



Welcome to the PiXL Reading for Pleasure Newsletter for Spring One. It seems like it was not that long ago that we were saying welcome back at the start of the academic year and we are already a full term through! We have a wealth of wonderful books to share with you, including some award winners that you may wish to share with your children, as well as key events for the half term.

TOP TIPS TO ENCOURAGE READING FOR PLEASURE AT HOME

Model being a reader to your children, do your children see you read?

Remember reading doesn't have to be a novel, it can be newspapers, magazines, recipes, instruction, anything with words!

Encourage children to read everywhere, involve them in reading the recipe for dinner, shopping lists in the supermarket even the TV listings when choosing what to watch, shared reading times don't have to be snuggled up with a book – however lovely that is.

Use your voice to help bring books to life. You can work with your child to decide what voice characters should have and do the sound effects! It may feel a little silly to begin with, but your child will love to hear you involved in their story.



Whatever you and your child choose to read, we hope you enjoy it!

Please note that the following 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.

KEY EVENTS**WINTER MINI CHALLENGE**

The Winter Mini Challenge is related to the Summer Reading Challenge and is run by The Reading Agency, a charity that runs UK-wide programmes that promote the benefits of reading for children and adults. Its vision is for a world where everyone is reading their way to a better life.

This year the Winter Mini Challenge is all about discovering heroes big and small, by reading brilliant books!

Taking part is simple. Children read at least three books of their choice between 1 December 2022 – 20 February 2023 and add them to their online profile. Reaching their online reading goal will unlock a limited-edition virtual badge and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep!

For Winter 2022, they are continuing their successful partnership with Science Museum Group and joining the Gadgeteers once again – this time for a wintery reading adventure.

You'll find cool do-it-at-home experiments, new reading activities and content from the best children's authors and illustrators, games and other goodies right here on the online platform.

To sign up, head to the Reading Agency site [here](#).



NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK

National Storytelling Week is entirely designed to celebrate the art of telling stories. Stories belong to everyone and who doesn't love settling down and listening to a story? When telling a story, it doesn't need to be one that is being read, you can take it in turns to tell a story about each other in the family, it could be something that made you laugh or maybe a favourite memorable moment.

For anyone looking for more inspiration, there are videos [here](#) that help spread the wonder of stories.



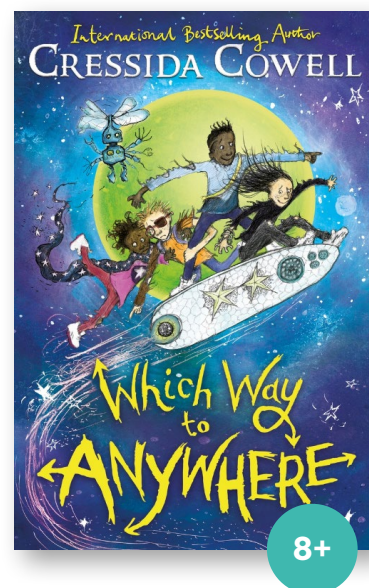
RECOMMENDED READING

WHICH WAY TO ANYWHERE CRESSIDA COWELL

K2 O'Hero is a seemingly ordinary boy - after all, he and his twin sister Izzabird have been sworn to keep their family's magical history a secret. Not even their infuriating stepsiblings, Theo and Mabel, know that magic exists. They believe K2 to be the most hopeless person they have ever known.

But K2 has a secret gift: he draws maps of worlds that are beyond the wildest of imaginations. Worlds with six hundred moons, burning rivers and dark, twisty jungles alive with plants that hunt by the smell of fear. But what K2 doesn't know, is that the maps he draws are real.

When their baby sister Annipeck is kidnapped, the warring stepsiblings will have to use K2's gift to find a crossing point into one of those worlds and embark on a daring rescue mission. With a terrible beast and a petrifying robot assassin in their way, they must learn to work together quickly - because the future of their family is at stake...

**WHAT IF PIG?** LINZI HUNTER

You're not going to find a more heartwarming and dynamic duo than Pig and Mouse! Join Pig as he learns how to turn his "what if" worries from anxiety to optimism, all with the help of his loving friend Mouse.

Mouse has never had a friend quite like Pig. Pig is so incredibly kind, endlessly thoughtful and fabulously fun, but he also has a big secret... he's a tremendous worrier!

When Pig gets the brilliant idea to throw a party for Mouse and their friends, he can't help but think of everything that could possibly go wrong. After all, what if a lion eats all the invitations? What if nobody comes? Or worse, what if everyone comes and has an awful time?

In this adorable story, Linzie Hunter's charming, bright illustrations pair perfectly with her sweet and funny story about friendship and the endless wonder of "what if" that readers of all ages can relate to. This picture book is a great conversation starter in the home or classroom and a great way to talk to your children about worries or anxieties. Perfect for boys, girls, families and anyone who has ever had a worry or a wobble!



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Children's Mental Health Week takes place in February and provides an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the importance of young people's mental wellbeing. The theme for 2023 is Let's Connect!

*'Human beings thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing, and our survival. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. And when our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely – which can have a negative impact on our mental health. **Let's Connect** is about making meaningful connections for all, during Children's Mental Health Week - and beyond.'*

www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk

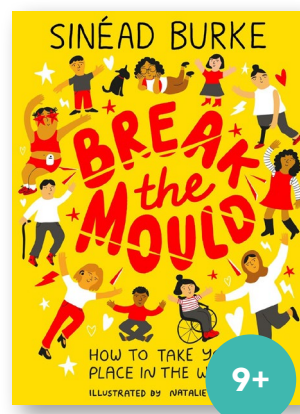


RECOMMENDED READING

BREAK THE MOULD SINÉAD BURKE

Sometimes we can feel like we are not good enough. That we don't belong. Or that we want to be more like our friends. In this empowering guide, Sinéad Burke draws on her own experiences and encourages young readers to believe in themselves, have pride in who they are and use their voice to make the world a fairer, more inclusive place.

From the power of being different, to celebrating the things you love about yourself and helping others do the same, this is a brilliantly inspirational handbook for breaking the mould and finding your place in the world.

**KIKI KALLIRA BREAKS A KINGDOM** SANGU MANDANNA

Kiki Kallira has always been a worrier. Did she lock the front door? Is there a terrible reason her mum is late? Recently her anxiety has been getting out of control, but one thing that has always soothed her is drawing. Kiki's sketchbook is full of fantastical doodles of the Hindu myths and legends her mother has told her since she was tiny.

One day, her sketchbook's calming effect is broken when her mythological characters begin springing to life and Kiki is pulled into the mystical world she drew. There, she discovers the band of rebel kids who protect the kingdom, as well as an ancient, monstrous god bent on total destruction. Kiki must overcome her fear and anxiety to save both worlds - the real and the imagined - from his wrath.

But how can a girl armed with only a pencil defeat something so powerful?

**RUBY'S WORRY** TOM PERCIVAL

A reassuring and sensitive book - the perfect springboard for talking to children about sharing their hidden worries. From the Big Bright Feelings series by Tom Percival

Ruby loves being Ruby. Until, one day, she finds a worry.

At first it's not such a big worry, and that's all right, but then it starts to grow. It gets bigger and bigger every day and it makes Ruby sad. How can Ruby get rid of it and feel like herself again?

