

# The Reading Owl

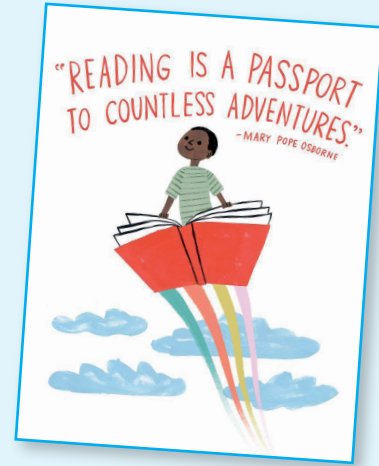


Welcome to the first issue of our school reading newsletter.

Over the summer, I was fortunate to be able to research and purchase a considerable number of new books for our libraries as well as books to support our topic work. This is largely due to the generosity of current and previous pupils and their parents. So, thank you very much. Your gifts of money and support for the Sponsored Read before the first covid lockdown have enabled us to re-vitalise the libraries and re-kindle a love of reading in the children. Their enthusiasm for all things 'bookish' is infectious.

We have planned events throughout the school year to continue to promote the reading culture at CDS and will be sharing these with you and the children over the coming months. Please read below about our celebration of National Poetry Day and the launch of a poetry writing competition.

*Mrs Chaplin*



## Reading Ambassadors

The following children applied for and have been appointed as School Reading Ambassadors. So far they have been busy learning how to operate the library computer system and have been instrumental in helping to make the junior site library a bright, engaging space and in sharing their passion for books.



## Library Opening Hours

On the junior site, the children are able to change their library books each break time and during other slots as agreed by their class teacher. We are pleased to announce that after half-term, the libraries on both sites will also be open one day each week after school.

Infant site: Friday 3.10 – 3.30pm  
Junior site: Monday 3.25 – 3.50pm

## National Poetry Day

On 7th October we celebrated National Poetry Day. Both sites were plastered with poems, English lessons focused on poetry reading and writing and staff led assemblies in which they read their favourite poem or even poems they had written themselves. The children were surprised to find poems stuck to the toilet doors and were heard to be apologising to their teacher for taking so long in the toilet because they wanted to read all the poems!

## Poetry Writing Competition

The children's enthusiasm that day and since then has led us to launch our first poetry writing competition. Entries need to be submitted by **Monday 8th November at 3.30pm**. The poems can be typed and emailed to the school office or hand-written and delivered to the Year 4 classroom or to Mr Mackriell on the infant site. The judging panel will choose winners from each keystage and we hope to publish the entries in a school poetry book.



# Book Recommendations

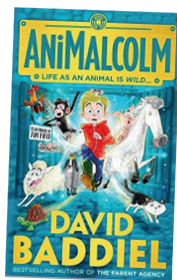
Archie recommends ...

## Animalcolme

by David Baddiel

Malcolm doesn't like animals. To his horror, his parents pay for the school trip to go to a ... farm! At the farm, he tells the old goat, K-Pax, he doesn't like him or any other animal. After talking to him a while, the next thing he knows, he's waking up! Something feels really strange and after a while he realises, he's an animal! Throughout the book, he changes into all sorts of different farm animals and eats, smells, feels and even thinks like them. How does Malcom change himself back? After all, the hardest thing is to become yourself.

I enjoyed Animalcolme and would recommend this book to ages 6+. It's a funny enjoyable story that I think a lot of people will enjoy.



Florence recommends ...

## Malamander

by Thomas Taylor

Found in a box of lemons, Herbert Lemon, the 'lost and founder' of the Grand Nautilus Hotel, travels with a young girl, Violet, to discover what a life stealing monster known as the 'malamander' did to her parents and what its egg could do to her future. If you like heart pounding adventure and mystery, this is definitely the book for you.



Year 1 recommend ...

## Willow Wildthing and the Shooting Star

by Gill Lewis

If you like adventures and stargazing, this book will be perfect for you.

When Willow meets the Wild Things, she knows her life is never going to be the same again. Magical things happen in The Wilderness, and although the rain has washed away the Wild Things' camp, it won't stop them enjoying the meteor shower. When three shooting stars fall from the sky, Willow gets more than she wished for ...



Mrs Reed recommends ...

## Nevermoor, The Trials of Morrigan Crow

by Jessica Townsend

This series tells the story of Morrigan Crow – destined to die on her eleventh birthday – who is whisked away to the amazing city of Nevermoor, to become part of the mysterious Wondrous society. The author, Jessica Townsend, helps us to feel sympathy for Morrigan through the descriptive tale of suspense and mystery, revealing twists and turns, magic and a myriad of intriguing and unusual characters, such as Fenestra the Magnificat and her enthusiastic patron, Jupiter North. It kept me desperate to know what would happen to Morrigan and how the tale would unfold. I have read three of the series but am looking forward to June when the fourth one appears in paperback.



## Where to find great book recommendations

Look at the posters in our school library or talk to one of the Reading Ambassadors, who will be happy to help.

### Websites

[www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk)

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

## A date for your diary

RAISING A READER virtual parents' workshop at 6.30pm on **Tuesday 16th November**. A Zoom link will be sent before the event. This will cover – how we teach reading in school, why it is so important to keep reading to your child, what can you do at home to help support fluency and comprehension, book recommendations and lots more.

