

Grangefield Reading Newsletter



With summer on the way, this half term is a lovely opportunity to keep reading feeling relaxed and enjoyable. Sharing a book, talking about a story, or reading for just a few minutes each day can help children grow in confidence.



National share-a-story month

May is **National Share-a-Story Month**, a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the joy of stories in all their forms. Sharing a story does not always have to mean reading a whole book from start to finish; it could be reading a favourite picture book together, listening to an audiobook, retelling a family memory, making up a story on a walk, or talking about a character from a book your child is enjoying. This month, we would love to encourage families to find small moments to share stories together and enjoy the conversations, imagination and connection that reading can bring.

Things you could try at home:

- Read a bedtime story together
- Listen to an audiobook in the car or at home
- Take turns reading pages or chapters aloud
- Ask your child to recommend a book to someone in the family
- Make up a story together using unusual characters or settings
- Visit the local library and choose a new book to share
- Talk about favourite characters and what makes them interesting
- Encourage your child to read to a younger sibling, pet or teddy bear

Staff share-a-story!

To celebrate National Share-a-Story Month, our staff team have chosen some favourite books to recommend and share with children this half term:

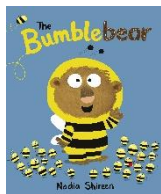
“My favourite UKS2 book is ‘The 1,000 Year Old Boy’ by Ross Welford. So many great twists combined with an interesting premise. A must read if you haven’t already!” – Mr. Spicer

“Somebody Swallowed Stanley quickly became one of our favourite stories in Year 1. We first enjoyed it through our Pathways to Write learning, but the children loved the funny storyline, colourful illustrations and important message about looking after our oceans so much that we kept coming back to it again and again.” – Miss Sharpe

“There’s a Beast in the Basement is a brilliant read for children because it is funny, exciting and full of mystery. The story keeps readers wanting to find out what happens next, and the characters are really memorable. 3B have loved it.” – Mr. Wooding

“One of my favourite books is Charlotte’s Web. I always had lots of pets as a child and loved the relationship between Fern and Wilbur. My favourite bit of the book is when Charlotte spins different words into her web to try to save Wilbur. I always cry at the end though!” – Mrs. Kay

Book Recommendations



The Bumblebear – Nadia Shireen

Norman the bear loves honey and peaceful forest life, but everything changes when a bumblebee lands on his nose and gives him a very unusual idea! Disguised as a giant bee, Norman causes chaos among the other bees in this funny and energetic story. With bright illustrations and lots of humour, this book is perfect for younger readers and helps children think about friendship, honesty and being yourself.



The Nothing to See Here Hotel – Steven Butler

Frankie Banister lives in a hotel filled with magical creatures, including trolls, goblins, vampires and mermaids. The hotel is supposed to stay hidden from ordinary humans, but when danger arrives, Frankie must help save the hotel and its guests. Packed with adventure, humour and imaginative characters, this story is ideal for children who enjoy fast-paced and funny fiction.



The Explorer – Katherine Rundell

After a plane crash in the Amazon rainforest, four children must work together to survive in the jungle. As they search for food, shelter and a way home, they discover clues that suggest someone else may already be living there. This exciting and beautifully written story explores friendship, bravery and resilience while bringing the rainforest vividly to life.

Why read it?

- Builds suspense and keeps readers hooked
- Rich vocabulary and descriptive writing
- Encourages discussion about teamwork and courage
- Perfect for confident KS2 readers who enjoy adventure stories

Questions to Ask When Reading Together

Talking about books helps children build understanding, confidence and enjoyment in reading. Here are some simple questions you could ask at home:

Before reading:

What do you think this book will be about?

What clues can you spot on the cover?

Have you read anything similar before?

During reading:

Why did the character do that?

What might happen next?

Which words tell us how the character is feeling?

After reading:

What was your favourite part?

Would you recommend this book? Why?

Did the ending surprise you?