

**Decoy Community Primary School
and First Steps Nursery**



Reading Matters

Summer 2025



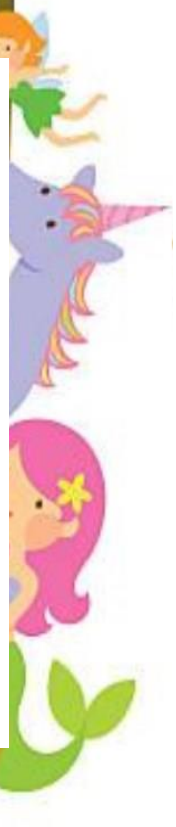
Welcome to the first edition of our reading newsletter – a whole school newsletter dedicated to our love of reading!

Every term, we will share our passion for books and reading by updating you on the wonderful activities we are doing to promote reading for pleasure across the school.

Each edition will bring new and exciting information along with recommendations from our book-loving teachers.

These newsletters are for the whole family, please share them with your children.

We will continually develop the newsletter to include competitions, games, and book reviews, so watch this space!



Reading for Pleasure – What is it?

The term 'Reading for Pleasure' means reading for fun and enjoyment. Children can independently choose their reading material, where they would like to read and who they would like to read with. It is a relaxed, informal, and social time when children can share books (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, magazines). The children have ownership of this time, and they can share their interests and talk about books with their friends.

Every child is on a reading journey and although some children may not yet be able to read fluently, they are still able to enjoy books through illustrations and book talk. We have a passion across the school to inspire all children to find pleasure in reading. We have implemented a whole school strategy to promote the love of reading and we are delighted to extend this passion to you through our reading newsletter, 'Reading Matters'.

Exciting News

Reading Buddies

This year Kestrels and Owls, Year 5, have been sharing their love of reading by becoming Reading Buddies to Dragonflies and Ladybirds in reception. At the start of the year, Kestrels and Owls were doing most of the reading to Dragonflies and Ladybirds but now, most of the reception class are reading to the Year 5's.

An amazing achievement, well done to Ladybirds and Dragonflies.

Library Monitors

Our library monitors are regularly monitoring and keeping the library tidy for everyone to enjoy. Not only do they keep the library looking pristine but they also support and assist anyone unsure of where to find a certain level of book.

Library/Classroom Books

As a school, we are very lucky as we have a great selection of books in our library and classrooms. We ensure we have a wide range of books suitable for all level of readers, a lot of our books come from the Devon Library Service but we also receive many donations from parents/carers.

PTA Book Corner Donations

We have been very lucky this year to have received a bumper book donation from our PTA. Each year group received a selection of fiction and non-fiction books for their book corner in their classroom. We would like to thank our PTA for their amazing donation.



PTA BOOK CORNER

DONATIONS!

Registered charity
no: 1047398



Community Library Summer Reading Challenge



Libraries across Devon and Torbay are calling for children to sign up to the Summer Book Quest. Children aged 4-12 can take part in The Summer Book Quest, running from July to September. Join Libro and friends on a new adventure and collect stickers along the way; track your reading, enjoy visits to the library and complete special activities, then collect your keyring and certificate! Sign up at your local library from Saturday, 12th July.

Our School Needs Your Vote!



As a school, we are passionate about reading and are committed to ensuring each and every child has the skills, knowledge and confidence to read. Our library is a valuable resource that all pupils enjoy.

We would be very grateful if you could vote for our school in this competition. We have the opportunity to win £1000 of National Book Tokens. If we win, we will be putting the money towards purchasing new books to make our library an even more special place for pupils to read and fall in love with books.

You can vote for us here:

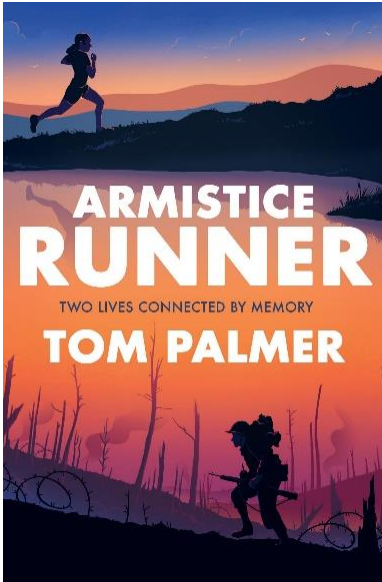
https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize?srsltid=AfmBOopTFoYYzTqdKy673_TSCxBq2ASP6ZLDqF3Og8uVl8o-g9hpiW6X

Please encourage friends and family to vote; every vote counts.
Please note that this is a national competition.

Thank you for your support

Recommended Reads

The teachers would like to share their passion for reading by recommending some great books to read. After you have read one of these book recommendations, please come and talk to us about it. We would love to hear your thoughts and if you enjoyed it, we can recommend further reading.



Armistice Runner

By: Tom Palmer

Aimed at ages: 10-12

Recommended by: Mr McCaffley

Why would I recommend this book?

