



WELCOME TO THE SPRING TWO PiXL READING FOR PLEASURE NEWSLETTER

This edition of the Newsletter has ideas for engaging in World Book Day, Science Week and National Poetry Day. However you choose to celebrate these occasions, we hope that you enjoy the book recommendations and enjoy the time you spend reading with your child.

Research shows that reading for pleasure can promote better health and wellbeing as well as academic progress.

- Children who read books often at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly.
- 19% of readers say that reading stops them from feeling lonely.
- An online poll of over four thousand people from a representative sample in the UK revealed that regular readers for pleasure reported fewer feelings of stress and depression than non-readers, and stronger feelings of relaxation from reading than from watching television or engaging with technology-intensive activities.

SOURCE: [Reading Agency](#)

Please note that the texts are suitable from the age group stated, but please do research the books before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child.

Read MORE books



WORLD BOOK DAY 2ND MARCH

World Book Day is an annual celebration of books and reading that takes place on the first Thursday of March each year. World Book Day 2023 falls on Thursday 2nd March. The aim of World Book Day is to encourage all young people to read for pleasure. It does this by providing activities and resources to support the six key pillars on which a Reading for Pleasure habit is founded.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

These include:

- Being able to read regularly
- Having access to books at home and at school
- Enjoying the freedom to choose what books to read
- Having time to read
- Having access to a community of trusted adults and peers with whom to share and discuss books
- Experiencing reading as a fun and enjoyable activity

At the heart of World Book Day are the £1 book tokens that allow children and young people to get a free book from a selection of exclusive World Book Day titles available through participating booksellers. The vouchers can also be put towards the full price of a book or audio book of their choice. The World Book Day [website](#) offers access to a wide range of resources for families that can be used to celebrate World Book Day and all year round.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR WORLD BOOK DAY

9+

THE MIRACULOUS SWEETMAKERS - THE FROST FAIR NATASHA HASTINGS

An amazing and captivating, curl-up-on-the-sofa debut about a magical frost fair and the lasting power of friendship. It's a cold winter during the Great Frost of 1683. Thomasina and Anne are the best of friends, one running her father's sweet shop and the other the apprentice at the family apothecary - together they sell their goods on the frozen River Thames. When a family tragedy turns Thomasina's world upside down, she is drawn to a mysterious conjuror and the enchanted frost fair.

But soon the world of Father Winter threatens to claim everything she holds dear. Will they be able to solve the magical mysteries that surround them...?

THE BEDTIME BOOK OF IMPOSSIBLE QUESTIONS ISABEL THOMAS

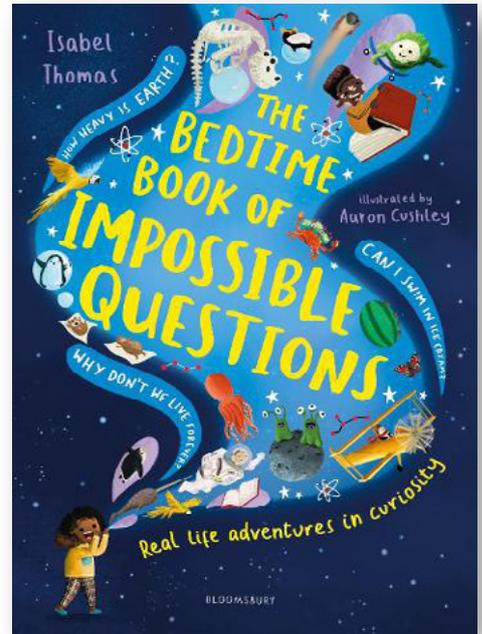
7+

Why are bubbles always round?
 Could I ever touch a rainbow?
 Why can't I remember being a baby?

Have you ever not been able to concentrate because there are SO many questions buzzing round your brain? The Bedtime Book of Impossible Questions will offer answers to the most bamboozling questions and curious queries that you can think of.

How many stars are in the night sky? Why don't animals wear clothes? Do plants have feelings? This book will define, debunk and demystify the trickiest of questions and even open your eyes to questions you have never even thought of!

With engaging and accessible text and accompanied by exciting, inviting illustrations, The Bedtime Book of Impossible Questions is the perfect bedside companion to delve into when you are wondering if there really is an answer to everything.

**THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF** MAC BARNETT & JON KLASSEN

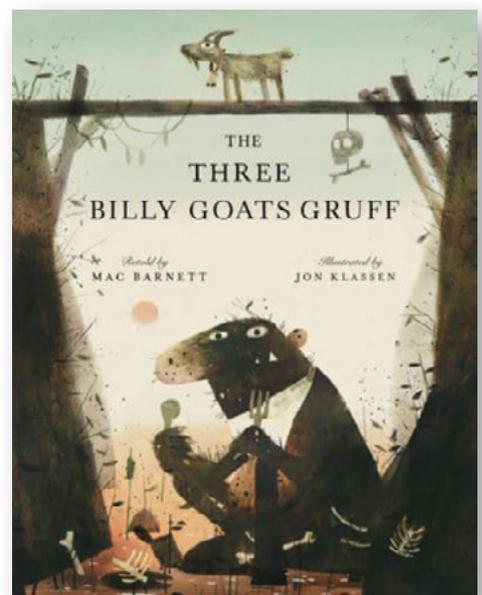
3+

A brilliant retelling of the well-loved classic
 The Three Billy Goats Gruff - with a hilarious twist!

*I am a troll. I live to eat.
 I love the sound of hooves and feet
 and paws and claws on cobblestones.
 For that's the sound of meat and bones!*

What lives under the bridge? A terrifying troll who is always hungry! And this troll loves to gobble up anyone who dares to cross the bridge, but his favourite of all is billy goat: goat rump in a honey glaze, curried goat and goat smeared on toast - you name it, this troll LOVES it!

So, when the three Billy Goats Gruff decide to clip clop clip clop across the bridge, the troll is already imagining all the scrumptious ways to fill his belly. But what if the troll is about to underestimate those seemingly sweet goats... And bite off more than he can chew!



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 10TH - 19TH MARCH

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths that takes place every year in March. British Science Week 2023 will take place between 10th – 19th March. The theme for this year is 'Connections'. At the heart of British Science Week is a programme of events organised by schools, researchers, universities and companies that take place across the whole of the UK.

The British Science Week website also hosts a number of other resources that can be used in schools:

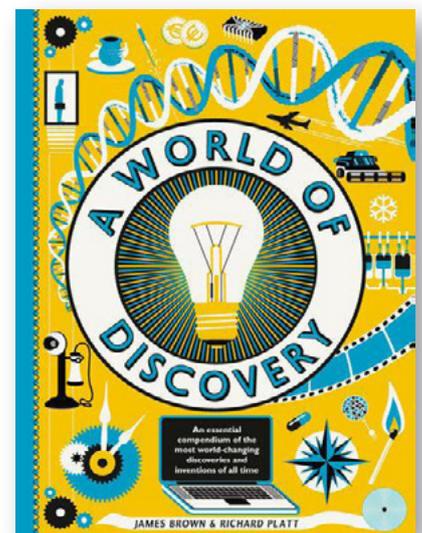
- Get help finding a speaker for an event you would like to organise or find an event that is local to you using the [Science Live](#) platform.
- Download the **British Science Week packs** for ideas and activities to run in the classroom during British Science Week or all through the year. There are packs for EYFS, Primary and Secondary.
- Enter the national poster competition.
- Encourage every student to see themselves as a potential scientist or engineer by exploring the stories in the '[Smashing Stereotypes](#)' campaign.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR SCIENCE WEEK

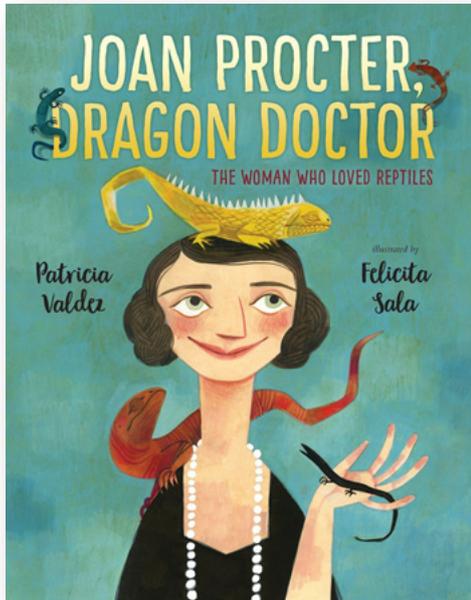
A WORLD OF DISCOVERY

JAMES BROWN & RICHARD PLATT

Travel through the past and present, learning about the amazing breakthroughs in science and technology that have changed lives forever. Discover fascinating facts and figures about space travel, the human body, time, the computer and much more.



