

“ONCE YOU
LEARN TO
READ,
YOU WILL BE
FOREVER FREE”

Frederick Douglass

Northmead's Reading Newsletter

8th Edition

Welcome to the first addition of our reading newsletter for this new academic year!

Through this newsletter you can find out what we're doing to promote reading across the school and what you can do as parents and guardians to support your child with their reading.



Book Fair

We are hoping to run our 'Travelling Book Fair' from the 17th November to the 23rd of November. The company have put in to place new systems to ensure it will run in a COVID safe manner. More details will follow nearer the time.



Home reading

Children will have taken their star reader tests in school over the past few weeks. This is a computer based test that measures a student's reading ability through a series of 34 questions. Every test for every child is different, and the computer selects different questions for each child dependent on how well they answer the previous questions. Essentially the computer adapts the test to suit your child. Once the star reader tests have been completed teachers are provided with an individual report for each child in the class. Part of this report records the ZPD for your child. The ZPD is the information which tells the teacher which colour reading band would best suit your child. The children are then allocated a book to read of that colour.

Because of COVID restrictions, the school library is not currently open. However, teachers are selecting books for children in their bubble which they can take home to read. I would suggest these could be supplemented with books from home and online resources.

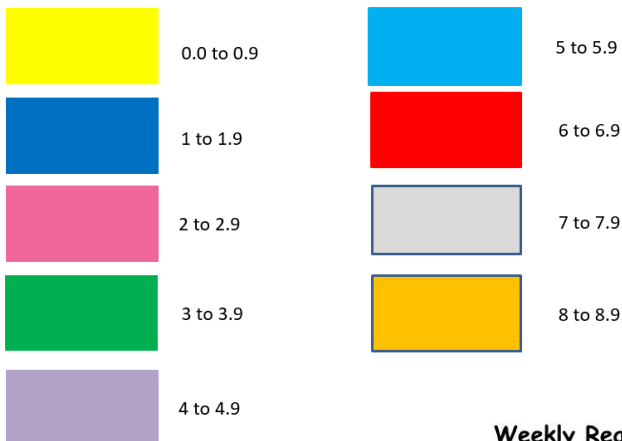
At home we expect children to read at least three times weekly, but preferably every day. This can be recorded on the reading record and uploaded to your child's Google classroom.

When children finish the book they are reading, this should be returned to school. We are then quarantining books before allowing these to be taken by any other children.

Children take a quiz on the computer relating to the book they have read. This checks their comprehension. Please bear with us if your child has not taken a quiz on their books. Sharing equipment across the school such as laptops is less easy in the current situation.

Reading band colours:

Yellow, navy blue, pink, green, purple, light blue, red, silver, gold.




I would suggest those children on higher levels such as red, silver or gold also choose from the purple/light blue range so they do not miss out on the selection of really super books which are often in this range. Many new releases are levelled as purple or light blue and it would be a shame to miss reading these.

Weekly Reading Record

Please remember to read at least 3 times a week to an adult at home. This should include some time discussing what has happened in what you read too.

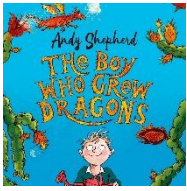


Date	Book/Chapter 	Comments
		-Which words did I struggle with? -Did I enjoy the book? -What did you discuss after reading?

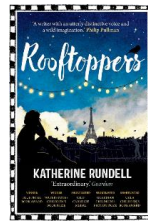
What are we reading?

Every class is read to by their teacher at Northmead.

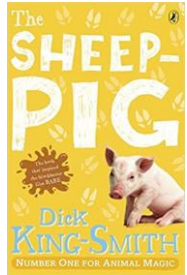
Please ask your children about these stories. Perhaps, if they are enjoying the book, you might like to read them other books by the same author.



