

OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

1st Edition 2020/21 Books in the Spotlight Teacher Notes

Welcome to the first edition of Our Brilliant Book Club!

We are super excited to be bringing you some great books to share with you and your children. Our **'books in the spotlight'** this month take you through a range of stories; fun and engaging with some great opportunities for discussion and book chat.



Our suggestion is to share the single copy books for Y3, Y4 and Y5/6 with your year group leads along with the information, then use these to engage classes in these new stories.

The key focus year group this month is Y1. You will have received several copies of the two books in the spotlight for this year group along with some suggestions for accompanying activities, link to a short video from each of the two authors and information about the competition for Y1 children linked to the books.

Some suggestions of ways to share what you have been doing in school with these books:

- create a wall or door display linked to one of the books
- tweet us a book review and name check the author
- film a book trailer and send us a copy
- look at characters and themes in more detail and create linked work
- send us some photos of the books being used in your school.



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

1st Edition 2020/21
Books in the Spotlight
Year 1

Year 1 - with a little more challenge

I'M STICKING WITH YOU by SMRITI HALLS and STEVE SMALL

Published by Simon and Schuster, ISBN 9781471186073

Do you have a best friend? Does your best friend go everywhere with you? Well, Bear and Squirrel are besties, but Squirrel is getting a little bit fed up of being followed everywhere! What will he do? Follow these two unlikely friends to find out! Make sure you look closely at the pictures to see what is really going on. This is a very funny story and shows you that real friends stick together, even when they are apart.

But look carefully, do the pictures tell a different story to the words?

Some great ideas for activities and book chat:

- The story is all about friendship and how true friends stick together in good times and bad. Which is your favourite activity they do together?
- Why do you think squirrel needs time alone? What does he realise when he's been alone for a while?
- The book has some beautiful pictures - which is your favourite and why?

Remember to watch the author video all about this book especially for you: <https://youtu.be/PaGnTYVSntU>

Year 1 - with a broad appeal

SUPER SLOTH BY ROBERT STARLING

Published by Andersen Press, ISBN-13: 978-1783447169

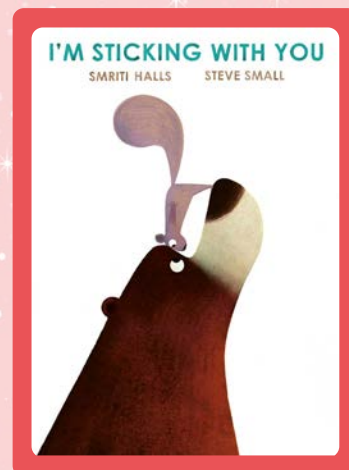
Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it's Super Sloth!

He isn't super-fast. He can't even fly. But he is very, very talented indeed... at moving slowly and he's great at lazing on a branch too. After spotting a comic book in the jungle all about superheroes, he has all the inspiration he needs to become one himself. When his enemy Anteater steals some of Toucan's prize mangoes, Super Sloth decides, like any superhero, to save the day...even if it is incredibly slowly. A funny story about an ordinary sloth who uses his own powers to turn into someone extraordinary!

Some great ideas for activities and book chat:

- Do you like the story of Super Sloth? Which is your favourite part?
- Even though Super Sloth is not very fast, how does he beat the Anteater?
- The pictures in the story are really bright and colourful – talk about your favourite and what is happening in the picture.
- In the book, which words describe Sloth's movements?
- What do you think the word “**botheration**” means on page 7?
- Have a go at some of the author's online resources: <https://robstarling.co.uk/books/resources/super-sloth-resources.html>

Remember to watch the author video all about this book especially for you: https://youtu.be/_0gMoOgORR0



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

1st Edition 2020/21
Competition Time
Year 1

We hope that you have enjoyed reading the books. Now it's time to work together as a class and create some award winning entries for our Year 1 competition.



I'm Sticking With You

Bear and squirrel are very special friends. They do absolutely everything together. Do you have a special friend or family member who you 'stick with' through good times and bad?



