

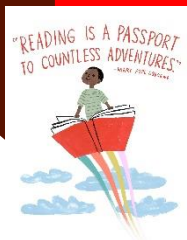
# Northmead Reading Newsletter



September  
2022

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

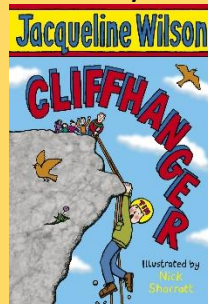
Through this newsletter you can find out what we're doing to promote reading across the school and what you can do, as parents and guardians, to support your child with their reading.



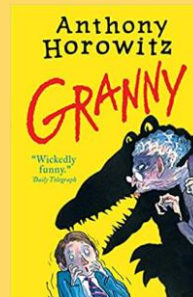
At Northmead teachers read to their classes frequently to help develop a real love of literature and a pleasure in reading. This is in addition to the daily reading lesson.

Currently classes are reading these books. Do ask your child about the story.

Year 3



6K



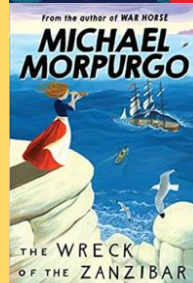
Year 4



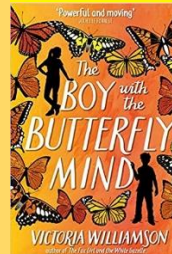
6MD



Year 5



6LP



If your child is enjoying the class book, why not try another title by the same author.

Suggestions on the next page.

## Year 3

Have a look at <https://www.penguin.co.uk/puffin-3/jacqueline-wilson>

We have lots of Jacqueline Wilson books in the school library which children can borrow.

This is Jacqueline Wilson's newly released title. Published on 15th September.



## Year 4



## 6LP



## 6K & 6MD



## Year 5



The Michael Morpurgo books can be found on the rotating bookshelf in our school library.

In our school library, copies of these books can be found on the first green bookshelf.



Our lives as parents are so hectic and the constant presence of technology in our homes is an easy distraction so these, amongst other pressures, mean more and more parents find making time for the bedtime story incredibly challenging. Current data illustrates this: 45% of 0–2s are read to daily or nearly every day. This increases to 58% of 3–4s, in part to get them 'school ready', and by 5–7 years, parents reading daily to their children drops back to 44% as the notion takes hold that reading is a subject to learn at school.

By junior school age often the only parental involvement in a child's reading is ensuring reading homework is done. However, if you are able to prioritise reading bedtime stories to your children the benefits extend way beyond just preparing them for sleep.

The article below, posted on 'SchoolRun' website notes 10 great reasons to make bedtime stories a priority whenever you can.

### **1. It's good bonding time**

Whatever your child's age, sharing a bedtime story gives them a time when they have you all to themselves – something that may not happen at any other point of the day.

'A night-time book shared with your child when they're snuggly and ready for bed is the perfect time for cuddles, to bond and to make cosy memories that will last a lifetime,' says Emily Drabble of [BookTrust](#), the UK's leading reading charity.



### **2. It improves your child's reading skills**

Just because you're the one doing the reading, don't assume that your child isn't learning. 'You'll be surprised by how much children grasp when you're reading a bedtime story, following the words and starting to recognise them on the page,' says Kate.

### **3. It sparks imagination**

Unicorns, wizards, fairies and monsters... Books open up whole new worlds to children, both real and imagined, and sharing a bedtime story will take them to places they'd never have dreamed of.

'Books can teach your child about the world while also opening their imagination,' Emily explains. 'Reading fiction provides specific information gaps that your child can fill with their own imagination, and this guesswork and decision-making stimulates the mental patterns that are fundamental to creativity.'

### **4. It creates conversation**

Any parent who's read a bedtime story will know that the words on the page are only part of the experience. You'll also be answering questions, explaining concepts and talking about what's happening on the page.

**'Reading together can trigger all sorts of wonderful questions and stimulate conversation, which can help children understand their own place in the world,' says Kate.**

So while you might be in a rush to finish the book and get on with your evening, allow time in your bedtime routine to chat about what you're reading: you'll be helping your child's development and gaining an fascinating insight into how their mind works.

### **5. It expands your child's vocabulary**

**Did you know that children need to hear a word up to 12 times before they can start to use it themselves?** Reading a bedtime story will give your child this exposure to new words (especially if you're reading the same book, night after night!) and so build their vocabulary.

