

Oakwood Primary Academy

Reading News

AUTUMN TERM



**National
Read Aloud
Challenge**
Powered by **Fonetti**

South West


Congratulations!

Oakwood Primary Academy

**Regional Winner!
National Read Aloud Challenge!!**

26th September 2023
DATED


KIM ANTONIOU
Chief Executive Officer
Auris Tech Limited / Fonetti


CLARE BALDING, CBE
Author, Presenter
Fonetti Brand Ambassador



Fonetti
The Read Aloud App

Winners!

Regional Champions

Stop Press! It is with great pride to announce we have won the title of South-West champions of The National Read Aloud Challenge.

National Poetry Day

Celebration of verse

Poetry was hunted down in amongst the tress and the climbing frames.

Reading Champions and Librarians

Can you support others?

Opportunity again this year to become a reader leader for your class and school or a school librarian.



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**National
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**2023
Regional Winner**

We are delighted to include this message from Fonetti:

We are thrilled to announce that Oakwood Primary Academy has achieved an outstanding 1st position in the inaugural National Read Aloud Challenge for the South West region. Congratulations for this remarkable achievement!'

Your students have truly made you proud by reading diligently all summer long, leading to your school's remarkable achievement of winning this prestigious award for your region.

We are excited to inform you that your school has secured a spot at the prestigious inaugural National Read Aloud Challenge awards ceremony. Congratulations! 🎉

We will provide you with further details regarding the awards ceremony and the logistics in due course.

The true gift lies in the engagement and improvement we witnessed from the children throughout the summer holidays. In due course, we will share with you some insightful data, including the names of the highest-performing pupils. This will highlight the remarkable progress your pupils achieved collectively.

While you wait, embrace this chance to celebrate your achievements alongside your school community by showing off the attached certificate!

The whole Read Aloud Challenge and Fonetti team warmly congratulates each and every one of you!

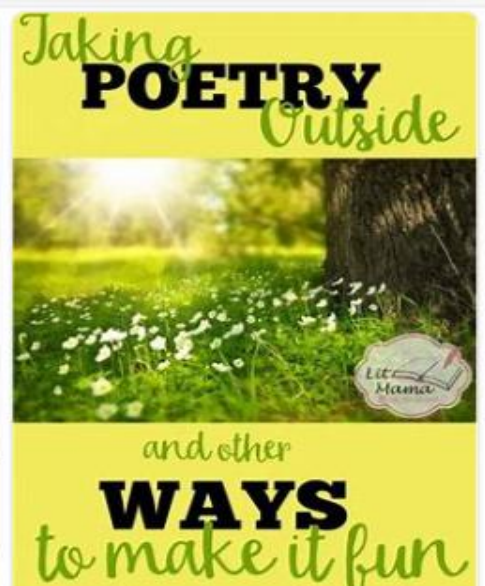
This is a remarkable achievement and every one of you who signed up played a part in this achievement.

But the success did not stop there, once you returned to school, it was evident that all those books you read led to improving your reading ages of up to 2 years alongside, more importantly nurturing and fostering that true love of literature. The reading app is available to everyone but (at this point in time) it is no longer free of charge. It is, however, a great way for children to rehearse reading aloud to build up fluency and prosody. Details can be found at :www.fonetti.com

Parents of the children who took part have been very positive about the reading app. Children have a plethora of books to choose from at different reading levels and they read aloud to the app. The word will turn red if they have not read it correctly and they can double tap for the word to be read to them. We will run the competition again, next Summer in the hope that even more children sign up for this Summer Reading Challenge.



National Poetry Day Thursday 5th October



Celebrating National Poetry Day

Poems aren't just for poetry day!

It was such a pleasure to see children hunting down verses in amongst the climbing frames and tress and eagerly sharing them together. Poetry is an important part of our reading and is also a fun way to engage less able or reluctant readers. At Oakwood Primary, we make it a priority to share poetry at least once a week, sometimes it is related to our topic work and other times it is just for the sheer joy of it. Please consider picking up a poem for bedtime reading for change! There are some great recommendations included below.

