

# St Bernard's READING NEWSLETTER

## Autumn Term

Welcome to our first reading newsletter of the new academic year. Whether your child hasn't been able to put a book down during lockdown and summer, or you've struggled to get them to pick one up, this newsletter is for you!

Our newsletter will be published each new term and 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.

As always, your support is integral to our success. if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me [lcarey@stbernards.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:lcarey@stbernards.cheshire.sch.uk) Miss Carey (English coordinator and Team 6 teacher).

## 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.



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

### HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads	A student who reads	A student who reads
20:00	5:00	1:00
minutes per day	minutes per day	minute per day
will be exposed to <b>1.8 MILLION</b> words per year and is more likely to score in the <b>90th PERCENTILE</b> on standardized tests	will be exposed to <b>282,000</b> words per year and is more likely to score in the <b>50th PERCENTILE</b> on standardized tests	will be exposed to <b>8,000</b> words per year and is more likely to score in the <b>10th PERCENTILE</b> on standardized tests

Source: Neely Anderson and Herman, 1987

**SCHOLASTIC**



# Author Spotlight

Each term you'll have a note from an author who we hold in high regard here at St. Bernard's. This term, it's Michael Morpurgo.

## A letter from Michael Morpurgo



Hello from me,

Strange times we are all living through. You'll be isolating at home, schools closed, unable to go out, see friends, do what you want to do, doing lessons digitally, homeschooling. A different life. For a while. Not easy, but it's got to be done this way, to help get this thing over and done with. And it will be. It will.

Reading stories might help. If you get into a book, you can pass the time without even noticing. Books are a fantastic medicine for boredom. And you can escape! You can travel the world, travel in time, live the lives of others, be who you want to be, go where you want to go. Try reading a book a week, a different author each week.

And writing stories or poems too, can help you to deal with this new life you're living. Tell it down onto the page, the screen. Maybe write a daily journal of your life as you live through this, the highs, the lows, the sadness, the fun moments, the thoughts of those you're missing, your feelings about those around you, about all you long for. Or be someone else and write an imaginary diary. Or write a poem about it, or a story around it. Writing will help you understand things better, help you get through, and out the other side.

I'm telling you this, because that's what I'm doing. Reading, writing, dreaming stories in my head. Like your world, mine has changed hugely. All the plays and concerts, involving my stories, have been cancelled, War Horse, The Mozart Question, I believe in Unicorns, Private Peaceful, Lucky Button. The film of Waiting for Anya was in cinemas only for few days before all cinemas had to close. And of course this means that all those who have been working on them are out of a job. And that is hard, so hard.

Listen. Look after yourselves, and those around you, keep in touch with those you love who can't see you. Wash hands! And sing! Sing in the bath, the shower, sing out of the window, sing on Skype, on you tube. Laugh and the world laughs with you. Sing and the world sings with you.

Keep singing, keep well, keep happy, keep strong.

Much love,

Michael Morpurgo



# Ellesmere Port Library

## Revised Opening Times

- Monday, Wednesday and Saturday 10 am - 1 pm
- Tuesday 10 am - 1 pm and 2pm - 6pm
- Thursday 2pm - 6pm
- Friday 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm
- Sunday - closed

**Ellesmere Port Library is back open and is a wonderful way of accessing a huge range of high quality books.**



**Like a book on our reading newsletter? Ask them if they have it. If not, they can get it in stock for you to borrow.**

## Pathways to Read

This new term brings with it some new, exciting news. As with our Pathways to Write, our children from Team 2 - Team 6 will be exposed to a new programme designed around some fabulous texts with the core elements of each session focussing on prediction, developing pupils' vocabulary and retrieval: Pathways to Read. Team Reception and Team 1 will also be very focussed on some high quality texts which will compliment their Read Write Inc phonic learning. It promises to be a great year for reading, but we like to do a lot of prediction work when introducing a new book, so here are some illustrative sneak-peaks...



## Supporting our Local Bookshops

**The Works**

Unit 63 Cheshire oaks Outlet Village, Kinsey Road, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral CH65 9LA



17 Monno Walk, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 0BH  
0151 355 4069

**Chester Comic Co**

73 Brook Street, Chester CH1 3DX

# Guiding Children's Reading Choice

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.

Any reading is better than no reading, so it's not worth a battle, but children's series can often contain the same sort of style and vocabulary, making children read more passively (especially if the book has been made into a film that they have seen.)

'Banning' books by certain authors can make the problem worse, so why not offer your child one of these alternatives if they have got stuck on one of the most common series of books? Get in touch if you'd like any further support with this and I'd be glad to help.