'Reading aloud introduces children to new words and new ways of describing the world around them,' says Kate. 'Using a wide range of vocabulary can help improve theirs.'

And it's not just the words on the page that boost your child's vocabulary, but how they're used, too. 'Rhymes, rhythms and patterns will help them with their reading, writing and language as they grow,' says Emily.

#### 6. It improves their emotional intelligence

Books can help little people deal with big feelings, and sharing a bedtime story can be a way into discussing difficult situations.

‘Reading helps children recognise that they are not alone, and that others have faced the same problems and feelings as them,’ Emily explains.

‘Sharing books also opens up opportunities to discuss difficult topics, like illness in a family member, and provides a structure to have these conversations.’

**Reading to your child will also expand their emotional vocabulary, giving them words for what they’re feeling.** This can make them better able to express themselves, and less prone to the emotional meltdowns that can happen when they’re wrestling with feelings that they don’t know how to talk about.

#### 7. It encourages independent reading

Don’t fall into the trap of thinking that reading to your child will make them ‘lazy’ and less likely to read by themselves.

**A report by the Reading Agency found that children are more likely to read through free choice if reading is enjoyable in the first place, and reading to your child at bedtime is a great way to help them fall in love with books.**

‘Children who get more exposure to books and stories from a young age are more likely to want to read independently, which can help in all aspects of their future and will lead to them becoming adults who read to their own children,’ says Kate.

#### 8. It improves mental wellbeing

The current mental health crisis amongst kids is well documented, with even primary school pupils suffering from anxiety and exam stress.

**Recent research by the National Literacy Trust found a link between reading and mental wellbeing, so sharing a bedtime story with your child could help to improve their emotional health.**

‘Story characters can be models for your child, which can help foster coping skills and build confidence,’ says Emily. ‘We know that children who read are happier, healthier, more empathetic and more creative.’

#### 9. It helps you (both) relax and unwind

Many of us introduce a bedtime story in the baby days as part of our little one’s evening routine, and it can still help promote relaxation at bedtime even for older children.

‘At the end of a busy day, a bedtime story can be a way of leaving the day behind, helping the whole family switch off so that whatever stress and noise has happened throughout the day can be forgotten,’ says Kate.

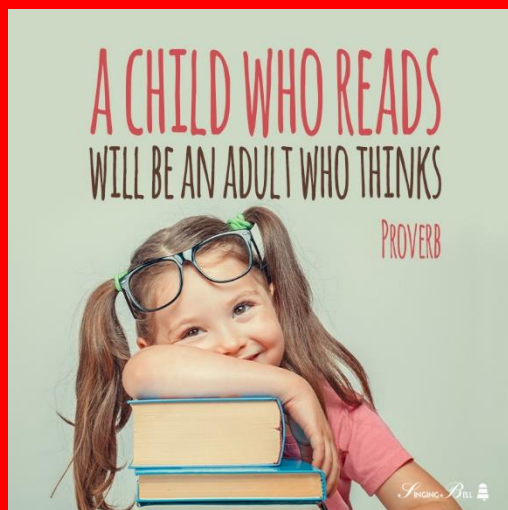
#### 10. It’s good even for children who can read by themselves

Yes, it’s tempting to ditch the bedtime story once your child is an independent reader, but there are many benefits in carrying it on, even though they can read by themselves.

‘Once children learn to read, they need to stay engaged with books that interest them, and this can often be books that are slightly more advanced than their reading level,’ explains Emily.

**Reading together at bedtime gives your child access to books that might otherwise be beyond them.** Even if they’re reading by themselves, you can sit with them to help them with tricky words, and encourage them to keep going when it gets hard by reading them the next page or chapter to hook them in.





Save the date:  
11<sup>th</sup> October – 17<sup>th</sup> October

For those of you new to the Accelerated Reader system, the following may help clarify how we select home reading materials for your children.

Children will have taken their star reader tests in school over the past couple of 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.

Those children who are still at the early stages of learning to read will be allocated a book which matches their phonic ability.

At home we expect children to read at least three times weekly, but preferably every day. This can be recorded in the reading record by the adult.

Year 6 are expected to independently write more lengthy commentaries about their reading.

Children will then take a quiz on the computer relating to the book they have read. This checks their comprehension.

Children can visit the library weekly with their class, before school each day or during lunchtimes. We expect children to independently change their book when they need a new one.