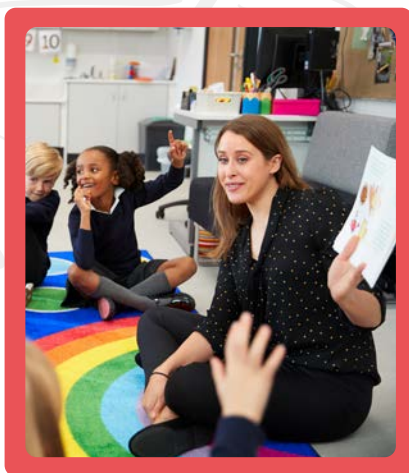


OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

Spring 2021 Books in the Spotlight Teacher Notes

Welcome to the second edition of Our Brilliant Book Club!

We hope that your school enjoyed your last box of surprises, the videos and the competition opportunities. We are super excited once again to be bringing you some more great books to share. Our **'books in the spotlight'** this term take you through a range of new titles which will hopefully breathe new life into your school's reading culture, providing a chance for some animated book chats!



Our suggestion is to share the single copy books for Y1, Y4 and Y6 with your year group leads along with the blurbs for them to use to engage classes in these new stories.

This time the key focus year group is Year 3. You will have received several copies of the two books spotlighted for this year group along with some suggestions for accompanying activities, a link to a another short video from each of the two featured authors and

information about the competition for Year 3 children linked to the books.

Some suggestions of ways to further engage with the books and share what you have been doing in school are below:

- Share the books and linked ideas with parents and carers
- Create a wall or door display linked to one or both of the books
- Tweet us a book review and name check the author
- Create a film book trailer and send us a copy
- Design a read me bookmark for the featured books with some comments about why others should read it.



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

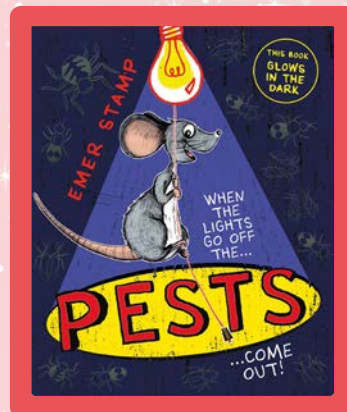
Spring 2021 Books in the Spotlight Year 3

Year 3 - with a little more challenge

PESTS by EMER STAMP

Published by Hachette Children's Books, ISBN 9781444949629

Have you checked behind your washing machine lately? Maybe you should. You might find a mouse. A small, careful mouse, who prides himself on never being seen. Stix is the size of an egg cup, can jump the width of a dog's bottom, and LOVES cheese. His grandma taught him to always stay out of trouble and NEVER let the humans know he's there. But now Stix has been introduced to PESTS - the Peewit Educatorium for Seriously Terrible Scoundrels - in the basement of his building, and with a whole cast of new pesty friends (and enemies) - Welcome to a school that prides itself on being BAD...VERY BAD! Read more to find out how Stix deals with this new adventure.



Some great ideas for activities and book chat:

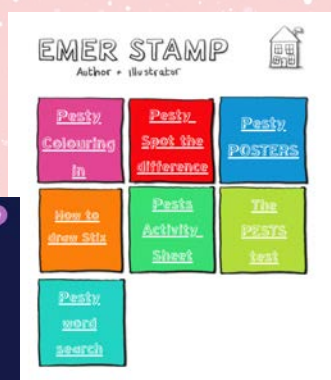
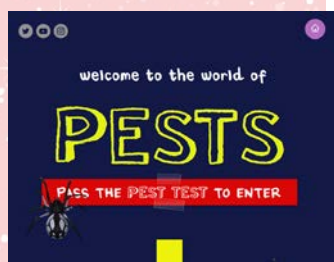
- Which is your favourite PEST character and why?
- The illustrations in the book help to really tell the story and build atmosphere. Which do you like best? Chat about what's going on in the picture.
- Stix's grandmother is very protective – what is your opinion of this? Do you think it has helped Stix?
- Some of the story involves human characters. Talk about these sections and how the author has shown Stix doesn't fully understand part of human's lives.

