Paul Auster, F.Scott Fitzgerald and Hilary Mantel, are the ones I return to again and again, not only as a source of inspiration but of comfort too. I see them as trusted friends offering guidance and consistency in an uncertain world.

Fast forward thirty-five years and the little girl sitting at that table by the window in Fairfield Library is now a bestselling author. There have been many stumbling blocks and challenges along the way but through it all, the one thing that sustained me, that fed my mind and spirit, was my love of reading and of libraries. To this day, no matter where I am in the world, I cannot pass by a library without taking a look inside and sitting quietly for a few moments with a book. For reading, as well as feeding the brain, is also a form of meditation. It is a way to centre yourself, to take breath, to step away from the noise and tumult of life for a moment and be at peace. I firmly believe that libraries, and any spaces that encourage reading and quiet moments, are vital places of wellbeing, and should be supported to flourish and grow.

Seeing my book on the shelf in a bookshop or library is an incredible feeling - to this day the most exciting moment was seeing my first novel on the shelf of Fairfield Library! - and I am always touched when readers get in contact to tell me that one of my books has helped them. It reinforces the importance of stories, how they bring people together, remind them that, in the grand scheme of things, there is more that unites us than divides us, that there is another person who understands, that you are not alone. As my beloved Dad, who passed away in October, used to say, 'Reading is one hand reaching out through the pages and the centuries to hold another, telling you that all is well.'

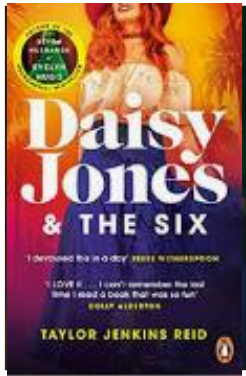
And that is what I have learned from my years of reading and of writing. As long as there are books and stories, you are never, ever alone.

So, here's to more books! May you read them, may you write them, may you celebrate them.

All my best wishes,
Nuala Ellwood.



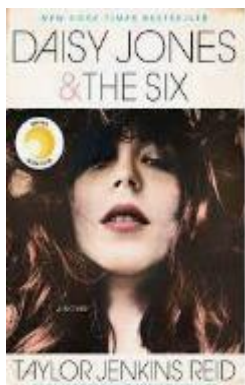
From page to screen



This month's Page to Screen is 'Daisy Jones and the Six'. Adapted from Taylor Jenkins Reid 2019 novel, the series follows the life of 1970's rock band Daisy Jones and the Six.



Set out as a documentary- style, ten episode miniseries, it details the often erratic creativity of 70's music. Jenkins- Reid took inspiration from her own experiences growing up and watching bands like Fleetwood Mac.





? DID YOU KNOW ?

Suzanne Collins claims she came up with the idea for *The Hunger Games* when she was channel surfing, flicking between footage of the war in Iraq and reality TV.

Hans Christian Andersen was a huge fan of Charles Dickens, but the admiration was not mutual. Dickens begrudgingly accepted Andersen's request to sleep in his spare room when he came to Britain for a visit, but Andersen drastically overstayed his welcome.

451 degrees Fahrenheit isn't actually the temperature at which paper burns. Bradbury was misinformed when he was choosing a title for *Fahrenheit 451*; that's actually the temperature at which paper will combust.

Harper Lee was Truman Capote's assistant when he was writing *In Cold Blood*. She was in charge of managing his 8,000 pages of notes, and interviewed townspeople who were too suspicious to tell him anything.



