

# The Reading Corner



## The Blowers Green Reading Newsletter

October / November 2023



A selection of our brand new Book Talk books in our library. (photograph above)

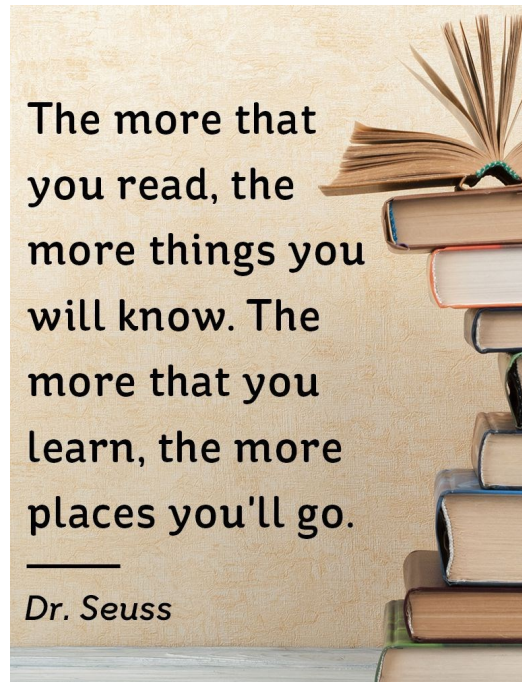
Hello and welcome *The Reading Corner*, the first edition of our *reading newsletter*.

Here at Blowers Green Primary School, we absolutely adore books and reading, and we're on a mission to share that love with everyone!

Diving into a good book not only helps us learn but also boosts our memory, enriches our vocabulary, and broadens our understanding of the world around us. So let's all catch the 'reading bug' together!

Isn't it amazing how a great book whisks us away on incredible journeys, introduces us to fascinating people, and fires up our imagination? It's like having a ticket to the most inspiring adventures! Through our brand new *Reading Newsletter*, we hope to inform about the awesome books our children are diving into. Plus, we'll be shining a spotlight on fantastic authors and stories that are bound to ignite a lifelong love for reading in the children of Blowers Green.

We are keen to hear about your all-time favourite reads too! Don't hold back—share your reading adventures with us. Happy reading!





# READING CHALLENGE



The Blowers Green Reading Challenges are a fantastic opportunity to read some wonderful books and earn the reading challenge badge. Earning the badge shows a real commitment to improving reading and comprehension skills as well as the chance to lose yourself in some amazing literature.

It is fantastic to share the news that two of our pupils have managed to complete their reading challenge after just half a term! This is a wonderful achievement and has shown unbelievable work ethic to read all six books and complete their questions to earn their badges.

A massive **WELL DONE** to:

**Archie—Year 4**

**Arisha—Year 3**



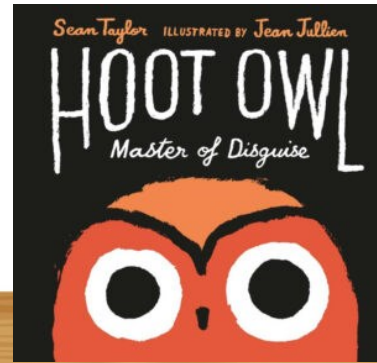
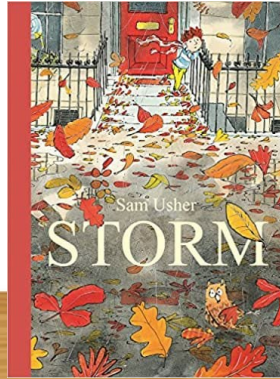
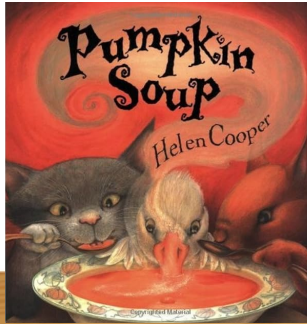
## Year 3 Challenge Books