Remember to watch Emer's video as she introduces you to the book and Stix the mouse:

<https://youtu.be/GSbDPYwIG9I>

Check out Emer's great PESTS Website and the great activities linked to the book:

- <https://www.pestsbook.com/>
- <https://www.emerstamp.com/pesty-fun>



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

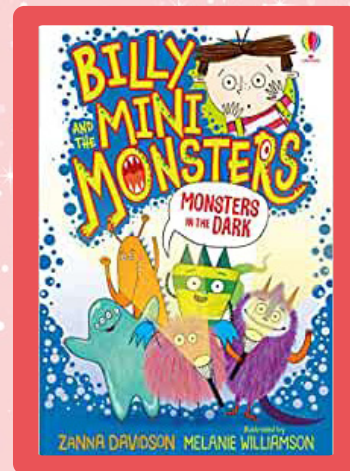
Spring 2021 Books in the Spotlight Year 3

Year 3 - with a broad appeal

MONSTERS IN THE DARK (BILLY AND THE MINI MONSTERS) by ZANNA DAVIDSON (ILLUSTRATED BY MELANIE WILLIAMSON)

Published by Usborne, ISBN 9781474978347

The first in the Billy and the Mini Monsters series introduces you to a cast of colourful characters. Are you afraid of the dark? Billy is really frightened of being in the dark at night and tries SO hard to stay awake. But when he finds tiny footprints in his bedroom and hears a squeaky voice, it's all the proof he needs to convince him that there are monsters under his bed! He decides to set a trap for them, but doesn't realise what kind of monsters these are. Will Billy get to know these mini creatures? And will they become his unlikely new friends who will help him overcome his greatest fear?



Some great ideas for activities and book chat:

- What are your fears? What do you do to try to overcome them?
- Billy sets a trap to catch a monster. Look through this section carefully and talk about whether you think it would work.
- The illustrations in the story are really bright and help tell the story – talk about your favourite page and explain what is happening in the picture and why you like it the most.
- Discuss each of the monsters. Which one do you prefer and why?
- The story uses quite a bit of onomatopoeia – do you think this works well as part of the story and with the illustrations?

Remember to watch Zanna's video as she introduces you to the book and to the mini monsters:

<https://youtu.be/0AtFwJ2bluw>

Have a go at some of the author's online resources:

- Key Stage 1 Literacy Activities - https://usborne-media.azureedge.net/media/415092/play-and-learn_billyandtheminimonsters-may2020.pdf
- Mini Monsters: helping children overcome their fears - <https://usborne.com/gb/blog/post/behind-the-scenes-at-usborne/mini-monsters-here-to-help-children-overcome-their-fears>
- Colouring in - https://usborne.com/media/usborne/activity_sheet/file//m/o/monsters_in_the_dark_colouring.pdf
- Colouring in - https://usborne.com/media/usborne/activity_sheet/file//m/o/monsters_in_the_dark_colouring_2.pdf



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

Spring 2021 Competition Time Year 3

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 3 competition.

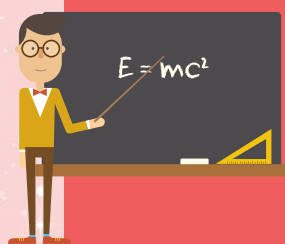


PESTS

When Stix becomes the newest pupil at Peewit Educatorium for Seriously Terrible Scoundrels – the school in the basement – he meets some very interesting characters. We would like you to create your own pest character who is another new pupil **OR** a new teacher at the school to help Dr Kratpotkin.

Draw your new character and do the following:

- Label them with words and sentences which describe their personality and behaviours.
- Tell us about their likes and dislikes.
- Write a paragraph which tells the part of the story when they introduce themselves to the rest of the school.



