



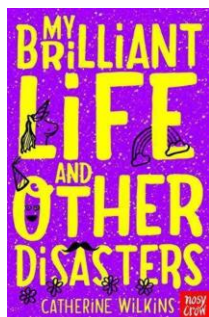
October Library Newsletter

I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.

- L.M. Montgomery.

The new term has now settled itself down and the library is back in full swing. We are so happy to have recruited a group of very enthusiastic librarians and nearly all of them have completed their training. It has been a pleasure to meet them all and I was especially pleased to have some old hands who can expertly help the new librarians.

We have a whole display table full of new books – which we hope will soon be borrowed by the children. These are some of the exciting new books we have available:



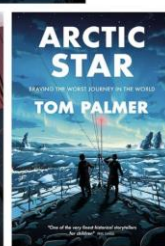
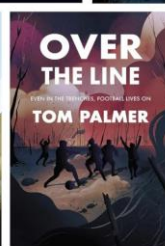
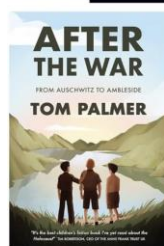
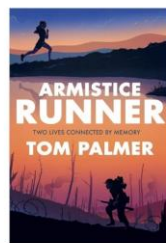
Catherine Wilkins is a writer and a comedian so her series of books dealing with friendships for children are guaranteed to be funny.

Darwin's Dragons is a delightful book mixing historical facts with fiction – Mrs Cass loved this book.

Night Animals - a ghost story with an uplifting message of finding help where you need it.

I totally recommend Tom Palmer's books. His comprehensive research into the topics respects the children's ability to delve deeper and look critically at the subject. We have had many requests from year six for his books. They are published by Barrington Stoke which makes them very accessible to dyslexic readers. His website is well worth visiting:

<https://tompalmer.co.uk/>



Please remember our box outside the junior reception. This box is being constantly updated with new books – thank you to all parents who have donated books for this. There is a great selection for all ages in this box and you can borrow as many books for as long as you want. We have also a selection of books suitable for parents and guardians – I can recommend them all!

We also have added a few more chess sets so that more children can sit quietly and have a game together. As the colder weather approaches, I am predicting this will be a popular pastime.



In our library we aim to create a place not necessarily of peace and quiet but where every child feels encouraged to browse through our amazing collection of books to find a book that they will enjoy.

A recent survey carried out by the National Literacy Trust came up with some very stark figures about children reading for enjoyment – the report itself makes for uncomfortable reading:

In 2023, we recorded the lowest level of reading enjoyment since we started asking children and young people about this in 2005.

Just 2 in 5 (43.4%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2023. This is the lowest level since we first asked the question in 2005.

These figures are worrying and we cannot be complacent about this. One important aspect of reading for pleasure is to feel safe and comfortable in our reading environment whether at home or at school. The Trust surveyed children about this aspect of their reading and the results were quite astonishing:

Nearly three times as many children and young people who perceived their reading environment to be supportive said they enjoyed reading compared with those who perceived it to be less supportive (63.9% vs. 25.4%).

This is something that we may not think about when we are reading with our children but in the library we have made this high priority. The library certainly has comfortable areas to sit in but also is a place where the children can feel supported and free to ask for help when trying to choose a book- that is why our librarians are so important to us.

So if your child is struggling to find a book that they are enjoying please tell them to come and talk to us in the library – we will be more than happy to help.