Take a look at the Reading for Pleasure Tube Map by @MisterBodd by clicking this link [Reading Maps](#)



## Poetry

Teamed with our Pathways to Read, our children will look at a range of poetry throughout the Autumn 2 term. The children will learn a range of skills and have the opportunity to rehearse and recall the poems they are exposed to.

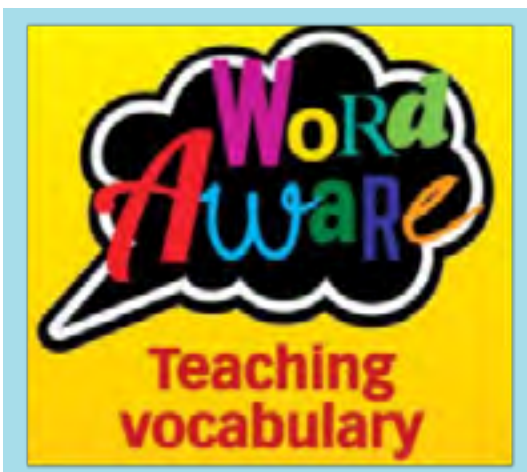
Pathways to Write keys

Poetry keys

- Use language with increasing effect: choices of nouns, adjectives and verbs; alliteration; repetition and rhyme
- Create own repeating patterns and use simple forms

## Wow words

In class, your children will be exposed to lots of new, exciting words which they will stretch themselves to use in their writing. We use a programme called, "Word Aware" which is linked to the National Curriculum in highlighting the importance of word work. Make sure to ask your child what wow words they are being taught over the term.



**What are YOU reading?** Have you read a book you'd love to recommend in the newsletter? Write a recommendation with the title, author, your name and a reason why you'd recommend it, to be in with a chance of it being featured in our next newsletter in the spring! Please pass your recommendation onto Miss Carey in Team 6. Good luck!

# 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/>

Below are some sample stories you might like to share at home. You will find a more comprehensive list by clicking on this list [Black Books Matter](#).

## Hair Love by Matthew Cherry

Zuri's beautiful hair has a mind of its own! It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Mum always does Zuri's hair just the way she likes it, but Daddy is keen to learn to style it for an extra special occasion.



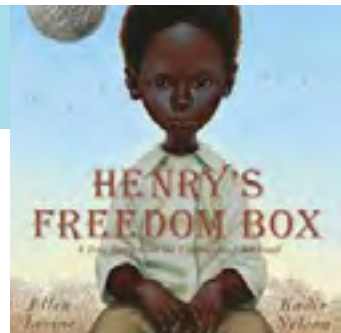
## Young, Gifted and Black by Jamia Wilson

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 - his first day of freedom.



## Martin Luther King, Jr – Little People, Big Dreams

This moving book features stylish and quirky illustrations and extra facts at the back, including a biographical timeline with historical photos and a detailed profile of the inspiring activist's life.



## 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 squirrel 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 fun, fact-filled rhymes, and little minds will learn that it's our differences that make us special.



# Exciting dates, events and competitions to get involved with...

## Rotary Young Writer Competition

Open now

The Rotary hosts a range of competitions to encourage and celebrate young talent. The Young Writer competition offers participants a 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/>

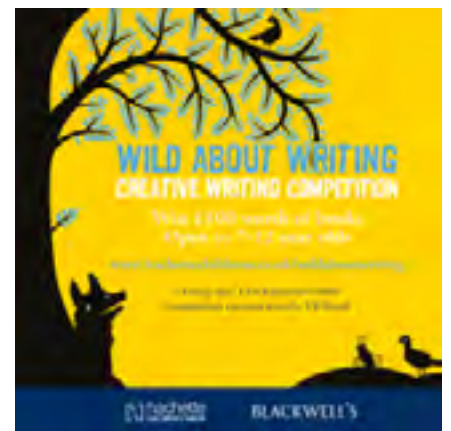


## Wild About Writing: Creative Writing competition

Closing date: 13th September

Piers Torday (author of the incredible 'The Last Wild' and other books,) has teamed up with Hachette Children's to bring a spectacular creative writing competition, with the chance to win £500 worth of books!

<https://pages.hachette.co.uk/piers-torday-writing-competition/> for details.



## Roald Dahl day

13th September

Celebrated every year on the anniversary of his birthday, the unofficial holiday celebrates all the characters created by the much loved and read children's author



## Reading is Magic Festival

27th September - 2nd December

An online festival packed full of engaging activities for all readers in association with Cressida Cowell children's laureate and author of "How to train your dragon" Sign up for updates and see the latest information at [www.readingismagicalfestival.com/](http://www.readingismagicalfestival.com/)



## National Poetry Day and competition

1st October

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

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