Draw a picture of your special person:

- Label them with words which tell us why they are so special. What kind of person are they?
- What sorts of things do you do together?
- How do they help you 'be the best you can be'?

You can write some sentences to describe them if you wish.



Super Sloth

Super Sloth is all about an ordinary animal turned super hero. We would like you to use your superpowers of imagination to design your own super hero animal.



Draw and label your super hero animal:

- What animal would they be?
- What would be the super powers?
- What kind of animal are they (herbivore, carnivore)?
- Just like Sloth's enemy is Anteater, who is their arch enemy?

You can write some sentences to describe them if you wish.



How to enter

To enter, simply send us a picture of your class's entries, by **Friday 18th December**, to rebecca.partington@sdsa.net and we will select the winner!



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

1st Edition 2020/21

Other books we'd love to
recommend!

YEAR 1

There are so many great books around at the moment, we'd love to shout about some of our other favourites. Although we can't provide you with copies of these too, here's a guide to what they're all about and which children we think they would most suit.

YEAR 1 - with a bit more challenge

GREEN LIZARDS AND RED RECTANGLES AND THE BLUE BALL by STEVE ANTHONY

Published by Hodder, ISBN 9781444948240

This will get the class talking! The Green Lizards and Blue Rectangles live in peace together until the Blue Ball turns up and everyone is cross. It takes just one Lizard and one Rectangle to change everything and ensure EVERYONE is accepted. Odd but appealing and with a lovely message about tolerance, difference and inclusion.



I CAN CATCH A MONSTER by BETHAN WOOLLVIN

Two Hoots Books, ISBN 9781509889808

Bo wants to catch monsters like her big brothers. She's just as good as them! But wait. The monsters she finds aren't monsters at all! Can Bo the Brave show her brothers how to do the right thing and start helping instead of causing problems? A fairy-tale with a twist and a very clever heroine. Great to re-explore fairy-tale conventions and a book with great messages about environmental issues and gender equality.



YEAR 1 - with broad appeal

BUNNIES ON THE BUS by Philip Ardagh and Ben Mantle

Published by Walker Books, ISBN 9781406394016

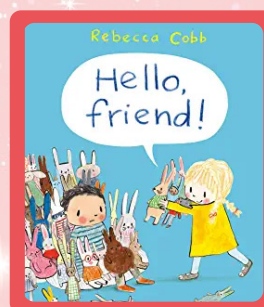
Oh no, the bunnies are on the bus, causing chaos! A fantastic rhyme for joining in, and creating a whole class performance – make it loud!



HELLO, FRIEND! By Rebecca Cobb

Published by Macmillan, ISBN 9781447250524

A little girl tells us all about how much she loves playing with her friend. But does he feel the same? Perfectly captures the dynamics of friendship amongst young children, a most endearing and relatable story.



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

1st Edition 2020/21
Books in the Spotlight
Year 3

We have given you a copy of each of these books to read and enjoy with your Year 3 children - let us know what you think!

Year 3 - with a little more challenge

WILLOW WILDTHING AND THE SWAMP MONSTER by GILL LEWIS

Published by OUP, ISBN 9780192771759

Willow is sad. Her family have just moved house, and her little brother Freddie is ill in hospital. Then her dog runs off into the woods and following him, she meets the Wild Things, children who live in the Wilderness and who are being frightened by the Swamp Monster. Can Willow help them defeat it, and rescue one of the children? Will the Witch help? And is there really magic in the woods?

A fantastic adventure story with lots of imagination and a big heart.



