



# Northmead's Reading Newsletter

## January 2021

Having access to books during lockdown is essential. It is important children continue to read regularly at home. We appreciate that families are trying to balance a lot at the moment but the importance of making reading part of your child's daily routine cannot be understated. Obviously, it is slightly more tricky to get hold of books in the current situation. Below are details of two sites which you can use to access books for free.

### The Oak National Academy

The Oak National Academy in partnership with the National Literacy Trust have begun a Virtual School Library. Every week a children's author or illustrator is providing access to a book free of charge. Alongside this they are releasing activities to do, based on their books, and suggestions of other books to read. This is a really valuable resource enabling children to continue accessing stories from their own home.

<https://library.thenational.academy/>



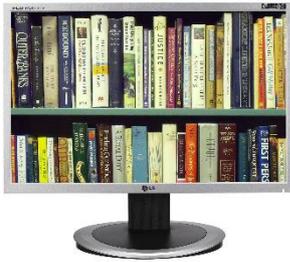
### Oxford Owl

Oxford Owl for Home is a site which has been created to provide books online for children aged 3-11. The site includes popular primary brands such as Oxford Reading Tree and Read Write inc. Books are free to use but parents need to register to access these. To do so, Log on to [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) and click 'join us' at the top right of the page and follow the instructions. Once registered you will be able to log in and access the books you require.

We would like to say a big thank you to the NST who provided a book for each child at Christmas. Owning books has impact on our children. Research has shown that compared to children who don't have a book of their own, children who own books are six times more likely to read above the level expected for their age, and nearly three times more likely to enjoy reading (56.2% vs 18.4%).



## Northmead's Online Book Club



Whilst we are in lockdown, I am going to try and run a virtual book club. The club will meet monthly via Google Classroom. Children can join as individuals, or a family member can attend with their child. This may be beneficial for those children not yet confident to read longer texts independently, or those who are a little shy to attend on their own.

The club will provide a time to discuss the latest children's literature and share a love of books. Each month we will select a children's book which the child can either read to themselves or have it read to them by their family member. We will then discuss our opinions of the book and the issues it raises in the following meeting.



### **The First Meeting will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 4.30**

Please email Miss Lewis on [denise.lewis@northmead.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:denise.lewis@northmead.surrey.sch.uk) if your child would like to join this online group and I shall send out joining details to you



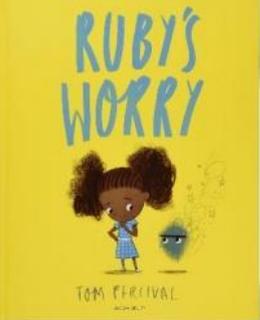
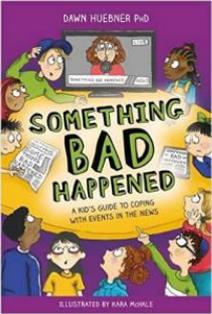
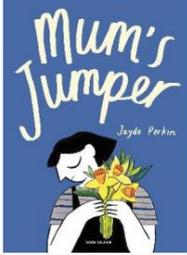
The Winter mini challenge has been extended, so if children would like to enter this challenge it will now run until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. To take part, children simply read three or more books of their choice. Every time they finish a book they add it to their challenge website profile (link below) and leave a short review. Reaching their online reading goal will unlock a virtual badge and certificate Click on the link

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

## Reading for Wellbeing

During this period of lockdown we need to take care of children's mental health. Reading can help with this. As adults we know the pleasure of losing ourselves in a good book and escaping from the world for a short while, and children too can benefit from the sense of escapism that reading brings. Any sort of reading is good for the soul, giving children time-out from their tech-centred lives and helping them to relax and unwind. Reading also broadens children's vocabulary so they can express their feelings more accurately. Research has revealed that children who read for pleasure are more able to develop the emotional literacy skills that they need to take control of situations where they might feel vulnerable helping them to build resilience and an ability to cope.