2023 Reading Challenge

The 52 Book Club's 2023 READING CHALLENGE

1. A BOOK WITH A SUBTITLE
2. FEATURING AN INHERITANCE
3. TITLE STARTING WITH THE LETTER "G"
4. TITLE STARTING WITH THE LETTER "H"
5. TITLE STARTING WITH THE LETTER "I"
6. UNDER 200 PAGES
7. A CITY OR COUNTRY NAME IN THE TITLE
8. DYSTOPIAN FICTION
9. A BOOK WITH A DEDICATION
10. TAKES PLACE DURING THE ROARING TWENTIES
11. A BOOK ABOUT SECRETS
12. HIGH FANTASY
13. PUBLISHED POSTHUMOUSLY
14. A SURVIVAL STORY
15. SET IN AUSTRALIA
16. FEATURING ONE OF THE "SEVEN DEADLY SINS"
17. BY A CARIBBEAN AUTHOR
18. SET DURING A WAR OTHER THAN WWI OR WWII
19. TYPOGRAPHIC COVER
20. A BOOK ABOUT SIBLINGS
21. A SECOND-HAND BOOK
22. A BODY-POSITIVE MESSAGE
23. AN ALLITERATIVE TITLE
24. NORDIC NOIR
25. A FASHIONABLE CHARACTER
26. HAS AN EPILOGUE
27. NEWBERY MEDAL WINNER
28. INCLUDES A FUNERAL
29. SENDS YOU DOWN A RABBIT HOLE
30. AN AUTHOR WITH A SAME NAME AS YOU
31. SET IN A WORKPLACE
32. PUBLISHED BY MACMILLAN
33. A BANNED BOOK
34. FEATURING MYTHOLOGY
35. A BOOK YOU MEANT TO READ LAST YEAR
36. CHAPTERS HAVE CLIFFHANGERS
37. WRITTEN IN PRESENT TENSE
38. AN ENEMIES-TO-LOVERS PLOT
39. THE FINAL BOOK IN A SERIES
40. WRITTEN BY A COMEDIAN
41. A CHARACTER WHO IS A REFUGEE
42. TIME IN THE TITLE
43. A BOOK "EVERYONE" HAS READ
44. A CONTEMPORARY SETTING
45. FIRST WORD IN THE BOOK IS "THE"
46. SCRIPT FONT ON THE SPINE
47. SET IN THE CITY OF DUBLIN
48. A BOOK BY OCTAVIA E. BUTLER
49. BOOKS ON THE COVER
50. RELATED TO THE WORD "MURDER"
51. DOESN'T FIT ANY OF THE OTHER 51 PROMPTS
52. PUBLISHED IN 2023

READ
MORE
BOOKS!

The
52
Book
Club

www.the52bookclub.com



March Reading Challenge

My Reading Challenge March Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 A book about Spring	02 A book about friends	03 A story about an animal	04 Made into a movie	05 A mystery story	06 A bible story	07 A book recommended by a friend
08 About your favourite celebrity	09 About your favourite hobby	10 A gifted book	11 A new release	12 A non-fiction book	13 About a famous artist	14 A true story
15 About mental wellbeing	16 About your favourite sport	17 A book set in the future	18 A local story	19 A comic strip	20 A book under 500 pages	21 A book under 200 pages
22 A book recommended by a family member	23 Set in fictional town	24 Your favourite childhood story	25 Re-read your favorite	26 A book by your favourite author	27 A book borrowed from a library	28 About healthy eating
29 Poems	30 A story about Easter	31 Recommended by your teacher				



• **Most Favorite List:**

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• **Mediocre List:**

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• **Less Favorite List:**

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Notes:

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ABOUT WORLD BOOK DAY

This year, World Book Day will take place on Thursday 2nd March and there are lots of different ways you can get involved:

House competition; Decorate your doors.

Your challenge is to decorate your tutor doors using books as an inspiration. This can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. Every house will select a winner and this tutor group will receive a prize.

Readathon

Students and staff can take part in a sponsored read throughout the two weeks leading up to World Book Day to raise funds for a school Minibus.

Book Fair

We will be holding a book fair in school on Thursday 2nd March and Friday 3rd March. Students will be able to visit during their English lessons and at break and lunchtimes.

Staff Challenges

Keep a look out for different members of staff dressed up as their favourite character from a book. Also keep an eye out for our masked readers! Can you guess who is reading out some of our favourite titles?

Writing competitions

INTEGER
STORIES INSPIRED BY NUMBERS!
CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION
FOR 11-18 YEAR-OLDS

I'D WON
£1 MILLION...

I GOT MY
15
MINUTES OF
FAME...

I WAS
NUMBER
9...

IT WAS IN
LOCKER
876...

IT WAS FRIDAY
13th...

1 OF US WAS
LYING...

➤ YOU
COULD BE
PUBLISHED
IN A BOOK!

➤ **£50**
AWARDED
TO OUR
FAVOURITE 5
WRITERS!

28014008
7129 13 5 4 121 6

Add a buzz around writing with Integer. This exciting activity turns numbers into fiction and engages pupils of all abilities, including reluctant writers. What is the significance of a broken clock? Why is 13 unlucky for some? Create a short story in just 100 words that focuses on the power of numbers. The deadline for entries is Friday March 31st. See Miss Bolland for more details.

Bishop of Durham Reading Award

The Bishop of Durham Award is exclusive to pupils at Ian Ramsey CE Academy.

This award is named after the Bishop of Durham, The Right Reverend Paul Butler. He has always believed that reading is a hugely important skill for everyone. He said '*I love reading and encourage others to do so*'.

