

Alison David, Consumer Insight Director at Farshore and HarperCollins Children's Books, has worked with many families to find out what encourages children to choose to read in their free time, and shares a great idea for the upcoming holidays.

Most parents wish their child would spend more time reading, and many parents have said to me they just don't know how to make it happen. Well, I can share the secret! All it takes is reading aloud to your child every day. Research shows children who are read to are much more likely to read independently themselves, and children who choose to read simply do better in life.

Why and how does it work? It's very simple, really. When children are read to, they feel wrapped up in love, they feel special, they love having your attention and reading becomes a huge treat that they associate with great pleasure. When children are read to every day they look forward to it with anticipation. Reading becomes 'what we do' as a family and this is how a reading routine becomes established. Children are soon so enthused that they choose to also read themselves.

The Gift of Reading

You might think committing to reading to your child every day is a big ask – and it's true we are all very busy. But I'd like to suggest the upcoming holidays offer a great opportunity to try it out, when we all enjoy a well-earned break, and our focus is on family and quality time. The gift of reading costs nothing and will have the biggest impact on your child's happiness by sharing special time, attention and cuddles.

My suggestion is to make a reading promise – tell your child you have a different sort of present for them – that you promise to read to them every day of the holidays for 20 minutes. Let them choose the books they want you to read to them. You will be completely amazed at the effect it has. If you have stopped reading to your child, why not start again – no child is too old to be read to.



So why not give it a go? I am certain it will be wonderful. I'd love to know how you get on – maybe you could let me know through Year 3 teacher Mr Firth?

Happy reading and happy holidays.
Alison



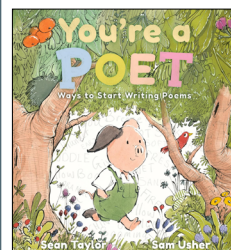
Buy books and support the school

Buy your books from [Love Reading 4 Kids](#) and nominate the school. Not only do you get 10% off but the school receives 25% of the cover price, which we can then spend on new books for the children.

Book Recommendations Infants

Fiction

You're A Poet - Sean Taylor (author) and Sam Usher (illustrator)



A brilliant book for any budding poet or child who loves to explore and play with words. Join Piglet on five adventures with his family and friends as he discovers ways to write a poem. This fun book will help you find your poetic voice.

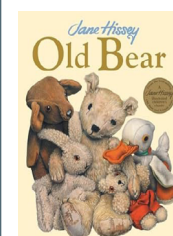
Don't Eat Granny - Gillian McClure



Red Hoodie (don't call her Little Red Riding Hood) is writing her own version of the classic fairy tale but needs some help from some punctuation marks to keep Granny safe. A humorous twist with an unlikely hero!

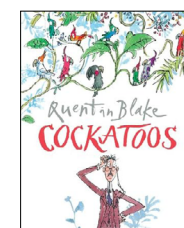
Classics

Old Bear - Jane Hissey



Join Bramwell Brown and his friends as they come up with creative ways to rescue their friend Old Bear who has been left in the attic. Just like Old Bear, rediscover the beauty of this book which is almost 40 years old.

Cockatoos - Quentin Blake



Help Professor Dupont find his pet cockatoos who have decided to escape the conservatory and hide around his house. Full of wit and humour which comes from both the playful words and delightful illustrations.

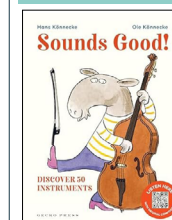
Non-fiction

Dive, Dive into the Night Sea - Thea Lu



Follow a diver as he explores the ocean at nighttime and learn about what happens in this mysterious world when most of us are sleeping. Full of fascinating facts such as parrot fish who sleep in a mucus sleeping bag!

Sounds Good! - Hans Könnecke (author) and Ole Könnecke (illustrator)



This interactive book introduces children to 50 musical instruments. Some will be familiar to the children and they may have the chance to play them at school such as a trumpet and ukulele but others may be new. A QR code on each page allows readers to listen to each instrument being played - which one will be your favourite?

Book Recommendations Juniors

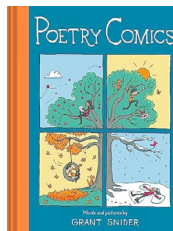
Fiction

Wildsmith. The Hidden Sea - Liz Flanagan (author) and Joe Todd-Stanton (illustrator)



If you like magic, adventure and dragons then this is the book and series for you. The third book in the Wildsmith series follows Rowan as she is captured by her enemies and needs rescuing. The descriptive language and beautiful illustrations bring this mystical world to life.