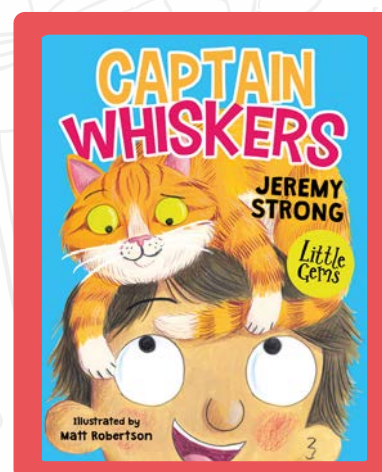
Year 3 - with a broad appeal

CAPTAIN WHISKERS by JEREMY STRONG

Published by Barrington Stoke, ISBN 9781781129272

Ready for a story to warm your heart and make you giggle? Introducing Captain Whiskers by Jeremy Strong!

Do you have a pet? Jackson doesn't, and really, really wishes that he had one. Then one day he rescues a cat and meets a mysterious Man in a Top Hat. Suddenly, his home is full of cats! One hundred and one to be precise! Is there such a thing as too many pets? Be careful what you wish for!



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

1st Edition 2020/21

Other books we'd love to recommend!

Year 3

There are so many great books around at the moment, we'd love to shout about some of our other favourites. Although we can't provide you with copies of these too, here's a guide to what they're all about and which children we think they would most suit.

Year 3 - with a bit more challenge

BREAK-TIME BUNNIES (WIGGLESBOTTOM PRIMARY) by PAMELA BUTCHART

Published by Nosy Crow, ISBN 9781788001236

Have you met class 2R yet? Well, get ready because this lot are as crazy as a box of frogs! Are the bunnies in the playground really attack bunnies? Is the new music teacher a witch? And is Miss Riley really going to be on a talent show? You will howl out loud with this wild class as they make every school day a laugh riot. Lots of humour and a great frenetic narrative style.

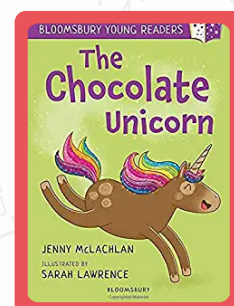


Year 3 - with broad appeal

THE CHOCOLATE UNICORN by JENNY MCLACHLAN and SARAH LAWRENCE

Published by Bloomsbury, ISBN 9781472972620

Have you ever had a worry? Olive Brown has lots, and they're stopping her from having fun. Until a magical box of chocolates shows her how to overcome her fears! Until the day at the beach, when everything changes. What next for the chocolate unicorn? A great read to explore emotional resilience and empathy.



CLEVER CAKES by MICHAEL ROSEN

Published by Barrington Stoke, ISBN 9781781129289

Girls are so clever! Find out how Masha outwits a great greedy glut of a bear that wants her to be his servant, and how poor Peggy outfoxes the King to get the Great Gold Belly-Button. Delightful tales to make you cheer!



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

1st Edition 2020/21
Books in the Spotlight
Year 4

We have given you a copy of each of these books to read and enjoy with your Year 4 children - let us know what you think!

Year 4 - with a little more challenge

ATTACK OF THE HEEBIE JEEBIES (DREAM TEAM) by TOM PERCIVAL

Published by MacMillan, ISBN 9781529029154

Erika is ANGRY. Her little brother Randall gets all her parents' attention and it's just NOT FAIR. But one night she is so angry she dreams of a strange world full of weird creatures – and she can't wake up. Luckily the Dream Team arrive to help her – they must defeat the Angermare who is after Erika and the cute, but very dangerous heebie jeebies who are eating everything in the dream world – otherwise Erika will never get home. Scary, funny, exciting and full of action, this fantasy tale will mesmerize you. Sweet dreams!

If you love this one, you'll be glad to know that this is the first in series and there is another to read.