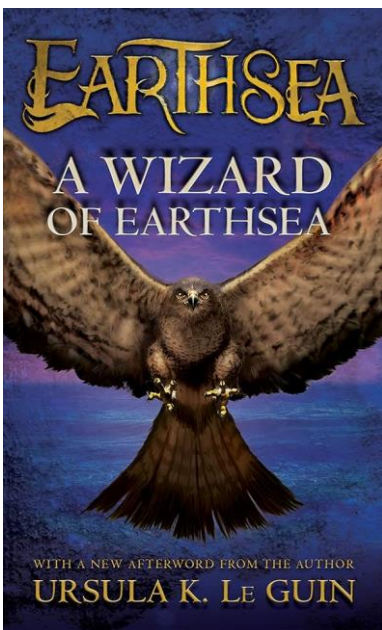
This book is ideal for Year 6 pupils because it:

Blends sport and history, making the events of WWI more relatable and personal.

Introduces the concept of remembrance in a subtle and age-appropriate way.

Celebrates resilience, family bonds, and unsung heroes, encouraging empathy and reflection.

It is short, accessible, and perfect for both confident and less confident readers. It's a brilliant read for children preparing to step into secondary school, where historical understanding, emotional literacy, and a love of reading will continue to grow.



A Wizard of Earthsea

By: Ursula K. Le Guin

Aimed at ages: 10-12

Recommended by: Mr Ball

Why would I recommend this book?

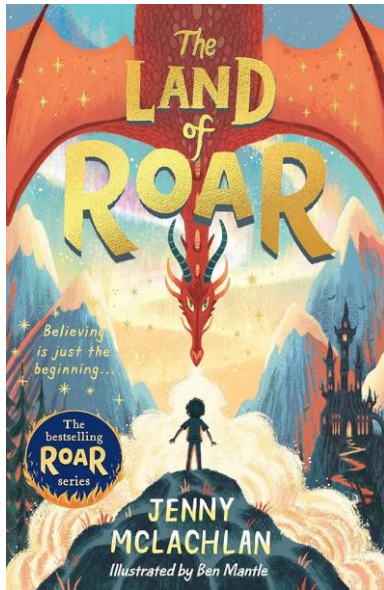
If you liked *The Hobbit* or *Harry Potter*, you'd probably like this.

This is the first book of Earthsea is a tale of wizards, dragons and terrifying shadows.

The island of Gont is a land famous for wizards. Of these, some say the greatest - and surely the greatest voyager - is the man called Sparrowhawk.

As a reckless, awkward boy, he discovered the great power that was in him, with terrifying consequences. Tempted by pride to try spells beyond his means, Sparrowhawk lets loose an evil shadow-beast in his land.

Only he can destroy it, and the quest leads him to the farthest corner of Earthsea.



The Land of Roar

By: Jenny McLachlan

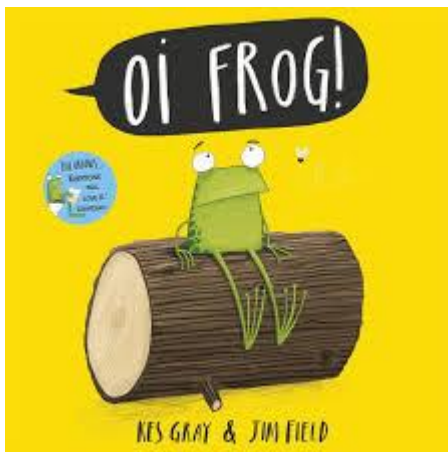
Aimed at ages: 10-12

Recommended by: Mrs Harvey

Why would I recommend this book?

I would recommend this book because it is a fantastic fantasy, filled with action, magic and mystical creatures, including the villain Croaky – part scarecrow and part bird.

A bonus is that it is part of a series, so there are further titles to enjoy. It is an easy read with lots of cliff-hangers that make you want to continue reading, and characters you can really relate to.



Oi Frog

By: Kes Gray and Jim Field

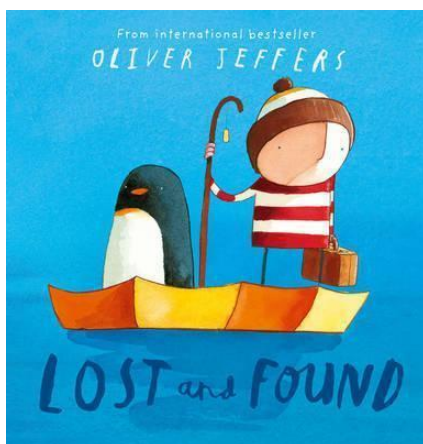
Aimed at ages: 2-5

Recommended by: Mrs Smith

Why would I recommend this book?

I would like to recommend it because it helps to develop an awareness and understanding of rhyme for young children. This is an important skill that helps to lay the foundations for learning to read and write, as well as promoting a love of stories and poetry.

The illustrations are very clear and simple and children love the humour in the book too. Finally, there are several other books in the series that may encourage children to want to listen to or share more of them.



Lost and Found

By: Oliver Jeffers

Aimed at ages: 2-6 years

Recommended by: Miss Fraser

Why would I recommend this book?

I would recommend this book because it beautifully tells a story about a boy who finds a penguin and takes a journey to help return it home. It is all about friendship and making sure that others do not feel lonely. It has really interesting illustrations that are bright and easy for you to draw too! It makes you feel happy and want to care for others. It also shows you lots about travelling and what the South Pole is like.