There are three main levels to the award: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level has a series of reading tasks to complete with badges and certificates awarded along the way.

Each task must be signed off by a teacher or adult. Once a level has been completed, you can start the next level.

Awards will be given at the end of each year.



Bishop of Durham Reading Award

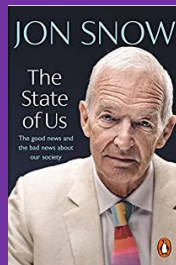
Bronze Award:	Silver Award:	Gold Award:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read a fiction text • Read a non-fiction text • Listen to an audio book • Review a book that has been made into a film • Read the reading in at least one worship each term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read one non-fiction text and one poetry anthology • Read two fiction texts • Complete 50% of the Reading Passport • Prepare and read the reading and prayer in worship once a term • Listen to an audio book and read the book at the same time • Enter readathon and raise money for charity by reading • Read to someone within your family regularly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Y7 reading for pleasure scheme for a book of your choice • Create an audio book to send to a local care home for residents to listen to • Write the script for and deliver a worship • Organise a readathon for Y7 • Take part in the Ian Ramsey CE Academy Peer Readers scheme
<p>Bronze House Certificate</p> <p>+ 50 Positive Points</p>	<p>Silver House Certificate</p> <p>+ 100 Positive Points</p>	<p>Gold House Certificate</p> <p>+ 250 Positive Points</p>

What's new?

Non-fiction

The State of Us by John Snow

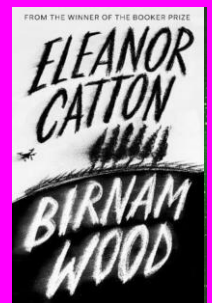
We are living through a time of tremendous upheaval. Society is growing ever more unequal, and elites increasingly detached, with the Honourable Members ensconced in their Upper and Lower Houses. Jon Snow's own wake up call was the Grenfell Tower fire when, gazing up at the smoke still pouring from the building in the early hours, he felt the weight of the obligation as a journalist to understand what had happened.



Fiction

Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton

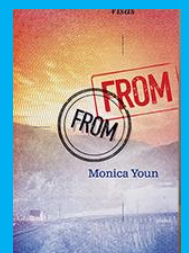
From the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Luminaries* comes a dazzling psychological thriller about a guerrilla gardening group and their compromised existence working the land of an abandoned farm, rich in profound characterisation and prescient, thought-provoking themes.



Poetry

From From by Monica Youn

Themes of authenticity and deracination are deconstructed in this equally comedic and tragic new collection from Monica Youn. *From From* uses the question “Where are you *from from*?” to interrogate stereotypes, methods of assimilation, guilt, and more.



Pupil Recommendations



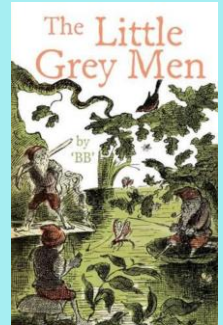
Katy by Jacqueline Wilson

Katy Carr is a daredevil. You'll always find her outdoors, climbing on the garage roof, or up a tree, cycling, skateboarding... anything to get away from her new stepmother, Izzie. But, when Katy's involved in a terrible accident, her life is changed forever.



The Little Grey Men by B.B.

The last four gnomes in Britain live on the banks of the bubbling Folly brook. They are perfectly happy with their quiet life, except, that is, for one Cloudberry. Restless and longing for adventure, Cloudberry sets off to follow his dream.



Dave Pigeon Bookshop Mayhem! by Swapna Haddow

Dave Pigeon and his sidekick Skipper are looking for stories and biscuits. Where better to look than a bookshop? But booksellers aren't so sure about welcoming pigeons, if only they spoke pigeonese.



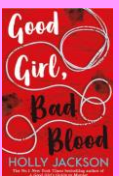
Montgomery Bonbon: Murder at the Museum by Alasdair Beckett-King

Respected gentleman sleuth Montgomery Bonbon (who bears an uncanny resemblance to a ten-year-old girl) must use all of their detection skills to solve a fiendish crime at the Hornville Museum.



Good Girl, Bad Blood by Holly Jackson

Pip Fitz-Amobi is not a detective anymore. With the help of Ravi Singh, she released a true-crime podcast about the murder case they solved together last year. The podcast has gone viral, yet Pip insists her investigating days are behind her. But she will have to break that promise when someone she knows goes missing..



Staff Recommendations



A Song for Dark Times by Iain Rankin

Rebus is back on his 24th case. This time having been forced to move to a downstairs flat due to his deteriorating health, helped by his long time side kick Siobhan Clarke, Rebus receives a phone call from his daughter Samantha; her partner has gone missing from the Highland home they share.