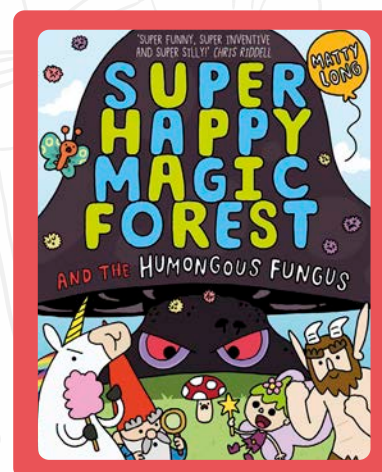
Year 4 - with a broad appeal

SUPER HAPPY MAGIC FOREST AND THE HUMONGOUS FUNGUS by MATTY LONG

Published by OUP, ISBN 9780192771490

All is not well in the Super Happy Magic Forest.... A giant evil mushroom called Fungellus is spreading his evil spores and turning everyone into an angry mob of meanies! It's up to our five brave heroes – Hoofius the faun, Twinkle the fairy, Blossom the unicorn, Herbert the gnome and Trevor the mushroom – to go on an epic quest and save the day! But will Blossom eat the antidote? Will Trevor turn to the dark side?

Read on and enjoy this crazy caper which will have you laughing out loud – mwahahaha!



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

1st Edition 2020/21

Other books we'd love to recommend!

Year 4

There are so many great books around at the moment, we'd love to shout about some of our other favourites. Although we can't provide you with copies of these too, here's a guide to what they're all about and which children we think they would most suit.

YEAR 4 - with a bit more challenge

THE SUPER MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF FREDDIE YATES by JENNY PEARSON

Published by Usborne, ISBN 9781474974042

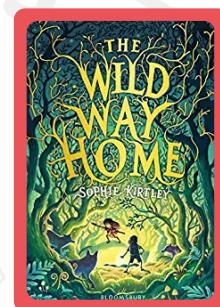
Tragedy strikes Freddie's life when his beloved Gram dies, but she leaves him his birth certificate, which reveals the name of his biological father. Freddie decides to go on a trip to Wales to find his father and drags his best mates Charlie and Ben along too. But their plans go completely wrong and before they know it they're on the run from a gun-toting jewel thief, disguised as superheroes and hoping for miracles to save them! Will they stay out of trouble long enough to fulfil their mission? A very funny story about three friends and the chaos they accidentally cause.



THE WILD WAY HOME by SOPHIE KIRTLEY

Published by Bloomsbury, ISBN 9781526616289

Charlie has always wanted a little brother – but when baby Dara is born with a heart condition, Charlie can't cope and runs away into the forest. There he stumbles across a strange boy who wears animal furs and carries a spear. Has Charlie really been transported back to the Stone Age? The boys must work together to survive, and Charlie must help the boy – Harby – find his family. But will Charlie find his way back to his own family in time? Action-packed time-slip story with great links to the Stone-Age and a satisfying tale of family bonds.

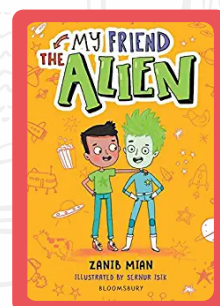


Year 4 - with broad appeal

MY FRIEND THE ALIEN by ZANIB MIAN

Published by Bloomsbury, ISBN 9781472973900

What would it be like to be an alien and to visit Earth for the first time? What would you think of the food? And would you understand how people feel? That's the challenge facing alien boy Maxx on his first fact-finding mission to Earth! Luckily, he meets Jibreel who will help him understand all about human feelings. Will he succeed in his mission, and get back to his home planet without mishap? A funny story that makes you think about people differently.



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

1st Edition 2020/21
Books in the Spotlight
Year 5/6

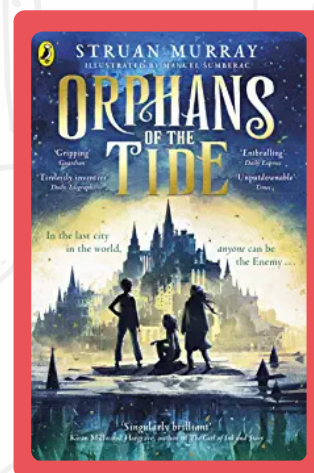
We have given you a copy of each of these books to read and enjoy with your Upper KS2 children - let us know what you think!