How to enter

To enter, simply send us a picture of your class's entries, by Friday 30th April, to rebecca.partington@sdsa.net and we will select the winner!

Billy and the Mini Monsters

Billy discovers a whole range of mini monsters living in his bedroom. We would like to use your fantastic skills of imagination and creativity to design your own mini monster.

Draw and label your mini monster and tell us

- What are they called?
- What do they like to eat?
- What are their super skills and special features and how do they use them?
- Give them a scare factor rating.

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



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

Spring 2021

Other books we'd love to recommend!

YEAR 3

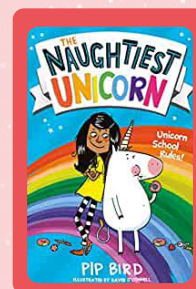
There are so many great books around at the moment, we'd love to shout about some of our other favourites. Although we can't provide you with copies of these too, here's a guide to what they're all about and which children we think they would most suit.

YEAR 3 - with a bit more challenge

THE NAUGHTIEST UNICORN (THE NAUGHTIEST UNICORN) BY PIP BIRD

Published by Egmont, ISBN 9781405294782

Mira is so excited to be going to Unicorn School where she'll get her very own unicorn! She just didn't expect he'd be called Dave and would be a grumpy, greedy and tremendously trumpy unicorn. But Mira, Dave and her new school friends are determined to fulfil their quest and rescue their teacher – even if she doesn't need rescuing! A hilarious tale and the first in a fun series about Mira and unicorn Dave.

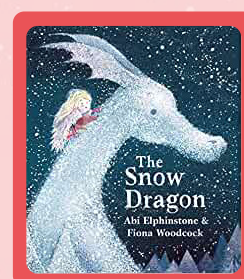


THE SNOW DRAGON by ABI ELPHINSTONE AND FIONA WOODCOCK

Published by Simon & Schuster, ISBN 9781471172465

Phoebe is alone in the orphanage one Christmas, with only her little sausage dog Herb for company. She is busy trying to keep out of the way of the mean Griselda Bone, owner of the orphanage. As she creates a snow dragon which comes to life and she begins a magical journey and is introduced to the magic still to come throughout her life.

An evocative and moving tale with a timeless quality; this includes an adoption theme with Phoebe finding her forever family at the end.



YEAR 3 - with broad appeal

MANJU'S MAGIC WISHES by CHITRA SOUNДАР

Published by Bloomsbury, ISBN 9781472959713

Manju needs a present for her Mum's birthday. When she uses her Grandma's magic lamp to summon a genie, she is given seven wishes – but will Manju wish for the right thing? And will she be able to sort out the chaos before Mum gets home?

This is an engaging and accessible story with a touch of magic and is very nicely illustrated.



A BITE IN THE NIGHT (Book 4 in the RABBIT AND BEAR series) by JULIAN GOUGH AND JIM FIELD

Published by Hodder, ISBN 9781444921748

There's trouble in the forest! Trees are being chopped down. Rabbit thinks it's the end of the world! Can Bear keep the forest creatures calm and persuade Castor the Beaver that the trees should stay?

A laugh-out-loud funny story with brilliant pictures and a lovely message about conservation too.



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

Spring 2021 Books in the Spotlight Year 1

We have given you a copy of each of these books to read and enjoy with your Year 1 children - let us know what you think!

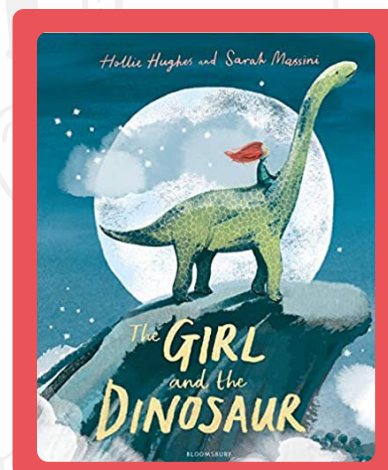
Year 1 - with a little more challenge

THE GIRL AND THE DINOSAUR by HOLLIE HUGHES AND SARAH MASSINI

Published by Bloomsbury, ISBN 9781408880548

Do you dream of magic? Would you like to fly upon a dinosaur and visit faraway lands?

