



# The Redmile Reader



Autumn

2020-2021



Welcome to our first reading newsletter of the new year! Whether you or your child haven't been able to put a book down over lock-down and summer, or have struggled to pick one up, this newsletter is for you! We can't wait to hear all about your exciting reading journeys!

For those parents and carers new to our school, the *Redmile Reader* is our termly reading newsletter. It's a chance to find out about new, high-quality fiction, non-fiction and poetry, as well as a chance to get tips and up-to-date information about helping your child with their reading journey.

## Library Opening Hours

### Bottesford

Mon	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Tues	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Wed	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Thurs	9:30am – 12:30pm
Fri	9:30am – 12:30pm
Sat	9:30am – 12:30pm
Sun	2:00pm – 4:00pm

### Grantham

Mon	9:00am – 5:00pm
Tues	9:00am – 5:00pm
Wed	9:00am – 5:00pm
Thurs	9:00am – 6:00pm
Fri	9:00am – 5:00pm
Sat	9:00am – 4:00pm
Sun	9:00am – 4:15pm

## Mobile Library

Visits the second Thursday of every month.

10<sup>th</sup> Sept      8<sup>th</sup> Oct      12<sup>th</sup> Nov      10<sup>th</sup> Dec

Village	Stopping Place	Time
Redmile	School	11:30 – 11:50
Barkstone	The New Causeway Bus Stop	12:00 – 12:20
Plungar	5 Barkstone Lane	12:25 – 12:40

## Author Virtual Visit Abi Elphinstone

The author of the wonderful *Sky Song* will be visiting Class 3 (virtually) on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September to celebrate her new book, *Jungledrop*, which will be released on 1<sup>st</sup> October!

We have 10 signed copies on their way to us and can't wait to read them. Class 3 have had a sneaky peak at the first chapters...

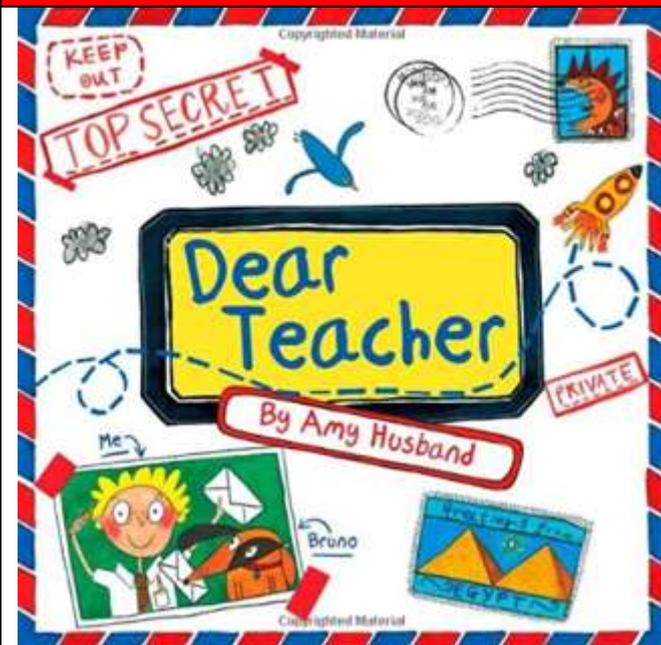
Get ready to meet Abi Elphinstone

Bestselling children's author and adventurer  
Abi Elphinstone  
will be doing a very special online event on  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September  
to celebrate her new book **JUNGLEDROP**

Signed copies of *Jungledrop* available for £5.99 from South Kensington Books [dave@kensingtonbooks.co.uk](mailto:dave@kensingtonbooks.co.uk) or call 0207 589 2916

Contact South Kensington Books for your own chance to buy a signed copy!

## Returning to School



### **Dear Teacher** by Amy Husband

*Dear Teacher* is a hilarious collection of letters from Michael to his new teacher explaining why he can't go to class. From travelling to the pyramids in Egypt to getting attacked by pirates and going to the moon in a rocket ship, each letter is increasingly outlandish!

When Michael's teacher writes back telling him how sorry he is that Michael will miss out on all the exciting school activities and learning planned for the year, Michael realises all the fun he'd really miss out on.

### **Meesha Makes Friends** by Tom Percival

Meesha loves making things, but there's one thing she finds difficult to make – friends. She doesn't know quite what to do, what to say or when to say it, and she struggles reading and responding to social cues. But one day, she discovers that she has a special talent that will help her to navigate challenging social situations and help her to make friends.

