

Dear Parents/Carers,

Reading is an important part of everyday life. The more our children read, the better readers they will be and the better writers they will become.



Read a selection of books from the recommended book list attached:

Parents and family members play an important role in building successful readers. Hearing your child read is vital to your child retaining and building on the skills he or she has learned in school. But most importantly, this is a time for children to engage their imaginations, find amusement in books, and to learn to love reading. We ask that your child read for at least 15 minutes a day, a minimum of 5 times a week. Books can be of any genre or on any subject that is of interest to your child.

We have attached a reading list of books for your convenience which have been recommended by the Herts County Literacy Advisors, based on the literacy units of work that your child may be learning in Year 3 and 4. We don't expect your child to read all of the books on the list but you may find some useful suggestions here to help when you are choosing books together.

Here are some quick tips to encourage your child's love for reading.

- READ! READ! READ! Make reading important. Be a role-model for reading. Let your child see you reading throughout the day and use daily routines as reading opportunities.

Cooking, reading TV listings, looking for information on-line, reading directions, or following a map all provide authentic reading experiences.

- Give your child the power of choice. Having reading materials available, such as: books, magazines, comics, etc... is key to helping children love to read, and the reading materials they choose themselves are best.



Help your child find texts that appeal to his or her interests, yet are age appropriate and 'just right' in difficulty.

- Find opportunities to read aloud to your child. Read your favourite childhood book aloud, read signs while driving in the car, read at stores, and read while you're on holiday!
- Take frequent trips to the library.
- Read a great story over and over again to help your child with fluency and reading with expression.
- Talk it up. Talking about books during and after reading helps improve comprehension. Encourage your child to share their ideas and opinions by asking open-ended questions. Talk about what you read to let them know that reading is an important part of your life. Tell them why you liked a book, what you learned from it, or how it helped you— soon they might start doing the same.

We hope you and your family will read many stories and reap all of the wonderful benefits that reading has to offer!

We look forward to hearing all about the exciting books you have read.

Happy reading!

Kind Regards

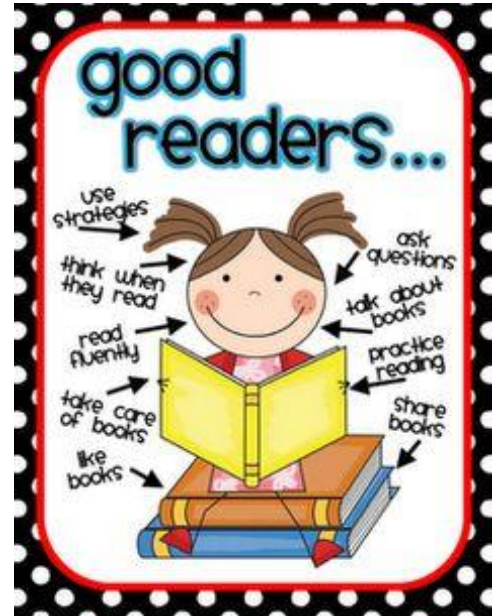
Colney Heath Primary School



# Recommended Crackingly Good Reads

## Traditional Tales - Fables

The Very Best of Aesop's Fables - Margaret Clarke  
War and Peas - Michael Foreman  
I'll Take you to Mrs Col - Nigel Gray  
The Dragon Machine - Helen Ward  
The Great Kapok Tree - Lynne Cherry  
A Tale of Two Wolves - Kelly Susan  
The Amazing Adventures of Idle Jack - Robert Leeson  
Daedalus and Icarus - Geraldine McCaugrean  
Rainbow Bird - Eric Maddern  
Too much talk - Angela Medearis  
The gift of the sun - Diane Stewart  
The hare and the tortoise - Helen Ward  
Rama and the Demon King, - Jessica Souhami  
Tusk, Tusk - David McKee



