

# Northmead Reading Newsletter

December  
2022



Number of  
words read as a  
school this  
term;

30,883,909

## Accelerated Reader Awards

We have held our accelerated reader assembly for the end of this term. After each book read our children take a quiz on the book. For each quiz passed the children receive a raffle ticket. This is entered into a prize draw at the end of each term and there were a number of lucky winners who received prizes for their efforts.

The classes who have read the most words this term were...

...in the upper school 5R

...in the lower school 3R

Congratulations to Fraser in Year 5 who has become our first ever triple millionaire reader having read a whopping 3,071,469 words this term. He is having to wait for his badge which is being specially designed!



Thank you to the NST who have provided every child with a book this Christmas. Owning a book has significant impact on children's reading. According to a report by the National Literacy Trust, children who own a book of their own at home are six times more likely to read above the expected level for their age.

According to this report, the percentage of children in the 5- 8 year old age bracket who do not have a book of their own at home has risen and is now at it's highest point since 2019.

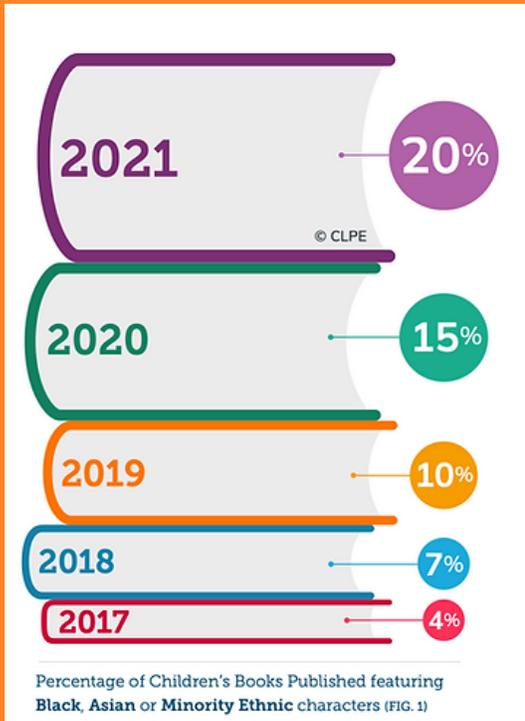
Books are expensive and the rising cost of living is given as one of the key reasons for almost one in five children not having access to books a home.

I'm sure all the children will enjoy reading the books which have been given to them this year.



THANK  
You! 😊

## CLPE Reflecting Realities 2022 report



During November The Centre for Literacy released their 'Reflecting realities' survey of Ethnic Representation within UK children's literature. The latest summary of findings shows an increase in the number of children's books published featuring a minority ethnic character from 7% in 2017 to 20% in 2021. Children's books featuring a main character from a minority ethnic background has increased from 1% to 9% in the same time period. This is a move in the right direction, but we must bear in mind that nearly 34% of primary age children in England are from a minority ethnic background, so there is still some way to go to fully reflect the reality of life in modern Britain.

In 1990 Dr Rudine Sims Bishop coined a phrase "Windows, Mirrors and Sliding Glass Doors" to explain how children see themselves in books. Although the essay in which this was written is over 30 years old, I think the point made is still relevant today.

Children need to see themselves reflected in the books they read, but books can also serve as a window that gives the reader a glimpse in to lives and experiences of others

If you would like to read the full report for yourself click on the following link.

<https://clpe.org.uk/research/clpe-survey-ethnic-representation-within-uk-childrens-literature-2017-2022-november-2022>

If you would like to explore some children's books which have a diverse range of characters, this link may be useful

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/diversity>



## Author visit



The lower school recently enjoyed a virtual visit from Stephen Pass an author of the children's book 'Madge the Mermaid' about a mermaid created from recycled materials. The inspiration for his book is the 'Perranporth Mermaid' in Cornwall, which is made from washed-up materials from the beach. We were impressed when Stephen tweeted about us!



## Star reader assessments

All children will have taken a star reader test at the end of this term, or will take it very early next term. Teachers will update the sheet in the front of your child's reading record to notify you of your child's current reading age and colour band.



Have a wonderful festive  
break

With best wishes from  
Miss Denise Lewis