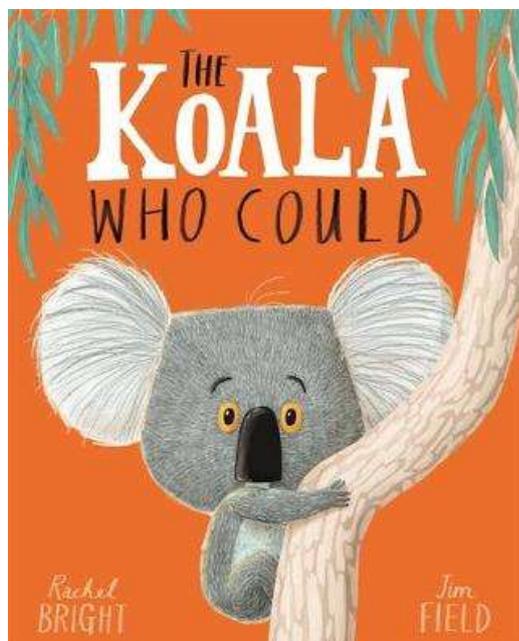
A warm and affectionate look at the joys and difficulties of making and keeping friends and finding your place in the world.



### **The Koala Who Could** by Rachel Bright

Meet Kevin, a koala who likes to keep things the same. Exactly the same. But sometimes, change comes along whether we like it or not... And as Kevin discovers, if you step outside your comfort zone and try new things, you might just surprise yourself!

A funny rhyming story about dealing with change and overcoming worries, from the bestselling creators of *The Lion Inside*.

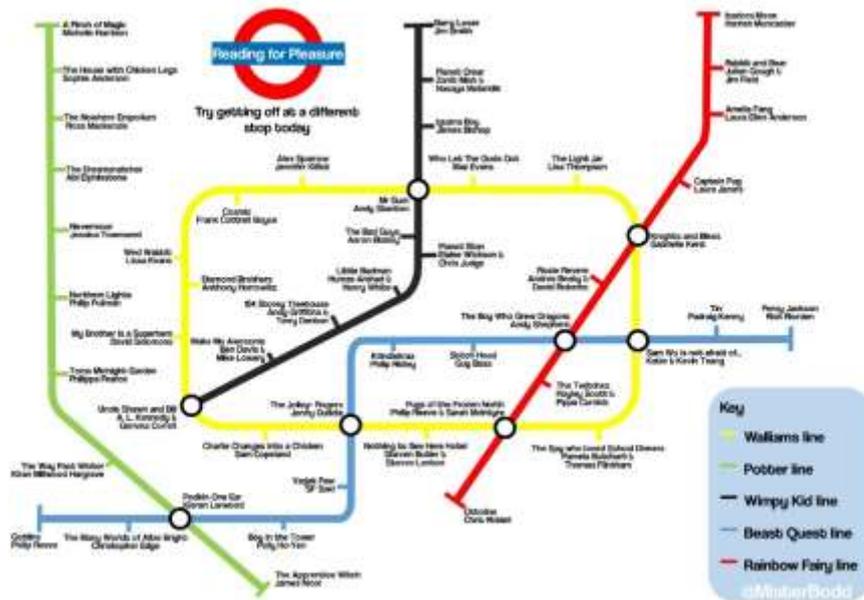


# Guiding Children's Reading Journeys

Does your child always read books by the same author or the same genre of book? Children's choice about what they read is really important, but it's also important that they know what's out there to be able to make an informed choice, with adults guiding them towards quality books wherever possible.

Getting to know your child's reading habits is crucial to this, so your suggestions to them can be tailored to what sort of books they enjoy. It's also good to read something you wouldn't normally read every once in a while!

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like any further advice and support – we would be glad to help!

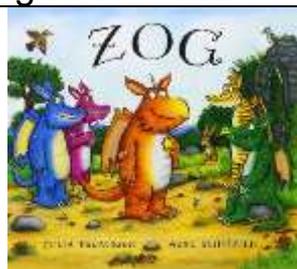


## What are You Reading?

Our children have been developing a wonderful reading repertoire! We asked which books they would recommend and here are just a few of the books that have really grabbed them.



