



Striving for Excellence

# Ryefield's Weekly Newsletter

14-12-2018

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## The Gift of Reading



**One in four children across London has fewer than ten books of their own at home.** Growing up in a home packed with books has a large effect on literacy in later life – according to new research, led by Dr Joanna Sikora of Australian National University

At Ryefield we want to ensure that every child has the best possible start in life and reading has been shown to be **THE** main factor for an individual to realise their dreams and aspirations. We are passionate about books and, this year, are trying to establish a reading culture across the school. A new reciprocal guided reading scheme has been put in place across KS2, over 2000 new, nearly new and donated books have been placed into classrooms and we are setting children the challenge of reading some of our recommended books via the gold star scheme.

Your children may have spoken about the short story dispenser (we had the only one in the UK) which dispensed different stories at the push of a button. Over the autumn term 1554 stories were printed! This breaks down as:

- 5659 minutes of continuous reading
- Or 95 hours of continuous reading
- Or nearly 4 whole days of non-stop reading!

The machine was a great launchpad for establishing our reading culture but we are ambitious for more. We also want children to have a love of reading out of school. In the age of tablets, mobile phones and games consoles this can be a challenge. We are deeply grateful to the London Children's Book Project who have donated nearly 900 books which will be used to allow **your child** to choose one book to take home as theirs forever.

In the last week of term **all** of the children in the school will visit Pankhurst to browse Ryefield's 'pop-up book shop'. After browsing they will be presented with a golden coin which can be used to purchase a book of their choice. This book is theirs to keep and we hope that they enjoy it over the Christmas break.



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# All I want for Christmas is ~~you~~ **books**

## Book recommendations for Christmas

### Picture books



Tom Percival is fast becoming one of my favourite picture book creators. His books all have such beautiful illustrations and carry such important messages!

Ruby's Worry is all about how sharing your problems is the best way to make them go away, advice that all of us still need to hear!

Perfectly Norman is about celebrating our differences, keeping up appearances and trying to 'fit it' can make us unhappy.

Both are essential reads for anyone from 1 –100!

The Jolly Postman has always been a favourite of mine. Who doesn't love opening the little envelopes and delving into the intricate letters contained within? Dragon Post by Emma Yarlett is the perfect book for anyone who has enjoyed The Jolly Postman. A boy finds a dragon in his garden and writes letters to people asking for their advice. This will surely become a family favourite and will you'll be asked to re-read frequently!



Bethan Woollvin rewrites well loved fairy tales with slight twists that breathe new life into classic stories. I can't choose which is my favourite. You'll have to read all three to see if you can decide for yourself!

The second book which contains a dragon—not necessarily a fearsome one—in fact quite the opposite. Franklin's Flying bookshop by Jen Campbell and Katie Harnett caught my eye whilst browsing in a bookshop. The illustrations are stunning!

Franklin meets Luna and they share a passion for books. Together they create a flying bookshop. Stunning illustrations and a beautiful tale of friendship. Perfect for any little book worms in your lives.



Kes Gray & Jim Field are on a hilarious roll with their fantastic 'Oi...' series (If you've not read them—make sure you do). These two books are instant favourites that will leave you all rolling around in fits of laughter.

"You're called what?!" is full of silly animal names that'll make you chuckle.

Quick Quack Quentin highlights the importance of vowels in a humorous way



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## Book recommendations for Christmas

### Chapter books for younger readers



Phillip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre have a superb partnership. Reeve's storytelling immerses you in new worlds and keeps you giggling. Whilst McIntyre's illustrations are eye catching and endear you to the characters that you meet along the way. Any of their books are excellent choices for readers 5—50.

The Legend of Kevin is a perfect present as it is a hardback with beautiful silver sprayed edges! Max wants some adventure in his life. Then he meets Kevin, the roly-poly flying pony! Kevin and Max come to the rescue of the town when they need it most!

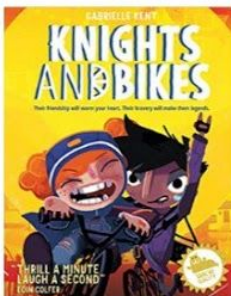
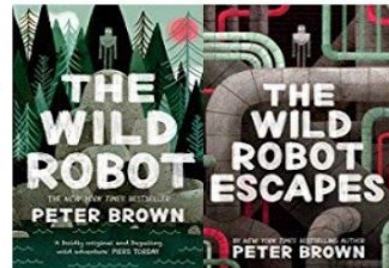
The Nothing to see here Hotel is a magical hotel in Brighton where many magical creatures take their holidays created by the two Stevens (Butler and Lenton). Kids will love the mischievous activities that the hotel guests get up to! Adults will love using different voices when reading aloud.

A sequel has just been released—I've not been fortunate enough to read it, but I've heard good things from those who have!



The Twitches by Hayley Scott are toy rabbits who live in a teacup house. When Stevie isn't looking, they come alive! In my head the Twitches are Sylvanian Family Rabbits, I read these with my daughter and it sparked her imagination, we spent hours discussing what adventures her Sylvanians got up to while she was at school. Toy Story meets the borrowers.