POETRY BY HEART

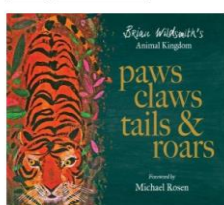
Choose a poem

Learn it by heart

Perform it out loud

Do you love reading aloud? Is poetry your passion? We will be looking for entrants again, following last year's success. Please look out for more details next term.

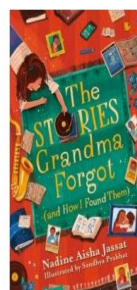
Younger Children



Paws, Claws, Tails & Roars by Brian Wildsmith, Oxford Childrens Books, ISBN: 978-0192784216 (Poetry)

Answer the call of the wild with this timeless, stunningly beautiful gift book from one of the world's finest illustrators, presented with a foreword from one of the shining stars of children's literature, Michael Rosen. Brian Wildsmith's breathtaking animal paintings are accompanied by new lyrical text, inviting readers to pause a while and linger over the

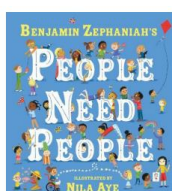
glorious wild animals, birds, and fishes within. Whether already a fan of Brian Wildsmith, or discovering his work for the first time, readers will cherish this book for a lifetime.



The Stories Grandma Forgot by Nadine Aisha Jassat, Hachette Children's Group, ISBN: 978-1510111578 (Poetry)

Twelve-year-old Nyla's dad died when she was four, or that's what she's been told. So when Grandma Farida insists she saw him in the supermarket, Nyla wonders if she is 'time-travelling' again - the phrase she uses when Grandma forgets. But when Grandma asks Nyla to find her dad and bring him home, Nyla promises that she will. As Nyla sets out on her journey, she hopes that uncovering the past will help her to understand the mystery at the heart of her family ... and to work out who she is.

HEADING 4



People Need People by Benjamin Zephaniah, Hachette Children's Group, ISBN: 978-1408368169 (Poetry)

From the creators of *Nature Trail* comes an uplifting picture book about the power of people, and the importance of connecting with others. This timely poem reminds us all to be kind to one another.

Some of the sample text in this document



Miss Ward was delighted to receive so many applications to become a librarian from Year 4 this year! Badges are on the way but in anticipation of their arrival and presentation: we would like to say congratulations to:

Lola, Harper, Seth, Christine, Logan R, Lily-Rose, Riley, Casey, Jorge and Isla.

These children are an integral part of building a welcoming and organised library space and we couldn't do this without their hard work



This year class teachers will be nominating Reading Champions. Last year our team did an amazing job at championing the pleasure of reading by recommending books, selling old books for new and listening and supporting younger or less able readers. We need your help again and will be awarding these sought after badges soon. Names and more details and celebration of their work around the school will go in next term's newsletter.

In the meantime, please, if you are interested in becoming a Reading Champion make it known to your class teacher.



We are also delighted to tell you that, thanks to the National Literacy Trust and Amazon, a box of the latest picture books for KS1 and KS2 are arriving to support us with a challenge which will be set for next term. It is called Picture This. This challenge celebrates the invaluable joy found within a picture book and will encourage children to re-discover the wonderful world of these texts.

- Readers of all abilities can get involved with these inclusive and diverse texts
- Book talk and discussions are key to encouraging reading for pleasure
- Picturebooks provide limitless opportunities to develop critical literacy skills for all ages
- Certificates for all participants



Some really useful Early Reading Videos have been posted on Facebook from Mrs. Wye (our RWI lead). I hope you have a chance to view these. But please don't forget, even if your child is in KS2 they will still need regular reading support at home. For more information, please see your class teacher or speak with me- Miss Crocker. We would be happy to support you.



A Guide to Book Chat

Research indicates that parents who regularly read with their children at home lay solid foundations for language and literacy development. It's a precious time for you both to relax, share your thoughts and feelings, have fun and chat together. Whilst sharing books, your child has your undivided attention, and the conversation, connection and enjoyment they experience is invaluable.

To promote children's pleasure in reading and foster the habit, we need to read **to** children and **with** them and to **talk** to them about books. These conversations are crucial as they help children to engage and think deeply.

There are several ways to prompt book chat, these are our Top Tips.

