



SUMMER NEWSLETTER FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS

As your child nears the end of their primary education, so many opportunities await them at secondary school. For some children, this will be a very exciting time and they will hardly be able to wait to get started. For others, there may be some nerves and worries – and this is totally normal. It’s important we support children through this process, whilst also allowing them time to enjoy their summer holiday.

One of the ways you can do this is to encourage them to keep reading. Research shows that reading has benefits in many areas of education and life. In addition to the obvious benefits on reading comprehension and attainment, reading also impacts upon:

- **vocabulary**
- **understanding of grammar**
- **spelling skill**
- **writing attainment**
- **attitudes to reading and writing**
- **knowledge and understanding of the world and other people**
- **achievement in other subjects, including maths**
- **empathy and understanding of emotions**
- **mental wellbeing**
- **development of our sense of ‘self’ and identity.**

To help you and your child select some books to read this summer, we have created this newsletter. We hope some of the suggestions may be of interest to your child; it not only includes some texts which may support their transition, but also stories that your child may really enjoy immersing themselves in over the coming weeks. In addition to the books contained here, this newsletter provides you with a range of interactive, virtual experiences that can help to build children’s wider knowledge and interests. This is obviously not an exhaustive list of books and ideas – there’s so much they could explore! Whatever they are curious about, or take interest in, consider looking at books around the topic, or encourage them to research into the area further through non-fiction texts such as online articles.

We are also delighted to share a video specifically for you from the wonderful author Phil Earle, exploring why he thinks reading is important, as well as sharing ideas for how parents like him can support their child with reading – we hope you find it useful:



Whatever you explore with your child this summer, we wish you a wonderful summer and a very happy start to secondary school in September.

SHORTER-LENGTH READS, ACCESSIBLE NOVELS WITH DYSLEXIA-FRIENDLY FONT AND ENGAGING STORIES



Super Sub ALAN GIBBONS

New boy Smithy can't understand why everyone is so excited about a player on the football team called "Bengo". He's been absent for the first few games of the season, and starts the next game on the bench – surely he can't be that special? But Smithy soon gets a chance to see him in action. Bengo is easily the best player Smithy's ever seen...so why is he left on the bench so often?

The Tide Singer

ELOISE WILLIAMS

In the wake of a tempest hitting her town, Morwenna is left to take care of a stranger washed ashore. The storm is just another of many that have plagued the town for years – people blame the tide singers, legendary sea people who are said to charm storms with their singing.

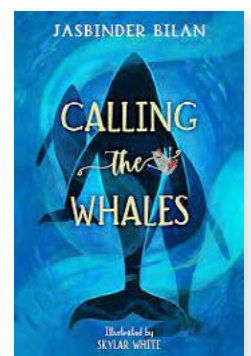
Morwenna has never believed the tales, but when she is left alone with the stranger, she realises that this is no ordinary girl...



Calling the Whales

JASBINDER BILAN

After rowing out to an island near their seaside home, Tulsi and Satchen discover a whale that has been trapped in a fishing net. Determined to try to free the poor creature, they repeatedly dive down into the freezing sea to cut the netting, but eventually, exhausted and with a storm rolling in, they have to admit defeat. As they head for home to seek help, their boat capsizes in the storm and they're left clinging to it, dangerously adrift. Just as they think all is lost, help arrives from an unexpected source...





The Girl with her Head in the Clouds KAREN McCOMBIE

1904, London. When a couple of showmen need a stand-in for a trick that involves shooting an apple off a human target's head, sixteen-year-old Dolly Shepherd volunteers on the spot. Little does she know that this will be the first of many stunts and the start of a sensational career. But the life of a parachutist is as dangerous as it is daring, and there will be many close shaves along the way...

The Storm and the Minotaur

LUCY STRANGE

Money is scarce in George's family and so, at the age of nine, he has to join his father underground, hewing coal in the local mine. It's far from the dreams George had of continuing his education, and it's also a dangerous way to earn a living that has already claimed the life of his dad's older brother. Not long after he starts work, a summer storm leads to flooding in the mine. Trapped down in the dark, George spots a shadowy figure that seems to be telling George to follow him. Can a ghost from the past lead him back to safety, or will George meet the same fate as his long-lost uncle?



OTHER FICTION READS

Artezans: The Forgotten Magic L.D. LAPINSKI

For the last 400 years, magic has been fading. Edward Crane has always feared he won't have any magic at all. Sure, he's part of a powerful magic Artezan family, but he's adopted. His twin sister, Elodie, isn't so worried, but then everything always seems to work out perfectly for her. So when Ed discovers he does have an Artezan power after all, it's a dream come true. But the problem with dreams is that sometimes they twist themselves into nightmares and with Ed's new abilities growing, there's a chance this nightmare will become all too real...

