

Spring 1 2026

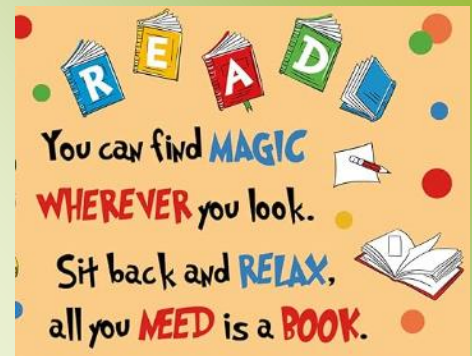
READING: THE NEWS

Springfield Primary Reading news!



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Year 6 Michael Rosen event



As shared in our previous Reading Newsletter, Michael Rosen Day took place in November, and our Year 6 pupils were lucky enough to take part in the Michael Rosen event in school. I caught up with several children afterwards, and they were eager to share their thoughts and excitement.

The theme of the event was Food, which sparked plenty of laughter and memorable moments. Ali explained that Michael Rosen spoke about his most famous meme and revealed the true story behind it. Michael shared how he once believed his dad knew everything, until he burned his mouth on hot food- a moment which made the story funny.



Amilia particularly enjoyed the famous Chocolate cake story. Michael told them how he woke up in the night and ended up eating the entire chocolate cake because he simply could not stop! The story was a clear favourite amongst the children. Cady described the event as “amazing”, saying she loved it and found it incredibly funny, especially with the number of jokes Michael included throughout.

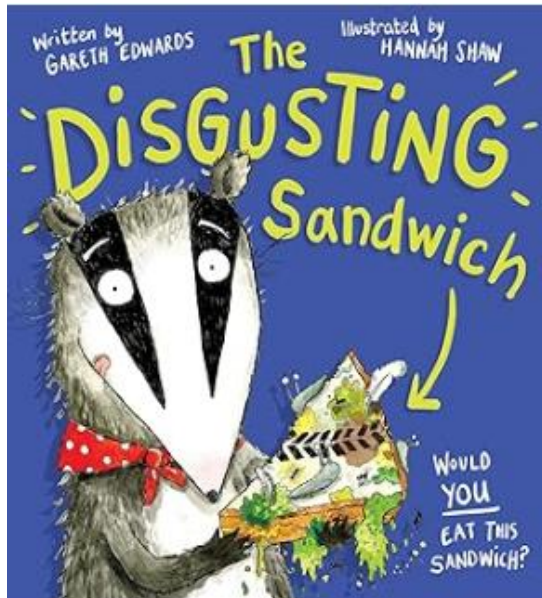


The children were also keen to share their thoughts on Michael Rosen’s writing. Ali felt that Michael should write more novels, as he has already enjoyed reading a couple of them. Amilia commented on how the colours in his books really “pop out” when you read his work.

It was wonderful to hear such enthusiasm for reading and storytelling, and the event has clearly left a lasting impression on our Year 6 readers.

Recommended reads.

If you read any of our recommended reads or stories from any of our Author of the Term from last year. Please let us know. We would love to hear of any stories or authors you would recommend too!



A recommended read for EYFS

A great book about a very hungry but a rather unlucky badger who is in search of a sandwich.

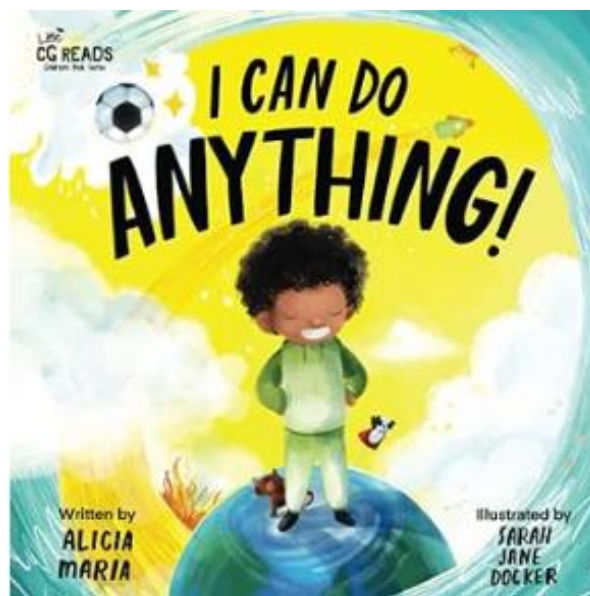
Children will enjoy the 'yuck factor' of the ending but also the repeated phrases that they will love to join in with.

A recommended read for KS1 children.

This is a fun story, whilst also an opportunity to practice positive affirmations.

In this story, Miles has big dreams! Through his big dreams, he discovers all the amazing things he can do.