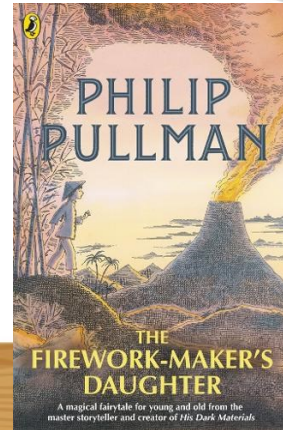
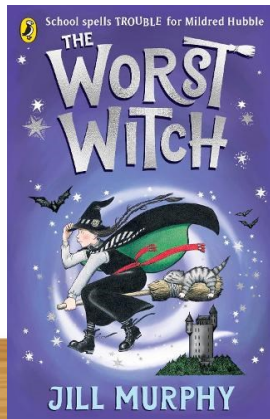
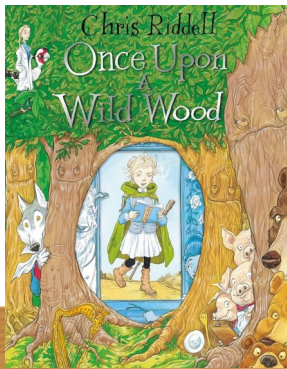
## Year 4 Challenge Books

# Seasonal Reads

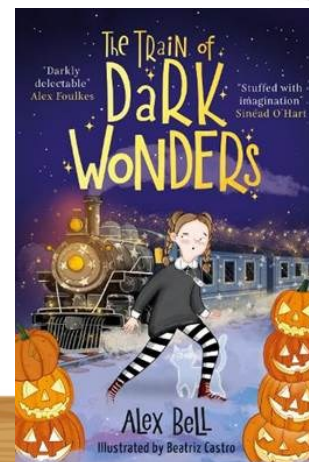
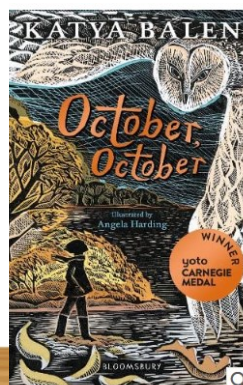
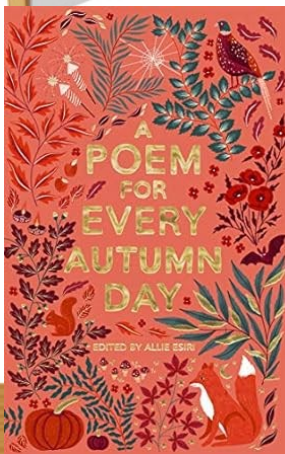
As those autumnal nights draw in why not snuggle up with a good book. Here are some seasonal stories that will that will engage and interest...



*Younger readers EYFS and KS1*



*Ages 7-9*



*Ages 9-11*

# STAFF PICKS



## Hear about all the wonderful books the adults in school have been reading.

**Mrs Martin**

**Recommends**

**October, October**

**By Katya Balen**

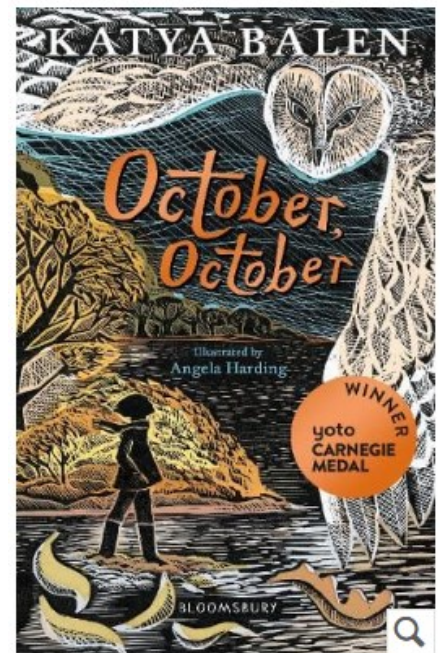
'October, October' by Katya Balen is a heart-warming and magical story that takes you on a journey filled with emotions and adventure. The book explores the challenges faced by the outsider, those who don't quite fit into a neat box, but how it's still possible for everyone to find companionship. We also experience the joy of reconciliation.

To begin with, I must admit that I was drawn in by the illustrations and the lovely warm colours on the cover, however it is the story inside which is the really warming aspect of this book.