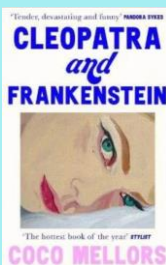
No Excuses by Alison Colwell

Heart-breaking and insightful all at the same time. I started reading this over the half-term break and managed to get through it in one day. A must read for anyone looking for an insight into the teaching practice.



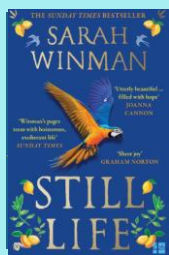
Cleopatra and Frankenstein by Coco Mellors

Cleopatra and Frankenstein is an astounding and painfully relatable debut novel about the spontaneous decisions that shape our entire lives and those imperfect relationships born of unexpectedly perfect evenings.



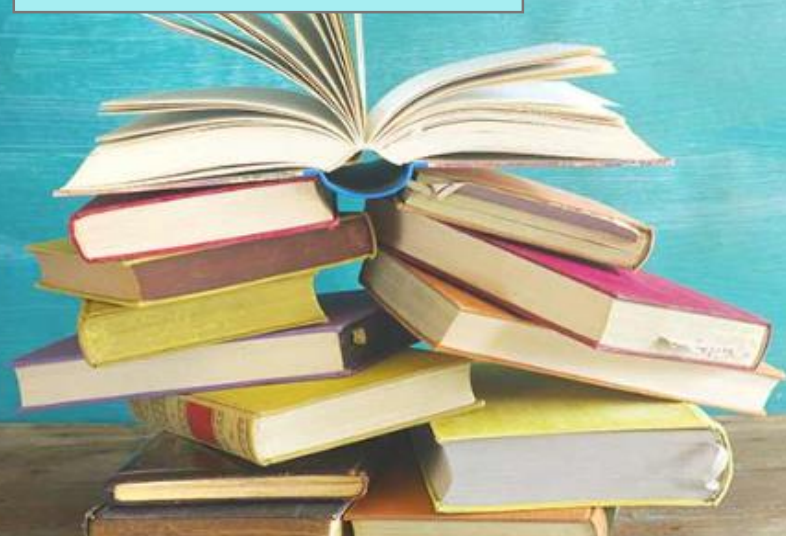
Still Life by Sarah Winman

Moving from the Tuscan Hills and piazzas of Florence, to the smog of London's East End, *Still Life* is a sweeping, joyful novel about beauty, love, family and fate.



Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Smart, funny, joyous and powerful, Garmus' 60s set debut featuring an unconventional female scientist with a quiet game-plan to change the world has won the hearts and minds of our booksellers and is one of 2022's most gloriously enjoyable debuts.



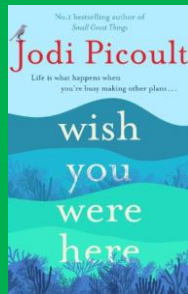
House recommendation: Hild

House Captain

Miss Bolland recommends:

Wish You Were Here by Jodie Picoult

It's Friday the 13th and Diana is an ambitious young appraiser at Sotheby's in New York. She's about to go on a long-awaited holiday, where she knows Finn, her surgeon boyfriend, will propose and the next stage of her carefully planned life will begin.



I was given this as a Christmas gift. It touches on key contemporary scenes and I found myself reaching for the tissues more and more often.

House Prefect

Scarlett recommends: *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover

Heartbreaking and exquisitely written, Hoover's touching novel of desire, lost loves and second chances focuses on a brilliantly realised love triangle and how we must always live with the ghosts of the past.



House Pupil

Will recommends: *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll

Follow the life of Olive Bradshaw and her brother Cliff, who have been evacuated to the Devonshire coast. The only person with room available is the local lighthouse keeper, Mr Ephraim. But he likes his own company, and certainly doesn't want any evacuees.



read?

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

Monica

Bored of Lunch: The Healthy Slow Cooker Book
by Nathan Anthony



From pastas and risottos to curries, 'takeaways' and family favourites this book is packed with dishes for any day of the week or occasion such as Honey Chilli Beef Noodles, Garlic Mac and Cheese, Lemon Butter Chicken and even a Sunday Roast. A must-have for a top chef like Monica!

Rachel

Really Good Actually by
Monica Heisey



Laugh-out-loud funny, razor sharp and painfully relatable, *Really Good, Actually* is an irresistible debut novel about the uncertainties of modern love, friendship and happiness. A perfect read for anyone navigating the ups and downs of life, just like Rachel had to do.