A little girl finds dinosaur bones on the beach and is taken on a magical trip through a world of imagination. A lovely rhyming story to read aloud and to inspire children.



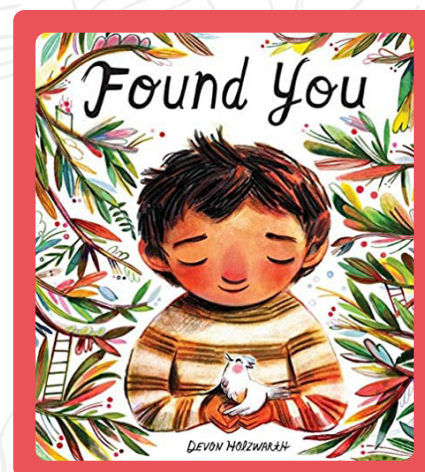
Year 1 - with a broad appeal

FOUND YOU by DEVON HOLZWARTH

Published by Alison Green Books, ISBN 9781407196275

Sami has moved to a new country and is lonely. No one seems to want to be his friend. Until he meets a lost little bird and tries to help her find her friends. But is she helping him too?

A lovely heart-warming tale about friendship, reaching out and overcoming shyness, with an interesting little twist at the end.



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

Spring 2021 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

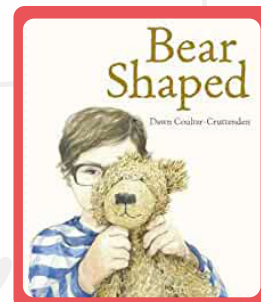
BEAR SHAPED by DAWN COULTER-CRUTTENDEN

Published by OUP, ISBN 9780192772114

Do you have a favourite teddy? Jack does, and is heartbroken when he loses Bear! Will he find him? His family search for Bear and find lots of lovely teddies, but will Jack make a big brave choice?

A very relatable story for young children, with the themes of loss and kindness.

NB: Jack is autistic

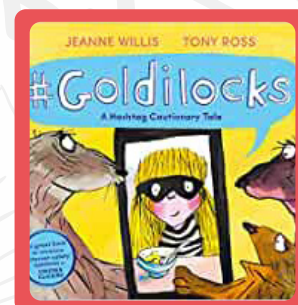


#GOLDILOCKS by JEANNE WILLIS AND TONY ROSS

Published by Andersen Press, ISBN 9781783447176

What mischief will Goldilocks get up to with a mobile phone? And will the three Bears find out? A funny story introducing online safety and giving a very modern twist to a favourite fairy tale.

This book will make you laugh and at the same time help you stay safe too!



Year 1 - with broad appeal

OCTOPUS SHOCKTOPUS! by PETER BENTLY AND STEVEN LENTON

Published by Nosy Crow, ISBN 9781788002677

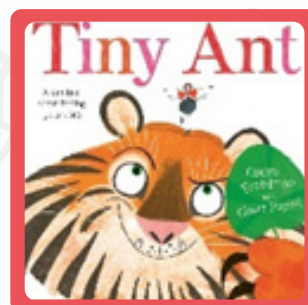
A funny rhyming book about what happens when an octopus comes to stay! Not everyone is happy but the Octopus makes himself at home and soon becomes part of the community. But what will happen when he disappears? A colourful and joyful tale which is great fun to read aloud.



TINY ANT by CLAIRE FREEDMAN

Published by Simon & Schuster, ISBN 9781471181481

A tiny ant finds his mighty voice in this joyful celebration of not judging by appearances. It's time for the jungle talent show, and among the mighty beasts of a jungle, there's a new contestant - Tiny Ant. But what on earth can he do?