October lives with her father deep in the woods; her mother, unable to cope with living 'wild', left when October was small and although she does try to keep in contact with her daughter, October doesn't want to have anything to do with her mother. October has never gone to school and spends all of her time with her father, and her new-found pet owl, Stig. She is extremely close to him and is distraught when a serious accident, from falling out of a tree, leaves him hospitalised and unable to look after her. October is even more distraught when she has to go to stay in London with her mother. Forced to go to the local school, she finds it very difficult to fit in and her time there is only made bearable by the friendship that tentatively builds between her and another pupil with whom she goes mud larking on the River Thames. However, October's relationship with her mother leaves much to be desired and missing not only her father but also her pet owl, which has now had to be housed at a bird sanctuary, October struggles to cope with the changes in her life. Will her father recover sufficiently to enable them to return to the woods that she and he both love? Or will October be forced to stay in London with a mother she barely knows?

'October, October' is a book that made me feel all kinds of emotions. I laughed, I felt sad, and I even got a little scared at times. But most importantly, it made me feel happy and hopeful. It reminded me that even when things are tough, there's always room for hope, wonder and magic in our lives.

**A fantastic book for KS2 readers.**



# STAFF PICKS



Hear about all the wonderful books the adults in school have been reading.

## Mrs Adam's Recommends...

The Final Year is a really special book! It's written by Matt Goodfellow, and it's about a year in the life of a boy named Noah. He's ten and he's about to start his last year in primary school.

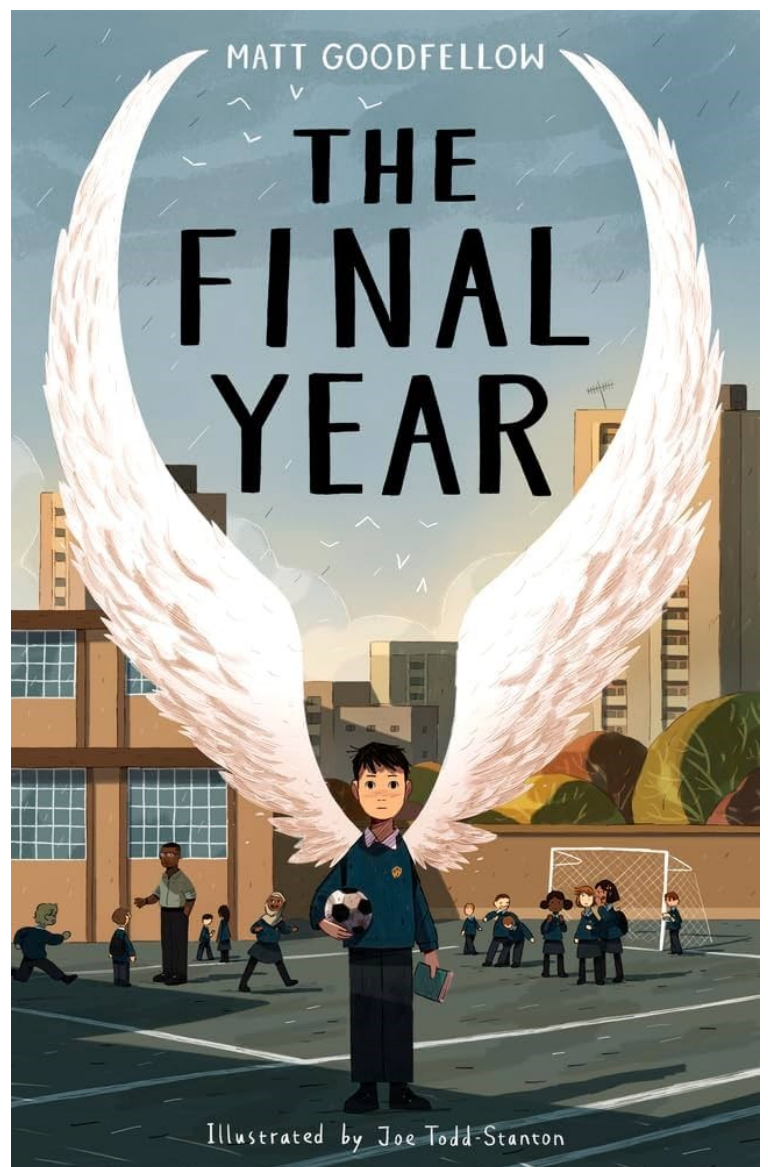
Noah tells the story, and it's like he's talking right to you. I felt like he was a friend, and I was there with him on his journey through his final year. I liked how the book was easy to read, and it made me feel all the things Noah was feeling.

Noah goes through a lot of things in his final year, like making new friends, dealing with bullies, and trying to win the school talent show.

The book also has really great poems and drawings that Noah makes. It's like a mix of a regular story and a journal. I loved how creative and funny Noah is.