Ross

8 Rules of Love: How to Find it, Keep it, and Let it Go by Jay Shetty

Ross is no stranger to the romance game. Maybe he could take some tips from Shetty. He shares insights on how to win or lose together, how to define love, and why you don't break in a break-up.



Joey

Acting Class by Nick Drmaso



From the acclaimed author of *Sabrina*, Nick Drmaso's *Acting Class* creates a tapestry of disconnect, distrust, and manipulation. Ten strangers are brought together under the tutelage of John Smith, a mysterious and morally questionable leader. The group of social misfits and restless searchers have one thing in common: they are out of step with their surroundings and desperate for change. A sometimes un-nerving read, but what we of Joey's love for *The Shining*, this could be perfect. Hopefully, this one won't end up in the freezer!

Phoebe

The Cat Who Saved Books by Sosuke Natsukawa

Phoebe has always been an advocate for our feline friends. What could be better? Bookish high school student Rintaro Natsuki is about to close the second-hand bookshop he inherited from his beloved grandfather. Then, a talking cat named Tiger appears with an unusual request. The cat needs Rintaro's help to save books that have been imprisoned, destroyed and unloved. Their mission sends this odd couple on an amazing journey, where they enter different labyrinths to set books free.



Chandler

How To Ruin Everything by George Watsky

Just like Chandler- sarcastic and funny. Watsky's collection of essays lead us through the journey of life and teach us how to grow.



Local Libraries

This month's library is one right around the corner, so you don't have to travel far!

For years, Norton library has boasted a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts for both young and adult readers. They also offer an impressive selection of e-books for you to sample.

Surrounded by peaceful green areas, there are also lots of spaces for you to go and enjoy your next read.

If you are into your GCSE years, there are also a wealth of revision resources for you to peruse.



First liners



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

1. "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug

2. The boy's name was Santiago.

3. We slept in what had once been the gymnasium.

4. When he was nearly thirteen, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow.

5. 124 was spiteful.

6. The summer of 1947 was not like other Indian Summers.

7. The circus arrives without warning.

8. When I wake up, the other side of the bed is cold.

9. Here is the house.



Word of the Month

Nurture

(Origin: Middle English)

Nurture is most often used to mean “to help someone or something grow, develop, or succeed.” It can also mean “to take care of someone or something that is growing or developing by providing food, protection, a place to live, etc.,” or “to hold something, such as an idea or strong feeling, in your mind for a long time.”

It can also be used somewhat formally as a noun referring to the care and attention given to someone or something that is growing or developing.



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

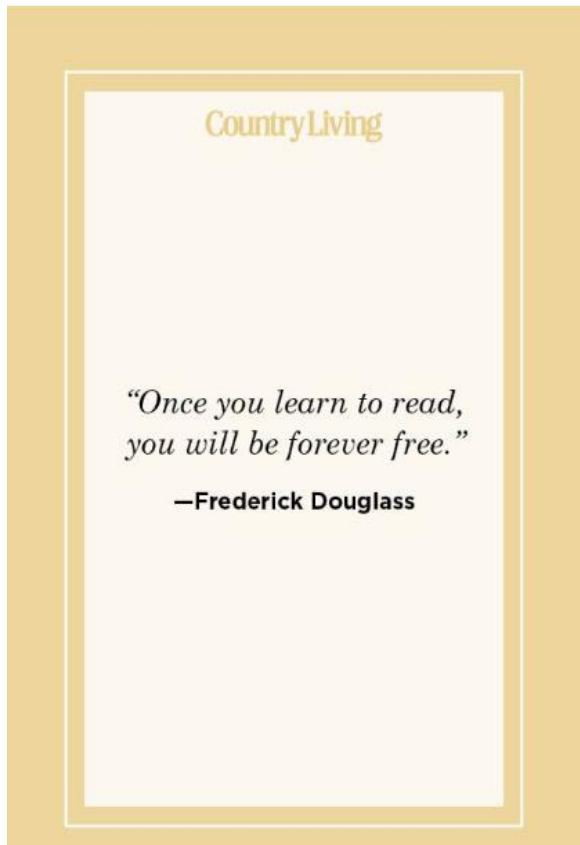
Year 9

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 Frederick Douglass:



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 March's newsletter and look forward to sending you April's edition!

*Answers to First Lines:

1. Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
2. The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho
3. The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
4. To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee
5. Beloved by Toni Morrison
6. The Train to Pakistan by Khushwant Singh
7. The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern
8. The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
9. The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