Watch and listen carefully to follow their interests

Observe and respond: Pay attention to what captures your child's attention and build on their interests, for example, 'Oh, you've spotted the...!'.
Leave pauses: So they can look closely and think, this will lead to comments on the pictures or questions. Respond to their lead and let the book chat flow.

Invite your child to get involved

Pose questions: Open questions encourage thinking and discussion, such as, 'How do you think the boy is feeling?'. Try to avoid closed questions, such as 'What colour is that?'; these have a single answer and don't keep the conversation going.
Draw attention to illustrations: Encourage your child to notice details in the pictures and think what they might mean, for example, 'Look! What's that hiding, what do you think it might be?'.

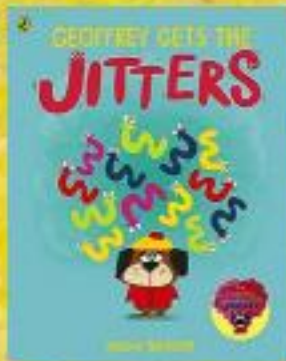
Wonder and connect to your lives

Ponder and wonder: Encourage your child to think about what might happen, using phrases such as, 'I wonder if/ whether /who/ why/ what ...'.
Make personal connections: Picture storybooks not only allow children to empathise with the experiences of fictional characters but enable them to make sense of events in their own lives. Talk about connections, for example, 'That reminds me of when...'.
Comment on your feelings: By sharing your emotional response to a character or something that's happened you encourage your child to do the same, helping them engage and learn to express their emotions.

Share your emotional responses!

Keep it light and enjoyable!

Your combined pleasure counts: Bring the story to life with facial expression, actions and sounds, encouraging your child to join in! Do offer information to help with unfamiliar words, such as 'That's the hencoop, it's where the hens live', but keep the focus on fun.



Geoffrey Gets the Jitters

Nadia Shireen

Puffin 4+

Another amazing book about feelings. Getting children to recognise their 'jitters' and giving them strategies to regulate and feel better. I particularly enjoyed the 'Useful Guide to Worries' on the back pages, it started a great conversation with my children about their worries.

Peril on the Atlantic

A.M. Howell

Usborne 8+

A.M Howell is an absolute powerhouse in historical fiction so you always know that her books are going to grip you. This mystery is set in 1936 as the Queen Mary crosses the Atlantic - Alice and Sonny uncover a sinister plot and race to solve the mysteries that they're uncovering. Unputdownable!



The After School Crime Club

Hayley Webster

Nosy Crow 9+

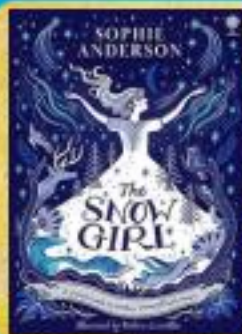
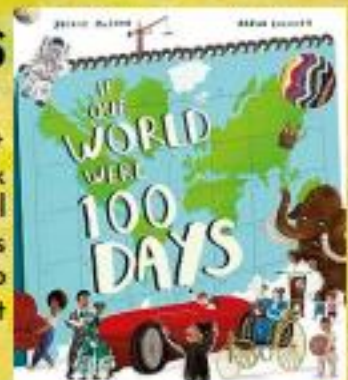
I think this is going to be a very important book, showing how those who feel like outsiders can get caught up in bad situations. Willow makes some new friends who give her dares in exchange for friendship, but soon she starts to wonder if things are going a little too far.

If Our World Were 100 Days

Jackie McCann & Aaron Cushley

Red Shed 5+

If the World Were 100 People is a fantastic look at the world and its inhabitants but this sequel takes a simplified look into history. It gives readers a great snapshot and puts lengths of time into much more understandable chunks. I hope that this becomes just as popular as its predecessor.



One To Wait for...

