

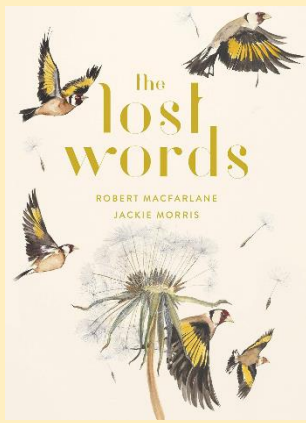
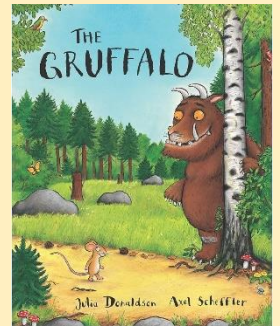
Northmead Reading Newsletter

April
2024

Thanks to those of you who supported our Scholastic Book Fair. Parents spent a whopping £885 which gave us £442 in rewards which we are able to spend on books for classrooms and the library.

Reading Poetry

Poetry holds a special place in primary education. Many of the texts children initially encounter in the home or at preschool are poetic in form, from rhyming picture books, nonsense poems and nursery rhymes. These encounters with poetry, with their infectious rhythms, rhymes and repetitions are crucial for introducing the fundamentals of literacy. Before being able to read very young children need to be aware of how the sounds in words work. Poems help teach children the sounds in spoken language through chants and rhymes.



Poetry exposes children to rich vocabulary, diverse sentence structures, and vivid imagery. Through reading aloud, reciting, and performing poems, children develop oral language skills and fluency.

Through both our reading and writing lessons at Northmead we ensure children have regular exposure and access to poetry, from a range of poets, in a range of voices and in a variety of forms. We do unpick poetry, looking for meaning in the words, but we also allow time just to immerse ourselves in the joy of the words by providing opportunities

for children to bring poems to life by reading aloud and performing to their classmates.

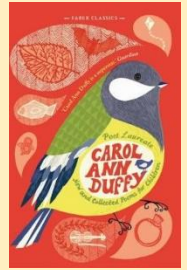
Some interesting statistics from the National Literacy Trust 2022:

Children and young people who read poetry had higher reading engagement than those who do not read poetry. Compared with those who do not read poetry, more children who read poetry said that they enjoy reading (62.3% vs. 42.0%) read daily (37.7% vs. 24.3%) and see themselves as good readers (85.5% vs. 78.2%)

If you would like to share some good quality poetry with your child here are a couple of useful links

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/upper-ks2-poetry>

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/topics/literacy-reading/primary-poetry/>



If your child would like to borrow poetry books from our library the photo below shows where these are located.



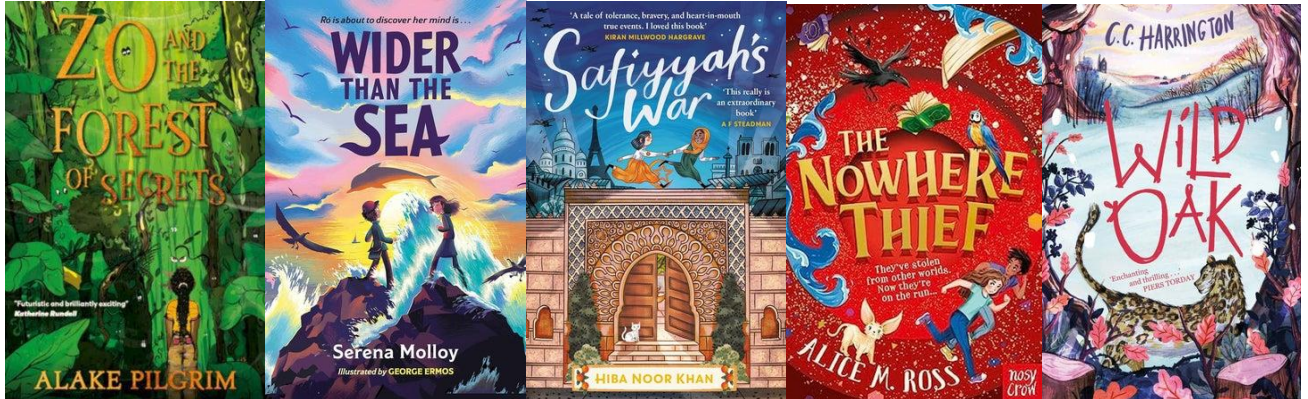
This is an incredible book with a heart wrenching storyline which is written entirely in free verse. This is a very unusual narrative genre, which I personally really enjoyed. It is a book that would be suitable for year 6 children as it explores the life of a year 6 student in their final year of primary school.

Life is challenging for Nate, the main character, and this raises some mature storylines so I would advise parents to read the book first to see if it is suitable for their child.

I loved that Mr Joshua, Nate's year 6 teacher, understands the joy of reading – very much like our own Year 6 teachers!



Brilliant Book Awards



A group of children at Northmead are taking part in the Brilliant Book Awards which is being run by a group of Surrey schools. The children will read the five books above and then vote for their favourite. The aim is to promote new authors and encourage reading for pleasure.



Miss Lewis