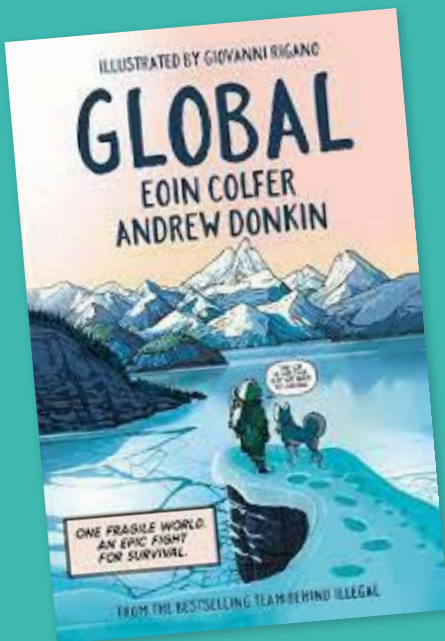


The Tree That Sang to Me SERENA MOLLOY

When Kai's big sister Jen leaves the family home, Kai knows it's all his fault. His secret burns, but he tells no one – just keeps pulling at tufts of his hair. But in the broad branches of a wasteland sycamore tree, Kai feels safe and free from his worries. Up there, he feels he can be whoever he wants to be. And when a girl called Sky starts climbing Kai's tree, a friendship blossoms – a friendship with the power to heal.

Watch Serena talk about her book here:





Global

EOIN COLFER AND ANDREW DONKIN

A graphic novel adventure about hope in the face of climate change.

Yuki lives in an increasingly deserted Inuit township in Nova Scotia. One day, she sets out into the wilderness of the Arctic tundra, planning to photograph a rare grolar bear (a terrifyingly grizzly-polar crossbreed created by climate change) – if she can prove it's a grolar, she can protect it from being shot. With only her faithful dog for company, and adrift on a fragment of melting glacier, she finds herself being stalked across the changing wilderness by a starving grolar bear, with only her wits and her harpoon to keep her alive...

Peregrine Quinn and the Cosmic Realm

ASH BOND

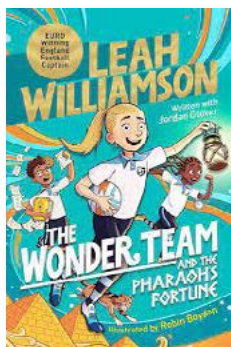
Peregrine Quinn has always loved hearing her godfather Daedalus Bloom's stories about his life as an immortal, but that's all they were – stories. That is, until the portals that connect the Terran Realm with the Cosmic Realm mysteriously shut down and Daedalus, the only one who can fix them, is kidnapped. Peregrine is swept into a nail-biting adventure and she soon realises that not only are the creatures from her godfather's stories real, but they're shooting at her with laser blasters...



The Wonder Team and the Pharaoh's Fortune

LEAH WILLIAMSON

When Leah and her friends are magically transported to Egypt, they realise they've also been taken back in time - they're stuck in the year 1900! When they meet Khalid and his aunt Amina, an Egyptian archaeologist who's on an expedition to discover a magical amulet, Leah and her friends are excited to join the hunt. With a mysterious figure working to sabotage Amina, The Wonder Team will have to work together to uncover the clues and dodge traps as they search for the pharaoh's treasure. Can they solve the mystery before time runs out or will the secret of the pyramids stay hidden forever?



The Hidden Story of Estie Noor

NADINE AISHA JASSAT

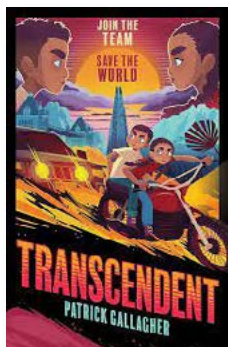
When twelve-year-old Estie is expelled from school, she's sent to stay with her aunt in Scotland over the summer. Even though nobody, not even her mum, asked to hear her side of the story. Estie's determined to keep her barriers up and stick to herself until the holidays are over. But when she comes across an intricately folded paper castle with a secret message written inside - a message from someone desperate to tell their own unbelievable story - a chord is struck, and Estie can't help but follow the clues to the next piece of artwork. Who are these messages from? And what will their secret reveal about the town? Watch Nadine talk about her book here:



Transcendent

PATRICK GALLAGHER

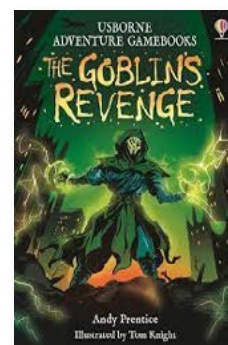
Jacob and Kira live in the heart of Mbale, Uganda, with their conservationist mother and navigate life as unsuspecting geniuses but, when they discover that someone has been watching their every move, in the hopes to enlist them in a top-secret agency called Transcendent, their lives are turned upside down! Soon, the twins are hurtled from Mbale to London where they must undertake three rigorous trials, each more difficult than the last. If they are successful, they will be launched into space to complete a high-stakes mission: to fight the greatest threat the world has ever seen.



The Goblin's Revenge

ANDY PRENTICE

A fantasy adventure gamebook where YOU choose how the story unfolds. Prepare for menacing monsters, ghostly magic and a thrilling race against time! The evil sorcerer, Darkmane, has the kingdom in his grip and the only hope of stopping him is a treacherous quest to try and find the last remaining rebels and help them end his reign.