The Snow Girl - Sophie Anderson

Usborne - Oct 23

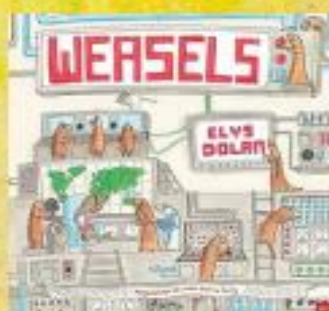
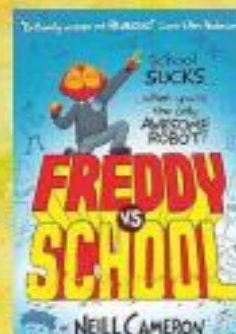
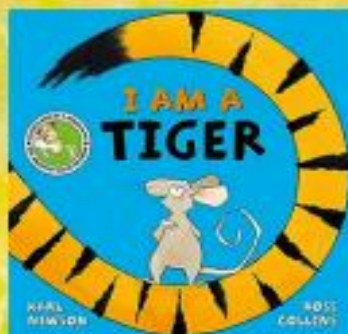
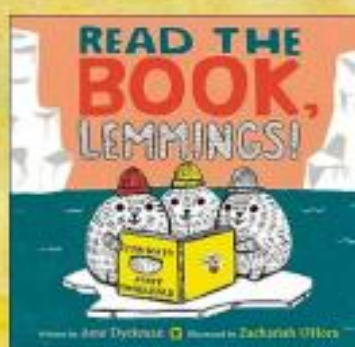
Just seeing Sophie Anderson's name on the front of a book is enough to excite most readers, but paired with this gorgeous front cover you know you're in for something special!

9 Books that will... make you laugh



Books are amazing at so many things, but making us laugh is up there as one of the best. These books have got giggles for all ages! Be careful not to read them when you need to be quiet, these will have you laughing a little too loudly!

1. Uma and the Answer to Absolutely Everything
Sam Copeland & Sarah Horne
2. Read the Book Lemmings
Ame Dyckman & Zachariah O'Hara
3. I Bet I Can Make You Laugh
Joshua Seigal
4. I am a Tiger
Karl Newson & Ross Collins
5. Freddy Vs School
Neill Cameron
6. Grimwood
Nadia Shireen
7. Weasels
Elys Dolan
8. The Incredible Record Smashers
Jenny Pearson & Erica Salcedo
9. I Say Ooh, You Say Aah
John Kane



These recommendations are sourced from: [No Shelf Control](https://www.no-shelf-control.com/) | [Mister Bodd \(wordpress.com\)](https://misterbodd.wordpress.com/)

To keep our library stocked and up to date is a huge undertaking, please donate any unwanted/read books to Miss Crocker to support with keeping our school library fresh, diverse and contemporary! Thank you 😊



Scott and Daley classes have been reading a book called The Colour Monster Goes to School. We talked about how we felt starting school and then drew our own feeling monsters!

In Bolt and Muir class they have been really enjoying the beautiful book corners created by their class teachers and have enjoyed choosing their own narratives and reading these under the twinkly lights and snuggling up on the cozy cushions.

Holmes and Everson class have been reading and writing poetry. They have been inspired by poets- Jeff Foxworthy and Michael Rosen. They really enjoyed the poetry hunt this term and recognized some of the poems and poets they found. It also took Mrs Gruszka back to a poem she learnt by heart

Dujardin and Whitlock have been excited by a new reading activity thought up by Miss Hewlitt. She has called it 'Flashlight Fridays' and during the class story time they have little finger torchlights to read with. This must be something we should all have a go at. The classes are really loving this experience and will hopefully be rolled out

In Simmonds and Ainsle class they have been creating a recommendation tree for other children who are not sure which book to read next. Lily has been absolutely engrossed in her latest book Amelia Jane by Enid Blyton and Faris has discovered Diary of the Wimpy Kid series and cannot stop giggling during reading time.

In Asher- Smith and Adams class they have been enjoying reading Beowulf and using inference to find out why Rhianna couldn't take her eyes off Garwen! These classes have also been working hard on completing Accelerated Reading quizzes alongside

In Brown and Farrah Class they have been thoroughly enjoying reading War Horse by Michael Morpurgo. They have been answering a range of questions about the text. This is the perfect text to explore for their Dartmoor Topic this term.

To support with reading at home, there will be some workshops and events coming soon. If you would like to see something included in the termly reading newsletter, please email for the attention of Miss Crocker. Feel free to send in celebrations of reading and photos too!