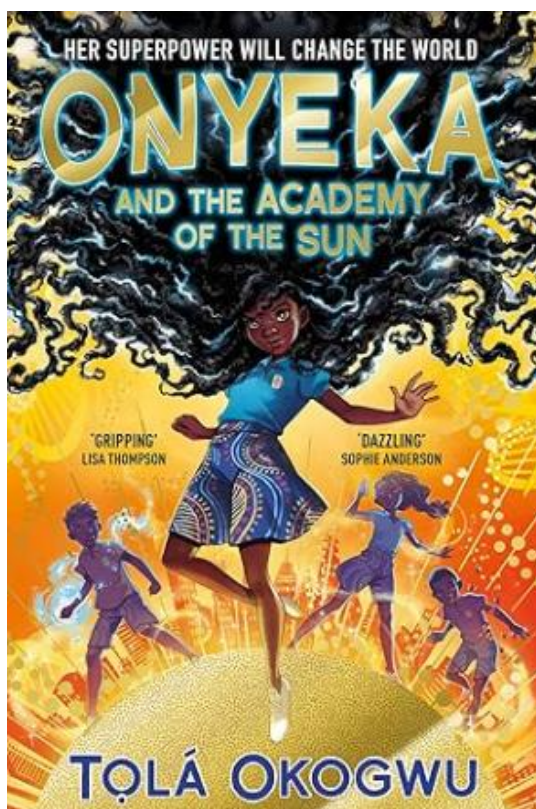
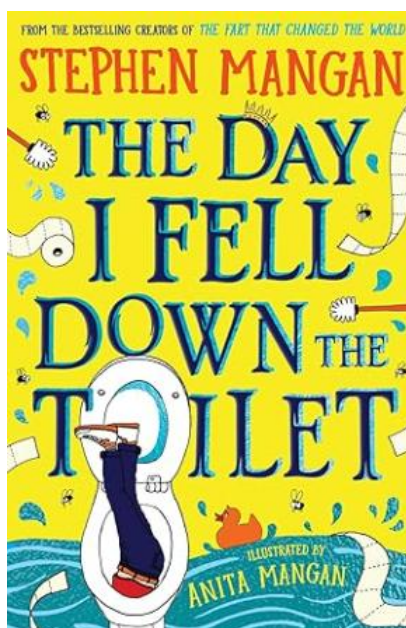
Dream big and believe you can do anything...because you can!



A recommended read for Y3-4.

This is a high-energy, laugh out loud kind of book. Written by Stephen Mangan (actor) and sister Anita (artist).

In this story, the Queen of the Dunny, the land where the jokes come from, has lost her sense of humour and has banned fun of any kind! Can the hero Timothy save the day and make the Queen laugh?



A recommended read for Y5-6

This is a super-hero series about a girl from Nigeria who learns that her amazing Afro hair has powers! Onyeka and her new friends have to soon put their powers to the test as they are find themselves caught up in an epic battle.

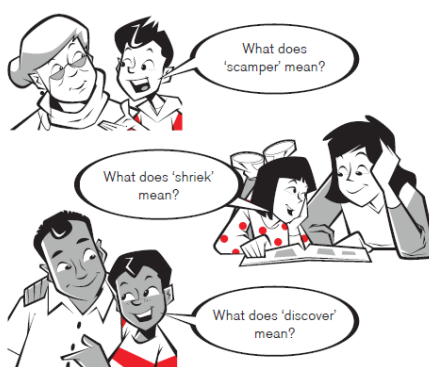
Other books in this series are:
Onyeka and the Rise of the Rebels
and Onyeka and the Heroes of the Dawn.

Vocabulary Talk.

In school, we are encouraging the children to ask when they are unsure of the meaning of a word. Children are developing strategies to look up words in dictionaries to further their understanding. As adults, we can be great models for doing this. There are always words which we come across which we are unsure of the meaning and our children need to see us finding out what words mean too.



Encourage your child to ask what new words mean



To get on well in school and in life, children need to know lots of words. One of the best ways of learning what new words mean is to ask.

- **Praise** your child when they ask about the meaning of words.
- **Show** your child how to ask, eg 'Let's go and ask Grandad what that word means.'

In order to develop your child's vocabulary further and to become curious in learning new words, please encourage your child to become Word detectives, in asking what words mean, finding new words and discussing the meanings in English or home language. Vocabulary is really important for comprehension and learning across the curriculum and is a predictor of future academic success.

Vocabulary Games are a great way for children to recall vocabulary and explore language. Vocabulary game to try at home this term....

Game 1

What can it do?

Pick a noun (apple, baby, ball, leaf, flour etc). Can you think of 5 things that it can do or that can be done with it?

For example: **TREE**- climb, chop, grow, fall down, absorb carbon dioxide.

Game 2

Alison is an acrobat in Asia.

Start at the beginning of the alphabet. The first player must generate a name, profession and place that all begin with that letter, just like in the title of the game. The next player has to do the letter B: e.g Bilal is a builder in Blackpool. And so on.