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown was one of my favourite books I read this year, with Characters who you build a genuine affection for I couldn't wait for the sequel which came out in September. Roz is a robot who adapts to her surroundings. Built to serve humans, but when there are none around, she befriends animals in the wild instead. A thrilling ending to the first book means I recommend having the sequel handy straight away!



I try not to recommend books that I haven't read, but 'Knights and Bikes' by Gabrielle Kent is sitting at the top of my 'to be read' pile. I'm desperate to get started. The book was crowdfunded earlier this year and a tie in computer game is currently being developed too.

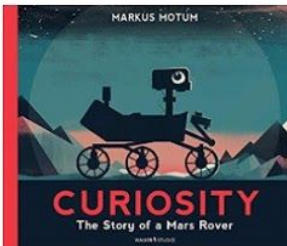
The story is of two girls who ride their bikes solving puzzles hoping to uncover the mysteries of the Penfurzy Knights. They face down danger with frisbees, water-balloons, feathers .... and a toilet plunger. What's not to love!?!?



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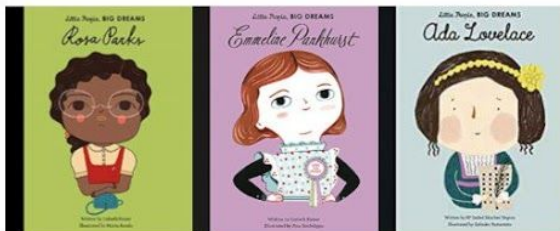
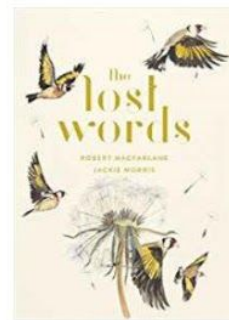
### Non-fiction/ Poetry



**Curiosity by Marus Motum is a fiction book—facts placed together with a narrative—all about Curiosity the Mars Rover. The illustrations are beautiful and engaging. After reading you'll want to rush straight back to the start to read all over again.**

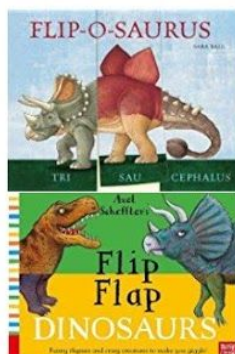
**A must for any space lovers, or indeed anyone who loves a good story mixed with some true facts!**

There have been many campaigns to get 'The Lost Words' by in every school up and down the country. Once you get your hands on a copy you'll understand why. Breathtaking illustrations mixed with beautiful acrostic poems all about nature. A book that is fast becoming a modern classic. Children and adults of all ages will love sharing this large book together.



**Little People, Big Dreams is a series of books documenting the lives of inspirational women from across the globe. The series is expanding rapidly and there are even condensed versions for the youngest of readers. Educate your children about these amazing role models!**

Whether you spend your time looking up or looking down there is a book for you! Charlotte Gullain (Author) and Yuval Zommer (Illustrator) combine for these two amazing books which enable us to delve up or down and find out more about the street beneath our feet or the skies above our eyes. The books fold out to be explored. The perfect books to share with friends!



**Two very similar books but for different aged children. Axel Scheffler's Flip Flap dinosaurs is perfect for under sixes. A fun look at creating new and silly dinosaurs. Flip-O-Saurus by Britta Drehsen and Sara Ball can be enjoyed by any age but has a more detailed descriptions of the dinosaurs which interest older children which can be mixed and matched too.**

**The family will have hours of fun creating new dinosaurs, reading their names and finding out about their new creations!**



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## Book recommendations for Christmas

### Chapter books for older readers

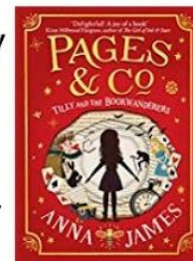


Kieran Larwood is a phenomenal storyteller who instantly transports you to the lands that he writes about. The Podkin One-Ear Trilogy have truly hooked me. So much so that I forced my entire family to take a diversion on a day out so that I could buy the third book on the day it came out... The best description I've heard of the series is 'Game of Thrones with Rabbits—for kids!'

Podkin and his siblings are all that stand in the way of the Gorm as they strive for world domination. Not for the faint hearted!

I'm pretty sure that Anna James has written a perfect book which acts as a modern gateway into older classic novels. Tilly lives with her Grandparents in Pages & Co Bookshop. Bizarrely she keeps seeing familiar people, they remind her of characters from her favourite books... this must be coincidental right?

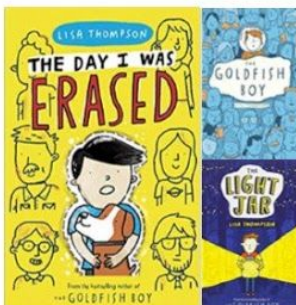
The story will grab your imagination, you'll be praying that you can become a book wanderer yourself! Once I read this I was inspired to pick up old favourites and re-explore—Anne of Green Gables, Treasure Island and A Little Princess.