One of the best things about The Final Year is that it shows you how important friendship is. Noah and his friends go through ups and downs, but they always stick together, and that's a great message.

So, if you're around 10 years old, I think you'll really like The Final Year. It's an exciting and touching story about friendship, growing up, and finding your own voice. I can't wait to read more books by Matt Goodfellow!



# STAFF PICKS



Hear about all the wonderful books  
the adults in school have been reading.

**Miss Wood recommends...**

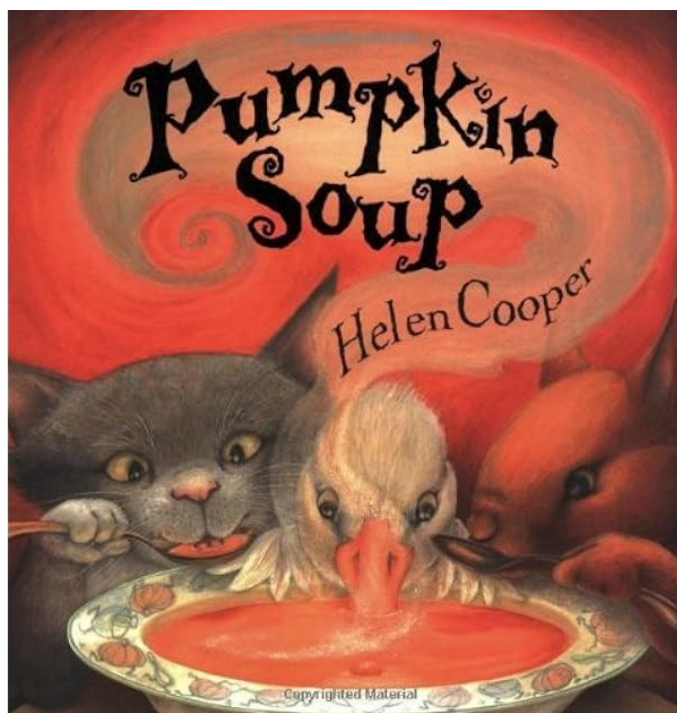
## Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper

This is a gem of a book – a beautifully illustrated story that's just perfect for those snuggly Autumn nights. This story is not only funny but also flows in a simple, rhythmic way, making it an absolute delight to read aloud.

And the colours! Oh, the bright Autumnal hues will captivate every young reader's eye.

'Pumpkin Soup' spins a delicious tale about three pals – Cat, Squirrel, and Duck – who live together in a charming white cabin in the woods. They spend their evenings making music and singing, living a peaceful life until Duck decides to shake things up! This story teaches us a thing or two about friendship and teamwork.

Give it a go and get ready for a heartwarming adventure!





# THE Reading ROUNDUP



## Support your library!

We're lucky to have 13 libraries all around Dudley Borough, so you're never too far from a great read. And the best part? It's all FREE! These libraries are packed with cool opportunities and activities for children of all ages, especially during the school holidays.

Trust us, you don't want to miss out on the fun activities they offer. Plus, there's a huge collection of amazing books just waiting to be borrowed. Let's open up a world of books and let our imaginations soar!

[Libraries in Dudley | Better](#)—follow the link to join your local library now!

[Dudley borough libraries | Dudley Council](#)—Click here to find out more about Dudley Libraries and the activities and workshops they offer.



## Blue Peter Book Badge



The popular CBBC television programme Blue Peter has recently launched a new Book Badge. It is an exciting opportunity to earn yourselves this fantastic badge. The new Book badge has been designed by one of the UK's best known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake; who you might know from bringing to life characters such as Roald Dahl's BFG and Matilda! To earn your badge, just share your love of books with Blue Peter by answering the questions at the link below. You can apply using the online form (link below) or by post.



[Blue Peter Book badge | Find out how to earn the Book BP badge - CBBC - BBC](#)

# Reading Ambassadors



Introducing our amazing **Reading Ambassadors!** These dedicated and passionate children have earned the title of Reading Ambassador because of their passion for books and their wish to spread that joy to others.