## Traditional Tales - Fairy Tales (alternative versions)

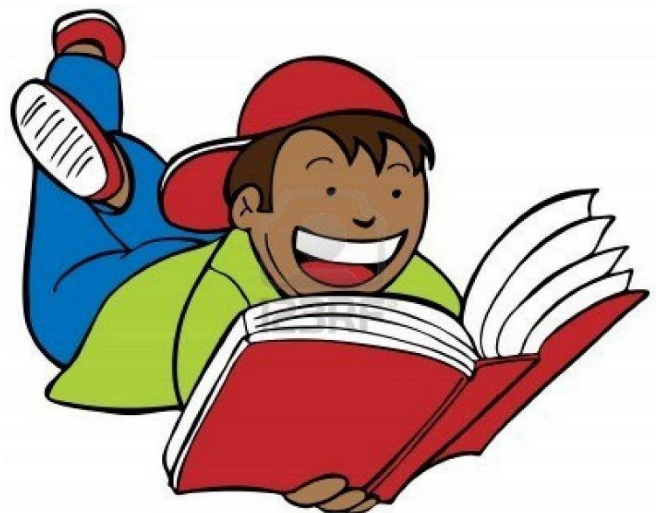
The Stinky Cheese Man - Jon Scieszka  
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs - Jon Scieszka  
The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf - Eugene Trivizas  
Jim and the Beanstalk - Raymond Briggs  
The Lost Happy Endings - Carol Ann Duffy  
The Iron Man - Ted Hughes  
The Boy and the Tiger (and other stories for 9-11 year olds) - compiled by Pie Corbett  
Ulf the Finger Eater - Dick King Smith  
The Truth About Hansel and Gretel - Karina Law and Graham Philpot  
The Truth about those Billy Goats - Karina Law  
The Pea and the Princess - Mini Grey  
Cinderboy - L.Anholt  
Mixed up Fairy Tales - H. Harrison  
Eco Wolf and the Three Little Pigs - Laurence Anholt

## Traditional Tales - Quests (myths)

The Orchard Book of Greek Myths - Geraldine McCaughrean  
Greek Myths - Marcia Williams  
Blackberry Blue and other fairy tales - Jamila Gavin  
The Boy and the Cloth of Dreams - Jenny Koralek  
East O the Sun and West O the Moon - PJ Lynch  
The Firework Maker's Daughter - Phillip Pullman  
The Hobbit - J.R.R. Tolkien  
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone - J.K. Rowling  
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe - C.S. Lewis  
Peter Pan in Scarlet - Geraldine McCaughrean  
The Wooden Horse - Geraldine McCaughrean  
Mission to marathon - Geoffrey Trease

## Stories Set in Imaginary Worlds

The Ice Palace - Robert Swindells  
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe -  
C S Lewis  
The Dream Master - Theresa Breslin  
Aquila (science-fiction) - Andrew Norriss  
The Widow's Broom - Chris Van Allsburg  
Dragon's Child - Jenny Nimmo  
Seth and the Strangers - Jenny Nimmo



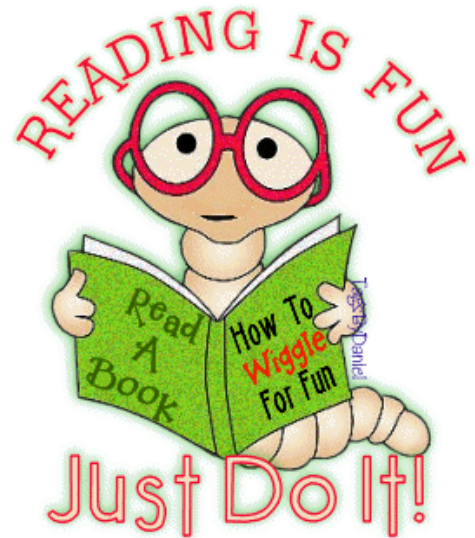
## Stories Set in Other Countries

Cloud Tea Monkeys - Mal Peet  
Jane & Lewis Kurtz E.B. Mamo on the mountain - (Ethopia)  
The true story of Balto - Natalie Staniford (Arctic)  
Anna Hibiscus - Atinuke (Nigeria)  
The Big Book of Betsey Biggalow - Malorie Blackman (West Indies)  
Sophie and the Albino Camel - Stephen Davies (Sahara Desert)  
Elephant child - Mary Ellis (African savannah)  
Grandpa's Indian Summer - Jamila Gavin (India)  
The Colour of Home - Mary Hoffman (Somalia)  
A fistful of pearls and other tales from Iraq - Elizabeth Laird