9+



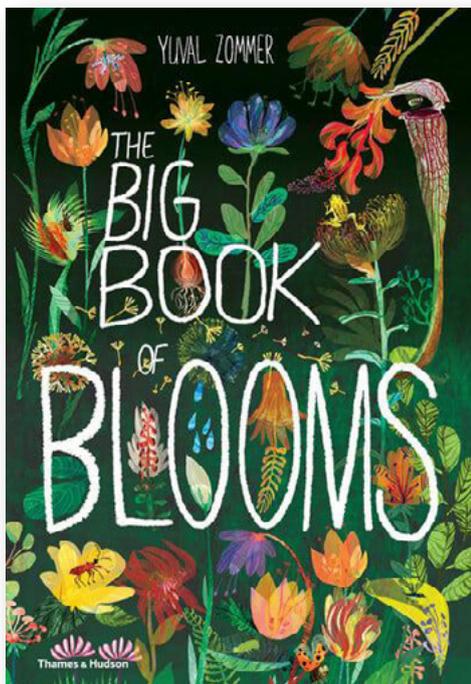
JOAN PROCTOR, DRAGON DOCTOR
PATRICIA VALDEZ & FELICITA SALA

7+

Back in the days of long skirts and afternoon teas, young Joan Proctor entertained the most unusual party guests: slithery and scaly ones, who turned over teacups and crawled past the crumpets...

While other girls played with dolls, Joan preferred the company of reptiles. She carried her favourite lizard with her everywhere - she even brought a crocodile to school!

When Joan grew older, she became the Curator of Reptiles at the Natural History Museum. She went on to design the Reptile House at the London Zoo, including a home for the rumoured-to-be-vicious Komodo dragons. There, just like when she was a little girl, Joan hosted children's tea parties - with her Komodo dragon as the guest of honour.



THE BIG BOOK OF BLOOMS
YUVAL ZOMMER

5+

*What does a venus fly trap eat?
How strong is a giant water lily?
Does a cactus flower?*

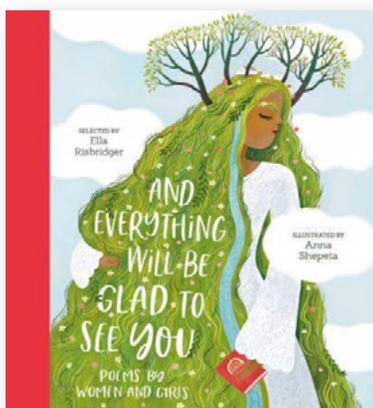
This addition to Yuval Zommer's bestselling series answers these questions and more as it introduces young children to all kinds of colourful, carnivorous, weird and wonderful flowering plants from around the world.

It opens with introductory spreads on how to be a botanist; how to recognise different types of flowers; the life-cycle of a plant; flower anatomy; and the seven types of animal pollinators including bats, birds and beetles. Subsequent spreads, illustrated within various habitats, are dedicated to specific varieties of plants, including the carnivorous venus flytrap, the giant water lily and the weird and wonderful corpse flower. Readers will enjoy learning about different edible flowers and why flowers are fragrant or colourful, not to mention grisly details about carnivorous and poisonous flowers.

WORLD POETRY DAY 21ST MARCH

World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21st March. The date was adopted by UNESCO in 1999 with the aim of recognising and celebrating one of our oldest and most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression. World Poetry Day provides an opportunity to honour poets around the world and to promote the reading, writing and teaching of poetry in all its forms. **Ways to celebrate World Poetry day:**

- Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho has launched **Poetry Prompts**, a series of weekly bitesize videos designed to celebrate and demystify the reading and writing of poetry.
- The **CLiPPA Shadowing Scheme** is an opportunity for children to explore and perform the work of the poets shortlisted for the annual Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award.
- Authors Live On Demand has a bank of free recorded events featuring poets performing and talking about their work. See the selection **here**.
- Find more recommendations for poetry books at **Books for Topics** and **LoveReading4Schools**.
- Generate ideas for poetry writing with a jar of **Poetry Stones**.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR POETRY