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

Spring 2021 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

UNDERCOVER ROBOT: MY FIRST YEAR AS A HUMAN by DAVID EDMONDS AND BERTIE FRASER

Published by Walker Books, ISBN 9781406388664

Dotty is an android and her creator, Professor Katnip, has enrolled her at school to see if she can pass as a human. There's a competition and the android who isn't discovered will win \$100 million for its creator! At first Dotty finds being human hard but soon gets the hang of it – and gets into loads of trouble. But when disaster strikes, can Dotty prove she's a real girl? A funny story which is very satisfying about Dotty, a very endearing character.

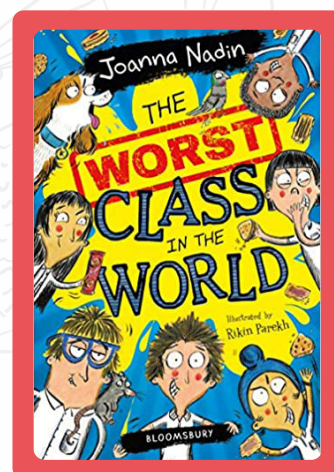


Year 4 - with a broad appeal

THE WORST CLASS IN THE WORLD by JOANNA NADIN

Published by Bloomsbury, ISBN 9781526611833

Do you think yours is the worst class in the world? Well, meet Class 4B, who are in a competition to find the Biscuit King - who can create the dodgiest and most delicious biscuits? Lots of chaos and belly laughs in this funny tale – school should be like this every day!



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

Spring 2021 Other books we'd love to recommend! Year 4

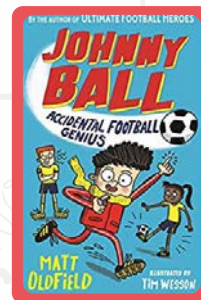
There are so many great books around at the moment, we'd love to shout about some of our other favourites. Although we can't provide you with copies of these too, here's a guide to what they're all about and which children we think they would most suit.

YEAR 4 - with a bit more challenge

JOHNNY BALL ACCIDENTAL FOOTBALL GENIUS by MATT OLDFIELD

Published by Walker Books, ISBN 9781406391268

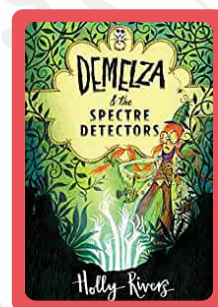
Johnny lives and breathes football... the only trouble is, he's rubbish at playing it! But when he gets the chance to be assistant manager to his school team in the County Cup, will he be able to show everyone that being a true football fan is just as important as being able to kick a ball? A very funny story about a boy with a passion who finds creative ways to develop his talent, with the help of a mad grandad and grumpy brother.



DEMELZA AND THE SPECTRE DETECTORS by HOLLY RIVERS

Published by Chicken House, ISBN 9781912626038

Demelza loves science and can't stop inventing wacky things, so is stunned when she discovers she's inherited the family talent: talking to ghosts. Her Grandma Maeve starts to teach her the art of spectre detecting, but Demelza is soon in danger. A kidnapper wants her to perform the Conjuring of Resurrection, a spell that will cost Demelza her own life. Can she save her Grandma and defeat the wicked Snatcher? An exciting spooky story with a dollop of humour for good measure.



Year 4 - with broad appeal

A MOST PECULIAR TOY FACTORY by ALEX BELL

Published by Barrington Stoke, ISBN 9781781128756

Tess and her younger brothers and sisters are sent to work in the newly re-opened toy factory, which everyone knows was closed because the teddy bears it made came to life and hurt people. They're scared, but also brave, and discover the magical truth behind the toys made at the factory. Can they put things to rights and save both the toys and the factory? A spooky tale with a twist!