## Just a Book?

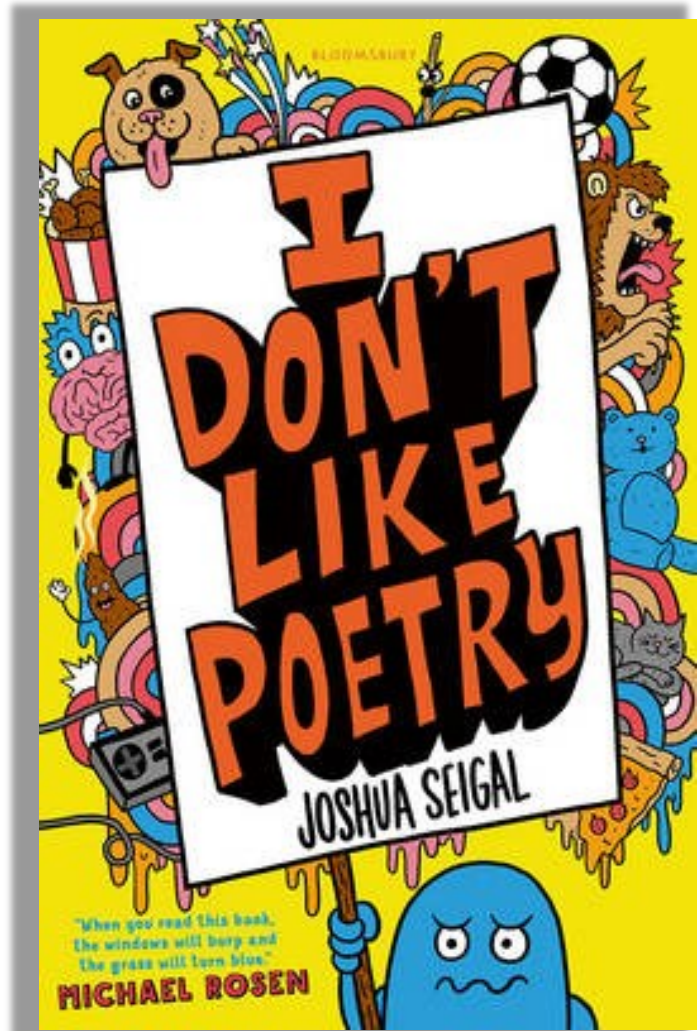
### By Joshua Seigal

It's a letter in a bottle  
bobbing blindly in the sea,  
it's a verdant leaf in summer  
hanging halfway up a tree,  
it's a pebble sleeping softly  
in a gently flowing brook  
but it's never, no it's never,  
no it's never just a book.

It's the topping on your pizza  
as it sits upon your plate,  
it's the fish that you've been after  
as you hook it with your bait,  
it's a cupboard of ingredients  
all waiting for the cook  
but it's never, no it's never,  
no it's never just a book.

It's a soldier in a battle  
brave and not afraid,  
it's a hunter in a forest  
as she sharpens up her blade,  
it's a playmate, it's a bully,  
it's a policeman, it's a crook  
but it's never, no it's never,  
no it's never just a book.

It's a parcel of ideas,  
it's a package full of tools,  
it's a field full of freedom,  
it's a folder full of rules,  
it's a fancy flight of fantasy  
so come and have a look -  
see it's never, no it's never,  
no it's never just a book!



**This poem can be found in *I Don't Like Poetry*—a collection of poems by Joshua Seigal**

**\*\*Shortlisted for the Laugh Out Loud Awards - the UK's only prize for funny children's books\*\***

**A brilliant collection of poems by an exciting young poet, this book is perfect, whether you like poetry or not!**

**'When you read this book, the windows will burp and the grass will turn blue. That's how magic these poems are.'** Michael Rosen

Packed full of silly, funny, or downright hilarious poems (with a few serious ones mixed in) this brilliant collection from exciting young poet, Joshua Seigal is perfect for fans of Michael Rosen and anyone else who needs a giggle. If you like poetry, you'll like this book. And if you don't like poetry you'll LOVE it!

With poems on every topic from the power of books to the joys of fried chicken, this collection is a fabulous mix of Joshua Seigal's humour and insight into the world of children. With hilarious doodle style illustrations by Chris Piascik, you are sure to fall fall in love with poetry.

# Keep Reading!

TODAY A  
READER.  
TOMORROW  
A LEADER!



"READING IS A PASSPORT  
TO COUNTLESS ADVENTURES."  
-MARY POPE OSBORNE



We want to hear all about your reading adventures. Let us know what you've been reading—we'd love to hear your recommendations.



Look out for the next edition of **The Reading Corner** - Coming Soon!!