With picture puzzles to solve, an exciting dice-based combat system and an epic story full of emotion and humour, this unique gamebook will have you gripped from beginning to end!

NON-FICTION

Go Big

MATTHEW BURTON

The bestselling back-to-school handbook, from the nation's favourite headteacher, Mr Burton. Secondary school can seem scary. Corridors are wide, older students look terrifying and there's homework, messy friendships and stressful exams to deal with. But, whether you're about to land at secondary school or you're still settling in, Mr Burton is here to guide you through your journey – worry-free.

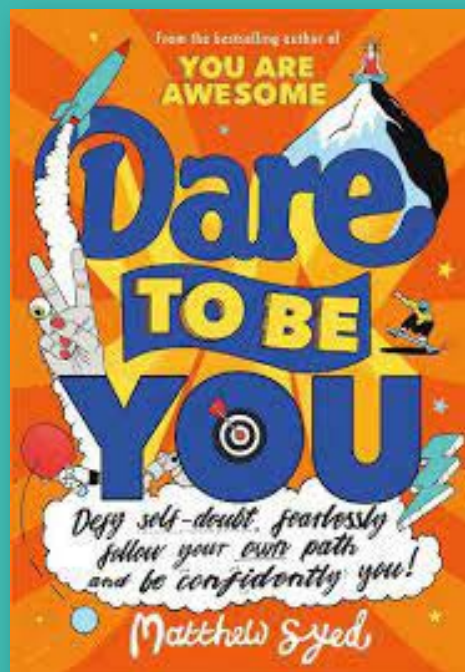


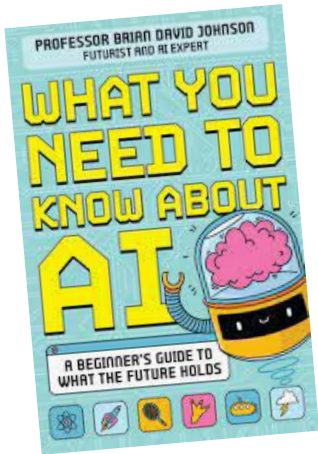
Dare to Be You

MATTHEW SYED

What would you dare to try if you stopped worrying about fitting in? Drawing examples from sport, science and even business, Dare to Be You empowers young readers to follow their own path, love what makes them different and question the world around them.

There is also an accompanying Dare to Be You Journal which you could purchase as well, if you think this would be useful for your child.





What You Need to Know About AI

PROFESSOR BRIAN DAVID JOHNSON

With AI expert and futurist, Professor Brian David Johnson, discover what AI is, where it came from, the incredible ways it's being used today and how it might shape and reimagine your future. Learn that AI is just software and that it won't replace human creativity or imagination, but it could help us do some really cool things!

Watch Professor Brian David Johnson talk about his book here:



Usborne's '100 Things to know' Books

These informative books are packed with surprising facts and useful information! They are handy reference books for home, school and building general knowledge! The series contains books on music, saving the planet, history, food, the human body and much more!

If you're looking for activity books, you may like to explore the 'STEM Scribble books' and the 'Write Your Own' series from Usborne.



Usborne's Scribble Books

Full of activities to explore, discover, solve and create. You can buy a pack of four: Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths - through which you can create an earthquake detector, solve puzzles, crack codes and much more!



Usborne's 'Write Your Own' Books

This series provides young people with a range of ideas and inspiration to get their creative juices going! The collection contains books such as 'Write and Draw Your Own Comics', as well as books on scripts, poems, sci-fi and fantasy stories, magazines and more!



ONLINE EXPERIENCES AND FURTHER READING

Exploring a wide variety of experiences and activities helps to introduce your child to knowledge and interests they might not otherwise have acquired. You may already have lots of ideas for getting out and about over the summer, but we have also collated a few ideas to start you off below. These may spark an interest in something your child may then want to read about, either through a story book or through non-fiction texts.

- Between 26th July and 11th August, Paris Olympics 2024 takes place. You may wish to watch this together and learn about different sports and events your child hasn't experienced before. You can access the schedule [here](#).
- Watch this video [here](#) by the puppeteers behind Joey, the horse from the stage production of War Horse.
- Explore areas of the Natural History Museum in London through virtual tours [here](#). You could also explore areas of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. You can see their permanent, current and past exhibits [here](#).
- Watch this interview event with Tim Peake, focusing on his experience in space, [here](#).
- Read about the history of Stonehenge [here](#), possibly the world's most famous pre-historic site. You could also explore other sites from the UK, such as Warwick Castle [here](#).
- Watch some of these 3-minute Shakespeare videos [here](#). Make sure you choose some you haven't heard of before.
- Culture Trip have a variety of interesting blog posts [here](#) to read about various topics and countries, such as Sri Lanka.
- Explore the use of colour and shape in art on the Tate website [here](#). As you read, carefully view the artworks presented and consider the questions.
- Explore the TED-Ed YouTube playlist [here](#) for myths from around the world.
- You can step inside The Globe Theatre [here](#) via an online tour and you can read more about it [here](#).