THE SPECTACULAR REVENGE OF SUZI SIMS by VIVIAN FRENCH

Published by Barrington Stoke, ISBN 9781781128701

Oh no, the new teacher, Miss Grit, is mean and spiteful and has already decided that Suzi is a troublemaker! AND she loves Suzi's worst enemy, the annoyingly perfect Barbie. The battle heats up on Sports Day – can Suzi show just how good she is and put Barbie, and Miss Grit, in their place? A funny school story that will make you laugh.



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

Spring 2021
Books in the Spotlight
Year 5/6

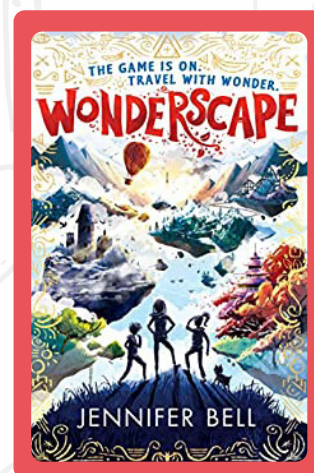
We have given you a copy of each of these books to read and enjoy with your Upper KS2 children - let us know what you think!

Year 5/6 - with a little more challenge

WONDERSCAPE by JENNIFER BELL

Published by Walker Books, ISBN 9781406391725

Arthur, Ren and Cecily are surprised when garden gnomes explode outside a dilapidated house on their way to school. Investigating, they find a doorway to another world, and are transported to the year 2473, to take part in In-Reality games, based on exciting moments in history. But they don't have much time – they must win and find the games' creator who can help them return home – or they will implode! An action-packed fun fantastical adventure that we are sure you will enjoy.



Year 5/6 - with a broad appeal

ZOMBIERELLA by JOSEPH COELHO

Published by Walker Books, ISBN 9781406389661

Think you know fairy tales? Not this one.... It's been left to moulder in the library and it's gone BAD. Zombierella arises, and to find love with the vampire prince she must leave behind... her foot! Will the prince realise the fake sisters are not Zombierella, and match the severed foot to the right undead leg? A funny and gruesome tale that gives a whole new twist on a much-loved classic story!



OUR BRILLIANT BOOK CLUB

Spring 2021 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 5/6 - with a bit more challenge

ORION LOST by ALASTAIR CHISHOLM

Published by Nosy Crow, ISBN 9781788005920

A colony ship on its way to a new planet. The journey is too far so it makes "jumps" between two points in space, with the crew put into artificial sleep for each Jump. But one Jump goes wrong and only a group of teenagers are re-awoken by the ship's computer – they must now assume command and save the ship and its sleeping crew from disaster, pirates, aliens and betrayal. But can they work together or will rivalry mean mission failure? A gripping action story with lots of twists and turns and great characters, this is a fantastic read and brings the challenges of space vividly to life!



MOON DOG by JANE ELSON

Published by Hodder, ISBN 9781444955705

Marcus and Delilah are unlikely friends, but both have family problems, and share an obsession with dogs. When Marcus meets Moon Dog, a huge Newfoundland, in the garden next door, he uncovers a terrible secret. Can Marcus and Delilah save Moon Dog and stop some nasty criminals from hurting more dogs? This is a very moving story with some sad moments, which raises awareness of a shocking modern crime; it also has strong characters you really root for and a very satisfying ending.



Year 5/6 - with broad appeal

A BAD DAY FOR JAYDEN by TONY BRADMAN

Published by Barrington Stoke, ISBN 9781781129012

Poor Jayden has it tough, with his Mum ill and a best friend who's become a frenemy. Will anyone be able to turn his frown upside down? And more importantly, help him deal with some big problems? Lucky there's a new teacher in school... A moving story about bullying, families and worries.



TIN BOY by STEVE COLE

Published by Barrington Stoke, ISBN 9781781128725

Tono lives a dangerous life, mining for tin in Indonesia. When he survives a terrifying accident, people think he's got super powers – and Kemala promises to help him use his powers to save other people. But can she be trusted? A hard-hitting story about life in another country that will really make you think.