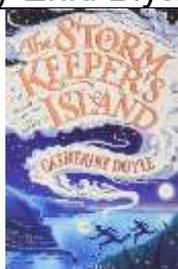
**The Magic Faraway Tree**  
by Enid Blyton



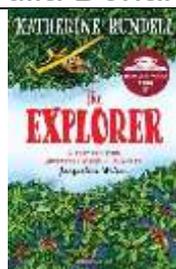
**Zog**  
by Julia Donaldson



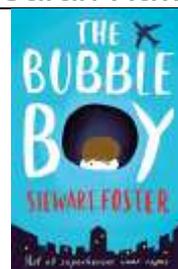
**Bad Day for Badger**  
By Sarah Hawkins



**The Stormkeeper's Island**  
By Catherine Doyle



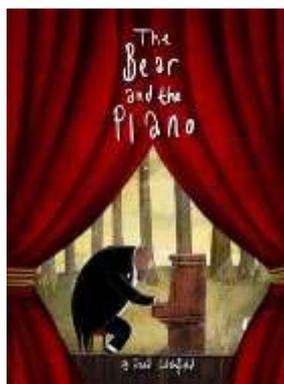
**The Explorer**  
by Katherine Rundell



**Bubble Boy**  
by Stewart Foster

Have you read a book you'd love to recommend in the newsletter?  
Please pass your recommendation onto Mr Cope in Class 3.

## Book Suggestions

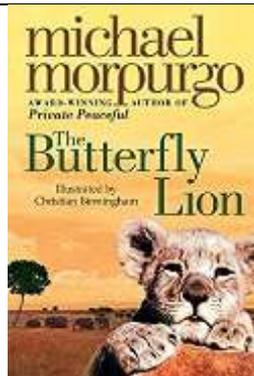


### 'The Bear and the Piano' by David Litchfield

#### Aimed at Class 1.

One day, a young bear stumbles upon something he has never seen before in the forest. As time passes, he teaches himself how to play the strange instrument, and eventually the beautiful sounds are heard by a father and son who are picnicking in the woods. The bear goes with them on an incredible journey to New York, where his piano playing makes him a huge star. He has fame, fortune and all the music in the world, but he misses the friends and family he has left behind.

A moving tale of exploration and belonging from an exciting debut author-illustrator.

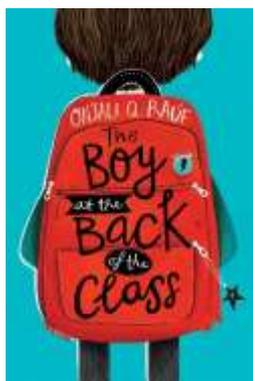


### 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo

#### Aimed at Class 2.

Bertie rescues an orphaned white lion cub from the African veldt. They are inseparable until Bertie is sent to boarding school far away in England and the lion is sold to a circus. Bertie swears that one day they will see one another again, but it is the butterfly lion which ensures that their friendship will never be forgotten.

A lyrical and moving tale of a young boy growing up in Africa, and his lifelong friendship with a white lion.



### 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Rauf

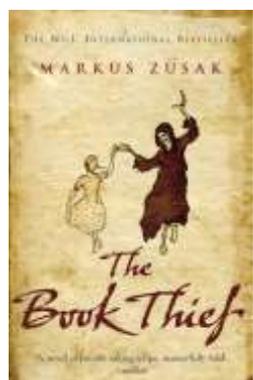
#### Aimed at Class 3.

There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it.

He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite!

But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help.

That's where my best friends Josie, Michael and Tom come in. Because you see, together we've come up with a plan. . .



### 'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak

#### Aimed at grown-ups!

It is 1939. In Nazi Germany, the country is holding its breath.

Death has never been busier - and will become busier still.

By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed forever when she picks up a single object, abandoned in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, and this is her first act of book thievery. So begins Liesel's love affair with books and words, and soon she is stealing from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library . . . wherever there are books to be found.

But these are dangerous times, and when Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, nothing will ever be the same again.

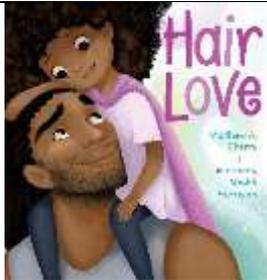
In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.

*This is one of my absolute favourite books, told with such beautiful imagery from the point of view of Death!*



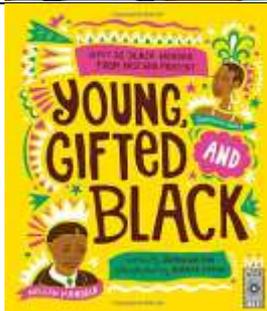
# October: Black History Month

Each year, the whole month of October is dedicated to highlighting the importance of understanding Black History. There are many books available to open up discussions and these are just a small sample. For more about Black History Month, see the official website <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk>



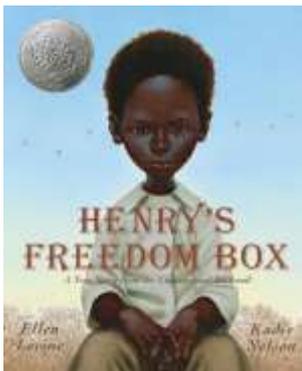
## **'Hair Love'** by Matthew Cherry

Zuri's beautiful hair has a mind of its own! It kinks, coils and curls every which way. Mum doesn't always do Zuri's hair just the way she likes it, but Daddy is keen to learn to style it for an extra special occasion...



