

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School

Celebrating Reading!



“Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift.” — Kate DiCamillo

“I don’t believe in the kind of magic in my books. But I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book.” — J.K. Rowling

Rowling

Gift a Book at Christmas 2023

An enormous THANK YOU to all! We have been overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity last Christmas. Your donations (£475) have meant that we have been able to order ALL of the books (some of which are shown below) that were on our ‘wish list’ – for both the KS1 and KS2 libraries. The Year Six Librarians have been an excellent support (who I am extremely grateful to) in terms of helping me ‘process’ the books so promptly. These new additions are now on the shelves for all to enjoy.



KS2 Reading Tree Awards

A fantastic number of awards have been given out each Friday during Worship this half term. The award numbers currently stand at: Bronze 120, Silver 41, Gold 28, Platinum 8.

New Diamond Reading Tree Level (KS2)

A number of ‘Book Worms’ have raced through the Reading Tree and obtained their Platinum Award fairly quickly. To encourage these children further, we have introduced a Diamond Level. For each book read, children will complete a book review. At the end of the academic year, they will receive their award for participating. We encourage our Diamond Readers to take their time, trying out books they wouldn’t normally consider reading and also to pick more challenging reads. So far we have four children participating in this scheme.

Our Favourite Book Characters

After half term, the children will spot a display in the KS1 Library all about Katie Morag. These gentle stories, written and illustrated by Mairi Hedderwick, have been praised for their good humour, strong sense of place, and the feisty and independent character of Katie herself. A lot of children will be familiar with the wonderful CBeebies programme, loosely based on Mairi’s

stories, and loved by all. There is a delightful tour of Katie Morag's Island (of Struay) on YouTube for all to enjoy. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ix6oyVgUDbc

Barrington Stoke Books AKA 'Yellow Books'

We now stock a good number of Barrington Stoke books in our KS2 Library (partly due to your generosity with the Gift a Book at Christmas initiative). What is so fabulous about this publisher is that it offers enjoyable, age appropriate (for interest) short books for children who are either dyslexic, struggling to read, or simply reluctant to sit down with a book. They also sell e-books. For further details, visit their website: www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

Apps, Audio Books and Author Chats

For free audiobooks, visit www.loyalbooks.com/genre/Children . They have hundreds of free classic audio books for children to enjoy, including Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll and Peter Pan by J M Barrie.

After the half term break, the children will see four further book reviews in the KS2 library.

The Boy who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba (Young Reader Edition)

Available as an audio book on YouTube, www.youtube.com/watch?v=YL9a-LOq-8&list=PL8VcP9QsZOJ42LQZHuyABbb01DOFQZL2L and retold for a younger audience, the audio version of this exciting memoir shows how, even in a desperate situation, one boy's brilliant idea can light up the world.

Darwin's Dragons by Lindsay Galvin

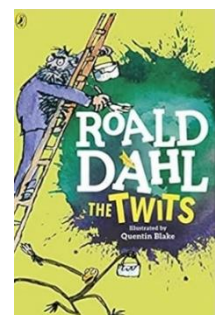
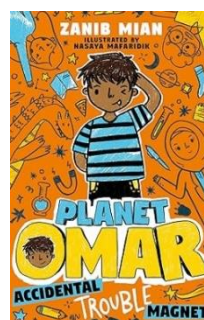
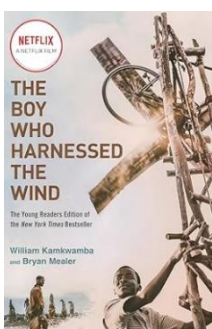
You're in for a treat here, as author Lindsay Galvin reads an excerpt from her book, Darwin's Dragons. www.youtube.com/watch?v=8f-9EzpCjag

Planet Omar Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Mian

Planet Omar has all of the everyday life family drama and silly humour of Tom Gates. Read along with Mr McEvoy. www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0t0COeYMr8

The Twits by Roald Dahl

Mr Majit's silly voices are just brilliant! This read along audio book (which is a childhood favourite of mine) tells us all about the nasty tricks that Mr & Mrs Twit play on one another. Find out how they get exactly what they deserve! www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGXNbls82UY



Mrs C. Emery, School Librarian