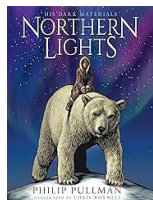
Poetry Comics - Grant Snider



Combining poetry and comic books is surely a winning combination! There are four parts to the book, one for each season, and the poetry is paired with bright and engaging illustrations drawn in a graphic-novel style. It will inspire you to create and share your own poetry comics.

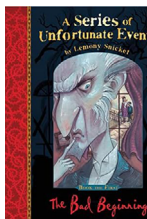
Modern Classics

Northern Lights - Philip Pullman



A truly original and outstanding book that follows the journey of Lyra and takes you into other worlds and dimensions where you will meet armoured bears and people who have daemons. The author's creativity and imagination is simply breathtaking. And great news - this is the first in Pullman's trilogy!

The Bad Beginning - Lemony Snicket



The first of 13 books in the 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' compilation which tells the story of the ill-fated Baudelaire siblings: Violet, Sunny and Klaus. After being orphaned, they are forced to live with their nasty relative, Count Olaf who makes various attempts to get his hands on the siblings' fortune.

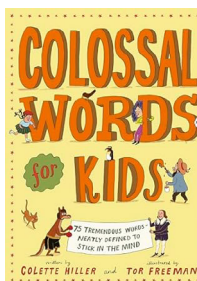
Non-fiction

Welcome to AI - Matthieu Dugal and Owen Davey



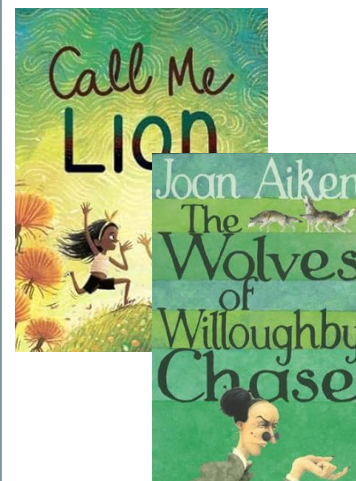
This topical book gives a great insight into artificial intelligence, explaining its origins and what it means for us now and may mean for our futures. It has sections on key figures within AI and programming such as Alan Turing and Ada Lovelace. A must read for anyone interested in computing.

Colossal Words for Kids - Colette Hiller (author) and Tor Freeman (illustrator)



Part dictionary and part poetry book. Read this wonderful and fun book to expand and develop your vocabulary. Each word is explained through a beautifully crafted and illustrated poem. Find out the meaning of 75 words ranging from ambiguous to zealous.

Book Club



Members of Belleville Book Club have chosen the books for their next meet up in the New Year.

The first book is 'Call Me Lion' by Camilla Chester which is about ten-year-old Leo who dreams of performing in the West End but his selective mutism means it's an uphill battle. A story about friendship, courage and determination. It is perfect for fans of Jacqueline Wilson, Lisa Thompson, Stewart Foster and Elle McNicoll.

The second book is 'The Wolves of Willoughby Chase' by Joan Aiken. A wonderful adventure story about two children attempting to flee their wicked guardian Miss Slighcarp. A difficult task in any circumstances but it is especially challenging because Willoughby Chase is surrounded by snow and the wolves are snapping closer and closer.

Perhaps you could read the books too and let us know your thoughts and opinions. The members of Belleville Book Club are: Ms Barlow, Miss Price, Miss Grosvenor, Ms Allan, Mr Firth, Miss Guzsvany, Miss Kirkpatrick, Miss Hamilton, Ms Telford and Mr Bevan.

Winter Reading Challenge

A message from Northcote's Children's Librarian...



Hi everyone! Katie here - your librarian at Northcote Library. Winter is the best time of year to cosy up and get reading!

So whilst you're warming your toes by the fire with a good book, it's a fab idea to sign up for the Winter Mini Challenge!

The Winter Mini Challenge will be running online from 1st December 2024 until the 20th February 2025. You can take part for free at wintermini.org.uk, where you can unlock a limited-edition digital badge and a new Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep once you meet your reading goal!

If you're not sure what to read, please come and visit me here at the library - we have lots of things happening over the festive season, and I'd love to chat with you about what you're reading!

Hope to see you soon! Stay Cosy!