Year 5/6 - with a little more challenge

ORPHANS OF THE TIDE by STRUAN MURRAY

Published by Penguin, ISBN 9780241384435

One night the sea washes up a whale onto the walls of the City and from its innards emerges a boy! Immediately this strange boy is arrested by the Inquisitors, suspected of being the Vessel for the Enemy. Ellie is determined to rescue him – she knows he not the Host for an evil entity that wishes to unleash chaos on the world. But in saving him, she must create Chaos and confusion in a world gone mad with fear, all the time protecting the darkest secret in the world. Rip-roaring fantasy adventure with some shocking twists and turns, this will keep you guessing to end! A wonderfully dark and exciting tale.

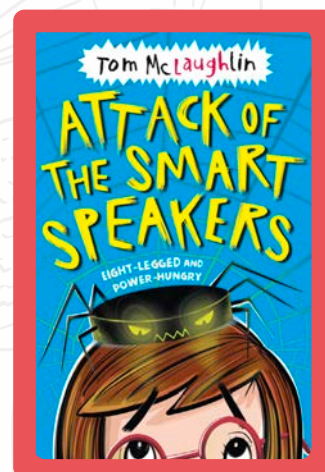


Year 5/6 - with a broad appeal

ATTACK OF THE SMART SPEAKERS by TOM MCLAUGHLIN

Published by OUP, ISBN 9780192766922

Ashley, Dylan and Tyler must save the town of Happyville when smart speakers hatch a plot to take over the world! Will they defeat the giant spider speaker and stop it controlling everyone's minds? A hilarious madcap romp with some serious reminders about internet safety and keeping safe online.



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

October 2020 Other books we'd love to recommend! Year 5/6

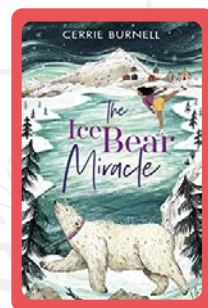
There are so many great books around at the moment, we'd love to shout about some of our other favourites. Although we can't provide you with copies of these too, here's a guide to what they're all about and which children we think they would most suit.

Year 6 - with a bit more challenge

THE ICE BEAR MIRACLE by CERRIE BURNELL

Published by OUP, ISBN 9780192767561

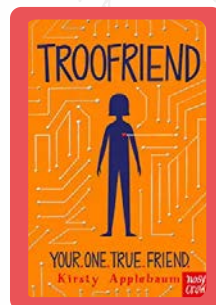
Marv knows all about the light and darkness you get living on the ice – when he was five he survived a polar bear attack and has the scar to prove it. But no one believes him when he says there was a baby on the ice that night, alongside a polar bear cub. Yet, not so far away, a young girl ice-skates with a tame bear in the North Star carnival, a sight that mesmerises everyone who sees them. When the carnival visits Marv's town, secrets are revealed and destinies set, in this magical, miraculous tale of ice and winter that will melt your heart.



TROOFRIEND by KIRSTY APPLEBAUM

Published by Nosy Crow, ISBN 978788003476

If you've ever fallen out with a friend, perhaps you can see the appeal of a Troofriend – android children who can't lie, steal or bully. Sarah isn't sure she wants one but Ivy is a little bit different. As news reports come in that Troofriends are hurting children, Sarah realises that Ivy really does have feelings, and is becoming more human by the day. But how can she protect her when the androids are being recalled to the factory to be destroyed? A story that will make you think, this is told by Ivy the android herself as she navigates human life and learns she must fight for her own.



Year 6 - with broad appeal

THE SCEPTRE OF THE PHARAOHS (FLYNTLOCK BONES) by DEREK KEILTY

Published by Scallywag Press, ISBN 9781912650408

Have you heard of pirate investigators? Well orphan Flyntlock Bones is looking for work and signs up as a cabin boy on the Black Hound pirate ship, where Captain Watkins and his crew solve mysteries instead of looking for treasure! When a magical object is stolen from the Gypshun Museum the crew finds themselves embroiled in a desperate race to stop a curse from bring Mummies back to life. First in a trilogy of adventures for this brave boy and his pirate friends.