To make this more complex, you could add adjectives e.g Alison is an ambitious acrobat in Asia.

To make this game easier, try a name, food and a place in the house e.g Alison is eating apples in the attic. Bob is eating bolognese in the back garden.

Let's swap screens for talk.

Lizzie Andrew from the Sheffield English Hub wrote an interesting blog about the effect of screen time on our children's development. Whilst screens can be beneficial in certain situations, it is important to know all the facts that research has shown on this matter.

Too much screen time can affect a child's developing brain in the following ways:

Health impacts:
affecting the body and
sleep cycles.



Language development and
executive functioning e.g memory
and adapting in situations.

Social
development and
family
relationships.

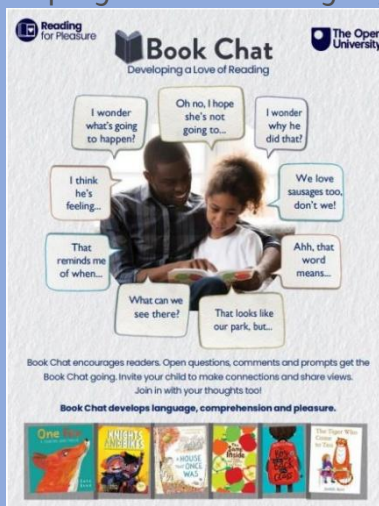
Affecting attention span
and behaviour.

Emotional Health: screen used
as pacifiers can have a
negative impact as children
are not developing the ability
to work through their feelings
and emotions.

To read the blog for yourself or to find out ways in which you can find a healthy balance in this digital world. Please see [HERE](#)

Supporting Reading at home: 'Book Chat'

'Book Chat' is the informal interaction that accompanies reading to and with children- developing children's language and comprehension and nurturing the love of Reading.



Watch these videos (made by The Open University) in support of Reading at home. Each video is aimed at a different age of child who would be engaging with the stories or poems as they are shared.

Watch [HERE](#)

Children's library visits.

Year 3's visit to the Library

During this term, Year 3 visited the Sheffield Children's library. These visits are essential in encouraging reading for pleasure and extending children's experiences of the different texts and authors- which after talking to Ibrahim, Thanaa and Aaya, this trip certainly did that!

The children described how they took part in some activities with their friends, looking at and choosing books to read for themselves before being treated to a story telling session from the Library staff.

One of the activities was a colouring competition, where the children were invited to colour a picture and return it to the library. One of our families won an amazing prize as a result!

The children were really excited to tell me about the books they read during the time at the library.

Aaya said that she really enjoyed reading "a big story, that I am a big fan of: Diary of a Wimpy Kid"

Ibrahim said that he read a giant book about Minecraft building and about a Guinness world record for the largest building.

Thanaa said that she read a book that she had never heard of before. She said that she enjoyed it so much. She said it was about two sisters who were so greedy!

The staff at the library read a story about a Pig who was pretending to be a frog. The Pig encouraged the other characters to use their imagination. The children said that it was a really fun book which was part of a series, of which the children would like to read more of.



Bug Club Reading

It's all about reading for fun!

Reading for pleasure matters. It is the single biggest indicator that a child will grow up to enjoy a happier more successful life-more than their family circumstances, family educational background or their income (Source: OECD 2002 and 2019). The benefits of reading are clear: for wellbeing and self-esteem, brain development, learning across the curriculum and to develop empathy, imagination and creativity. It doesn't matter what we read, as long as we are reading! Fiction, Poetry, Non-fiction, comic books are all great choices.

In order to read for pleasure, we need to further our reading skills to enable us to enjoy a text of our choosing. To complement our reading scheme and to provide more opportunities to read, all of our children have access to online texts. Books can be read on computer, laptop or ipad. There are benefits to reading a text more than once to further enjoy the story, increase comprehension and develop text fluency to name but a few.

The online books give the opportunities to explore comprehension. Where you see the bug on the page, click on it and answer the question.



Some of the books have an information page at the front which explores tricky words, key vocabulary and discussion points to further reinforce learning. Your teacher is able to see your progress as you answer the questions.

Words

said	were
have	there
like	little
so	one
do	when
some	out
come	what

This book practises:

Sounds
Blending and segmenting adjacent consonants*

*Consonants are letters that are not vowels (a, e, i, o and u).

Word up

Do you know what these words mean? Find out about the words you don't know.
Jamaican coast gull

Have a go!

Blending sounds
Look at the letters below. What sounds do they make? Can you think of any words that have these sounds?
st sm sp

Look at the front cover. Nana and Moo Moo go to the coast. Have you been to the coast or seen it on TV? Do you like the seaside?

Earn rewards for your reading on your rewards page.



Happy Reading!

Mrs. Pycroft & Miss. Button