AND EVERYTHING WILL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU - POEMS BY WOMEN AND GIRLS SELECTED BY ELLA RISBRIDGER, ILLUSTRATED BY ANNA SHEPETA

9+

Presented within this beautifully produced book, which includes a ribbon marker as a helpful tool for encouraging dipping in and out, is an empowering collection of poems by women and girls. It includes already well-established poets such as Christina Rossetti, Maya Angelou and Wendy Cope as well as contemporary and young writers such as Amineh Abou Kerech and Amanda Gorman – the young American poet who held the world spell-bound with her poem 'The Hill We Climb' at the inauguration of President Biden in 2021. Covering a range of emotions and capturing a number of important 'life' moments, each of the poems in this collection will make as a strong an impact on readers of all ages. Ella Risbridger's collection of old and new poems has been carefully chosen to grow a love of poetry in all readers' hearts while Anna Shepeta's illustrations capture the mood of each perfectly.

POEMS ALOUD JOSEPH COELHO,
ILLUSTRATED BY DANIEL GRAY-BARNETT

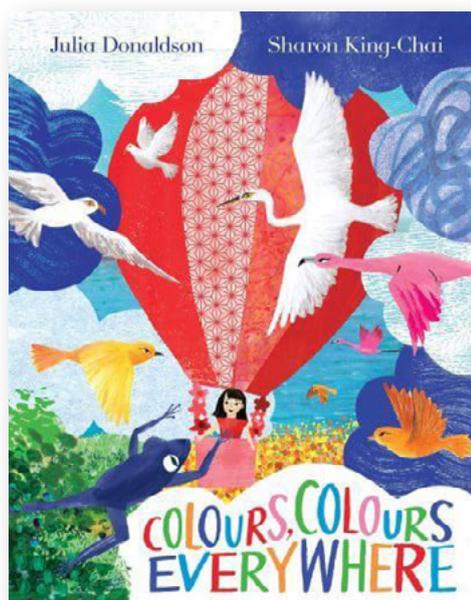
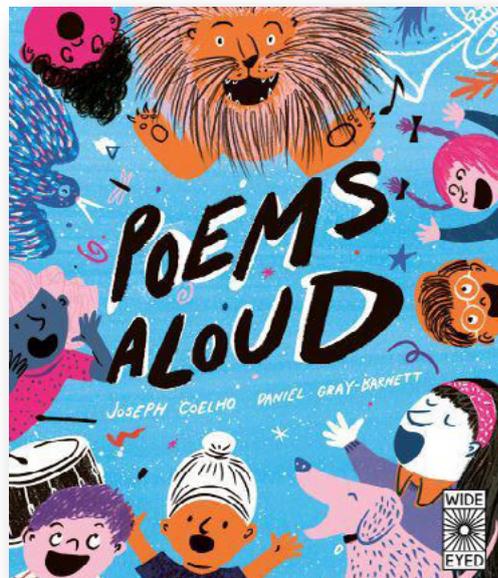
7+

In this fantastic collection, Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho shows us that poems are made to read OUT LOUD!

In this wittily illustrated anthology of poems, designed to be read aloud, twenty poems arm children with techniques for lifting poetry off the page and performing with confidence.

Perfect for confident children and shy readers alike, this book teaches all sorts of clever ways to perform poetry. Children will learn 20 techniques for reading aloud by trying out 20 funny and thoughtful original poems by the much-loved and award-winning performance poet, Joseph Coelho.

There are tongue twisters, poems to project, poems to whisper, poems to make you laugh. There are poems to perform to a whole class and others to whisper in somebody's ear. Richly textured, warm and stylish illustrations by Daniel Gray-Barnett bring each page to life.

**COLOURS, COLOURS EVERYWHERE**
JULIA DONALDSON AND SHARON KING-CHAI

5+

A stunning book about colours full of gorgeous, breathtaking landscapes, with amazing flaps to lift and holes to peep through. From Julia Donaldson, bestselling author of *The Gruffalo*, and Sharon King-Chai, who together created the award-winning *Animalphabet* and *Counting Creatures*.

Follow a little girl as she paints her own adventure with her bright blue tree frog companion. With luscious green trees to climb and red hot air balloons to sail away in, children will delight in the rhyming text and vibrant artwork while learning about different colours. A truly beautiful gift, *Colours, Colours Everywhere* is an absolute must for the family bookshelf.