There are lots of brilliant fiction books that weave in mental health messages as part of the storyline. Reading Well is delivered by The Reading Agency. It provides a book list which supports children's mental health and wellbeing. Books have been chosen and recommended by leading health professionals. I have included some of the titles below, but for further information please follow the link. [Reading Well \(reading-well.org.uk\)](http://reading-well.org.uk)

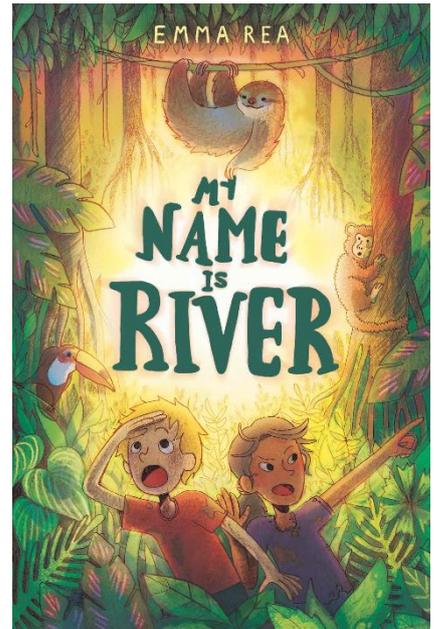
	<p><a href="#">Sometimes I Feel Sad</a> by Tom Alexander ISBN: 9781785924934</p> <p>Feeling sad is, unfortunately, a part of everyone's life, and there's not always an easy fix. This touching book helps explain to children that they're not alone in feeling this way and is especially useful for children who struggle to express their feelings.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Ruby's Worry</a> by Tom Percival ISBN: PB - 9781408892152</p> <p>Ruby loves being Ruby. Until, one day, she finds a worry. At first, it's not such a big worry, and that's all right, but then it starts to grow. It gets bigger and bigger every day and it makes Ruby sad. How can Ruby get rid of it and feel like herself again? When Ruby makes a friend – who has a worry too – and talks about what's bothering her, everything explodes with colour and the world goes back to normal. Ruby soon realises that everybody gets worries, and they are nothing to be ashamed of. This is a perceptive and poignant story about anxiety and how a problem shared is a problem halved.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Something Bad Happened: A Kid's Guide to Coping with Events in the News</a> by Dawn Huebner, illustrated by Kara McHale ISBN: 9781787750746</p> <p>Full of advice for children who may be worried about events in the news, this guide from best-selling author Dawn Huebner offers advice for having tough conversations with 6-12 year olds about world events such as natural disasters, terrorism and war. It addresses common questions and provides tools to calm fears.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Mum's Jumper</a> by Jayde Perkin ISBN: 9781911496137</p> <p>If Mum has gone, how do you carry on? Missing her feels like a dark cloud that follows you around, or like swimming to a shore that never comes any nearer. But memories are like a jumper that you can cuddle and wear. And Mum's jumper might be a way to keep her close. A simple, heartfelt and ultimately uplifting book for anyone coping with loss</p>

# Book of the Month

## What is the story about?

Dylan's mum thinks he's with his friends on a residential geography trip. His geography teacher thinks he's at home with flu. In fact, Dylan is 33,000 feet above the ocean on his way to Brazil

When Dylan overhears his dad say that their farm has been sold to a global pharmaceutical company, he decides he has to make them change their minds. In Brazil, things don't go at all to plan. Only when Lucia – a street child armed with a puppy and a thesaurus – saves his life, do they start to uncover the shocking truth about what the company is up to, and Dylan's home problems suddenly seem dangerously far away.



## Who is the author?

Emma writes for adults and children. She is an author, reviewer and proof reader. She enjoys looking at cows, Jane Austen, rock-climbing, the Welsh landscape and the company of family and friends. She wishes she had a dog. She and her husband and three children live in London in term-time and Wales during school holidays.

## What other books has this author written