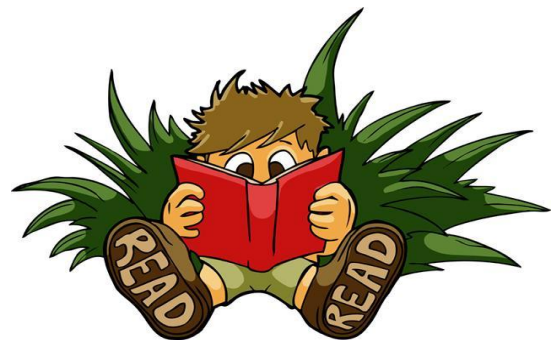
## Historical settings

The Butterfly Lion - Michael Morpurgo  
Children of Winter - Berlie Doherty  
Street Child - Berlie Doherty  
Across the Roman Wall - Theresa Breslin  
The Time Travelling Cat - Julia Jarman  
The Roman Eagle - Julia Jarman  
The Tudor Treasure - Julia Jarman  
The Egyptian Goddess - Julia Jarman  
The Aztec Sacrifice - Julia Jarman  
The Viking Terror - Julia Jarman  
Roger's War - Robert Swindells  
Meet me by the steelmen - Teresa Tomlinson



## Adventure Stories

The Snow Dragon - Vivien French  
Flat Stanley - Jeff Brown  
The Green Ship - Quentin Blake  
The Pirate Cruncher/The Pirate's Next Door/The Jolly Roger  
and the Ghostly Galleon - Jonny Duddle  
The Invisible Boy (and others in the series) - Sally Gardner  
It was a Dark and Stormy Night - Janet Ahlberg  
Fantastic Mr Fox - Roald Dahl  
Charlie Small - Charlie Small  
Tuesday - David Weisner  
Dimanche Diller - Henriette Blandford  
The Jaws of Doom - Alex Cliff  
Jolly Roger Captain Abdul's pirate school  
Black Queen - Michael Morpurgo  
Dominic's Discovery - Gervase Phinn  
Gorilla City, The perfumed Pirates of Perfidy - Charlie Small  
The Speckled Panic - Hazel Townson  
Shipley manor - Tim Walker  
The Great Smile Robbery - Roger McGough  
The Haunting of Pip Parker - Anne Fine



Julian, Secret Agent - Ann Cameron  
The Secret of Weeping Wood - Robert Swindells  
The Thing in the Basement - Michaela Morgan

### Stories with a Theme

Bill's New Frock - Anne Fine (gender stereotypes)  
Cloud Busting - Malorie Blackman (friendship/bullying)  
Journey to Jo'burg - Beverley Naidoo (segregation)  
Frog Belly Rat Bone - Timothy Basil (protecting the environment)  
The Angel of Nitshill Road - Anne Fine (bullying)  
Secret Friends - Elizabeth Laird (bullying/peer pressure)  
The Forbidden Game - Malorie Blackman (bullying)  
The Widow's Broom (prejudice - being different/misunderstood) - Chris Van Allsburg  
Prosper's Mountain - Henrietta Branford (prejudice - being different/misunderstood)  
Rat heaven - Jeanne Willis (different points of view)  
Voices in the Park - Anthony Browne (different points of view)  
Dear Mrs LaRue; Letters from Obedience School - Mark Teague (being misunderstood/different points of view)  
Big Ben - Rachel Anderson (disability)  
Fred - Posy Simmonds (bereavement)