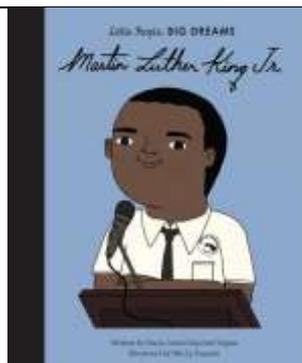
## **'Young, Gifted and Black'** by Jamia Wilson

Meet 52 icons of colour from the past and present in this collection of stories about strong, courageous, talented and diverse men and women: the perfect read to encourage, inspire and empower children young and old.



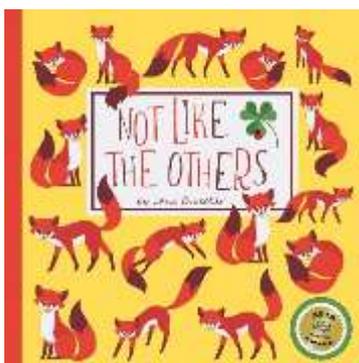
## **'Henry's Freedom Box'** by Ellen Levine

Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: he will mail himself to the North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday – and his first day of freedom!



## **'Martin Luther King, Jr. - Little People, Big Dreams'** by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

Inspire the next generation of outstanding people who will change the world! This moving book features stylish and quirky illustrations, where you can discover the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., the inspiring minister and civil rights activist.



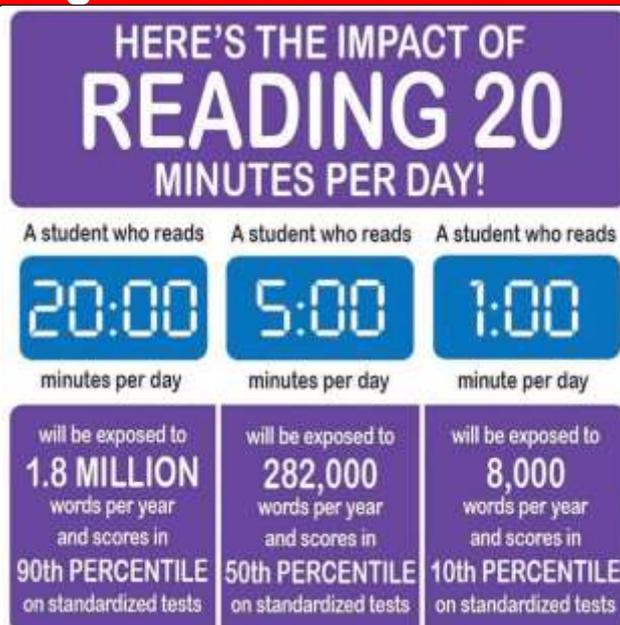
## **'Not Like the Others'** by Jana Broecker

This book about diversity promotes acceptance, understanding and kindness for all by showcasing that each of us, irrespective of our own unique qualities, is an essential part of a bigger picture. Which fox has the fluffiest tail? Where is the squirrely that holds an acorn? Over 250 forest animals fill the pages of this beautifully illustrated book. Little eyes will be eager to spot the one animal that is *Not Like the Others*, little ears will cherish the rhymes, and little minds will learn that it's our differences that make us special.

## The Importance of Reading for Pleasure

There is overwhelming evidence that Literacy has a significant relationship to people's life chances. Reading for pleasure is more important than either wealth or social class as an indicator of success at school and beyond.

If your child isn't a book worm yet, don't worry! There are so many wonderful and exciting authors – there's a book to catch you out there, you just may not have discovered it yet!



## Exciting Dates, Events and Competitions to get involved with!



### Rotary Young Writer Competition

**Open now**

This competition offers participants chance to express themselves and get creative with the written word. After being given a theme, participants can choose to write fiction or non-fiction, a story or a poem. It's a chance to be imaginative.

<https://www.rotarygbi.org/projects/young-people/competitions/>



### Reading is Magic Festival

**27<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

An online festival packed full of engaging activities for all readers, in association with Cressida Cowell (author of *How to Train Your Dragon* and *Wizards of Once*).

<https://www.readingismagicfestival.com/>

**NATIONAL  
POETRY  
DAY 2020**

See It Like a Poet

### National Poetry Day and Competition

**1st October**

National Poetry Day generates an explosion of activity nationwide with thousands of amazing events across the UK - in schools, libraries, bookshops, hospitals, on buses, trains and boats – all celebrating poetry's power to bring people together. The 2020 theme is **vision!**

<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/>