It seems strange recommending Mortal Engines, a book that has been out for 17 years, but the film adaptation is being released early December. There are four books in the series plus three prequels and other stories based in the same world—so if the film is a hit in your house, there is plenty to keep you going whilst you wait for the next film.

Set in the future, all cities have been transformed into moving machines. A story of good versus evil where you'll be desperately rooting for the underdogs. Phillip Reeve is the master storyteller, you'll be encapsulated from the start!

Sophie Anderson's 'The House with Chicken Legs' is being included in many of the end of year book awards shortlists and it's easy to see why! A touching tale based on a well known folk tale character—Baba Yaga and her granddaughter. All Marinka wants is a friend, but living in a house with chicken legs that is constantly on the move is not the most helpful in this quest! This is one of the first books I recommend to others and I implore you to get stuck in!



Save your pennies for...

Lisa Thompson is a marvellous writer. If you've not read 'Goldfish Boy' or 'Light Jar' then you must run to the shop now and get them before you do anything else! Both books deal with sensitive issues with humour and a heart-warming story.

I've been looking forward to reading her next book since I finished the first two. It has recently been announced for release in January so keep some of the money from grandma for 'The Day I was Erased'. I can't wait!

## **Booklet given to all KS2 parents - Keep Your Child Safe in a Digital World**

Should Father Christmas present your children with a tablet, laptop, pc or mobile device please take some time to read the magazine which has been given to your child to take home. It is packed with great tips, advice and guidance on how to keep your child safe in a digital world.

## **Tracksuits for PE**

**Please ensure you send a tracksuit and warm top for your child to wear whilst doing outdoor PE. It is part of our school uniform requirements, which clearly states:**

- Trainers (KS2) / plimsolls (KS1)
- Shorts - royal blue
- White T-shirt - plain or with Ryefield logo
- **Navy blue/black tracksuit in winter**

## **Vanguard Learning Trust (VLT)**

The four cross-phase (Key Stage 2 (KS2) and Key Stage 3 (KS3)) projects have been established with a number of local primary schools joining one or more of the projects which are focused on students' oracy, metacognition, narrowing the gap and transition between KS2 and KS3.

The first VLT Christmas concert is on **Wednesday 19th December 2018 at 4:30pm in All Saints Church**, 2 Ryefield Avenue, Uxbridge, UB10 9BT. Ruislip High School's Year 7 choir is performing as well as one of our Year 13 students who is giving a solo performance.

The two secondary schools are working closely on establishing strong partnerships between curriculum areas, starting with the core subjects and ensuring sixth form students are fully prepared for linear A Levels. A VLT safeguarding board has also been established led by an experienced trustee; I am sure this will ensure good practice is shared between schools and a peer-review process is being developed for the summer term. A Trust-wide conference has been agreed on Friday 22nd November 2019 which will allow staff to collaborate together on improvement priorities across the Trust.



## Friends of Ryefield Christmas Shop - Tuesday 18th December

This year's Friends of Ryefield Christmas Shop will be on Tuesday 18th December. Children should bring money into school in a named purse/wallet or envelope. There will be presents available to purchase ranging from £1.50 to £5.00.



Friends of



Striving for Excellence

# Christmas Secret Shop 2018

*The Christmas Secret Shop will be open for just one day*



*On: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018*  
*During: School hours*  
*Where: In the Studio*



*Come and buy your presents for your family*

*There will be a selection of gifts to buy in the price range:*

*£1.50 - £5.00 maximum*

*All gifts will be wrapped by Santa's helpers*



# School Lunches

**If you have unpaid fees for lunch - please ensure that your account is settled. Your child will not receive a school lunch until their sQuid account has credit!**

**If sQuid does not allow you to order due to owed funds then it is your responsibility to provide your child(ren) a packed lunch.**

Please note that this does not apply to children in the Early Years (Reception) and KS1 (Years 1 and 2) as you automatically receive Universal Infant Free School Meals or families who receive free school meals in KS2 (Years 3-6)

**Are you eligible for Free School Meals and access to the Pupil Premium?  
Visit: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims> to check for eligibility**

# Dates For Your Diary

Monday 17th December	<b>KS1 Carol Concert - 2.30pm - Parents welcome</b>
Tuesday 18th December	<b>Friends of Ryefield Christmas Shop (all day)</b>
Wednesday 19th December	<b>KS1 Christmas Parties</b>
Wednesday 19th December	<b>Vanguard Learning Trust - Christmas Celebration @ All Saints Church - 4.30pm - 6.00pm - all welcome</b>
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>End of Term</b>
	<b>KS1 finishes @ 1.30pm/KS2 finishes @ 1.35pm</b>
<b>Monday 7th January</b>	<b>INSET Day - NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL</b>
<b>Tuesday 8th January</b>	<b>TERMS STARTS</b>