3N



3R



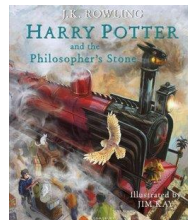
3B



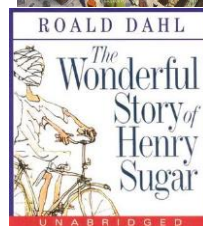
Year 4



6MD



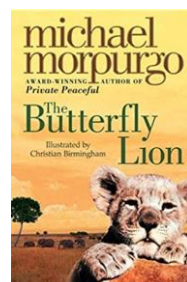
Year 5



6K



6KP



Centre

Book of the Month

The Boy With The Butterfly Mind

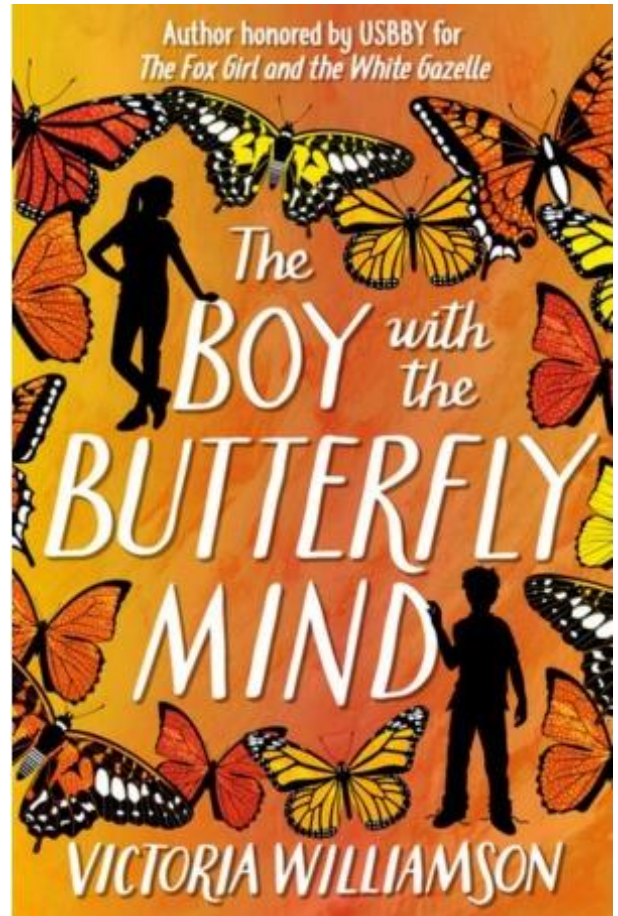
Recommended for children 9+ years of age.

What is the story about?

This is an amazing book which I thoroughly enjoyed reading. It has a dual narration. The story is told by Elin and Jamie. Jamie has ADHD, and I found that reading the book gave me a better understanding of what it might be like to have ADHD.

In Glasgow, Elin lives with her mum and her mum's boyfriend, Paul. And while Paul seems to be kind and thoughtful, he isn't her Dad. Elin wishes for nothing more than to have her family back together again and will do whatever it takes to achieve her ultimate goal in life. She focuses on being the top student in her class and keeping their home clean and neat and tidy. On the face of it, Elin is the perfect daughter – why wouldn't her dad want to come back? As for his new family, perhaps if she refuses to acknowledge them then they will barely exist.

Meanwhile, in Southampton, Jamie is living with his mum and looking forward to relocating to America with her and her boyfriend. With the assumption that there will be medical staff there who can 'fix him', he's looking forward to the big adventure. Jamie has ADHD. He's always had ADHD and lately it seems to be causing more problems than ever at home. Suddenly, dreams of America are shattered and Jamie is ordered to move to Glasgow to live with his dad. Elin is less than impressed with this new development and when Jamie arrives it becomes clear to her that she can use the situation to drive a wedge between her mum and Paul – the first step in getting her own parents back together. And when Jamie struggles to settle in at school, and causes mayhem at home, it seems that her plan is going to work.



Who is the author?

Victoria Williamson grew up in Kirkintilloch, north Glasgow in Scotland. She started writing stories from an early age. She is a teacher who has worked all over the world from Cameroon, Malawi and China to the UK. The books she has had published feature the voices of some of the children she has met as a teacher over the years.

What other books has this author written?

