



“...Reading transforms the human brain, which transforms the mind, which transforms the life of every reader...”

Maryanne Wolf

PHONICS NEWSFLASH...

At St Nics, we follow the Read Write Inc programme which is a comprehensive scheme for teaching reading. The lessons are taught daily to Reception up to Year 2 classes (with some KS2 children taking part if needed) and is a proven way of developing the basic reading skills, building general confidence and helping to install the love of reading into our pupils.



Mission statement from Read Write Inc:

“...Put the teaching of reading at the heart of their schools and ensure teachers have the knowledge and determination to teach every child, regardless of age, background or need...”

“...choose the best books to read aloud so children might read them for themselves...”

“...place literature as the central pillar in establishing all children's identity...”

As a staff, we have just undertaken some extra/top-up training with one of the experts from Read Write Inc and it was an invaluable day! We also now have access to the Read Write Inc Portal which is a fantastic resource that can be used by staff and parents as a help to support at home and reinforce what we do and teach at school.

To find out more about how Read Write Inc works and what you can do as parents and carers to help, we have a Read Write Inc meeting on Thursday 24th October which you are all invited to. During these sessions, we will go over the expectations of the scheme, inform you how we teach the sounds/strategies, clearly outline what books should be going home, talk through the Portal (and its benefits for you) and answer any other questions that you may have.

We know you are all very busy so have arranged two sessions:

First session: 9am – 9.40am Thursday 24th October 2024

Second session: 2.30pm – 3.10pm Thursday 24th October 2024

If you can't make these times, there are links on our school website and below to give you more information. Please always remember you can always contact your class teacher or a member of the English Team as well.

Useful links: <https://www.stnicolasmary.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Phonics&pid=1340>

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parentsandcarers/>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>



Reader Help...

If you have 15 minutes to spare in the week, why not come in and listen to some of our fantastic pupils reading? It doesn't just have to be parents/carers, grandparents are very welcome too!

Please contact your class teacher or the office for more information!



Encourage your children to read a little
If you don't have appropriate books at
home borrow one from our library, the Book
Corner or book corners!

Check the following websites for some great ideas

thereaderteacher.com/

booksalive.co.uk/

booksfortopics.com/

Competition time...

Our English Competition this half term is to write a poem of your choice - it could be about the topic you are doing in class or a totally different theme. You could write it about one of our Christian Values: HOPE, FAITH, LOVE OR COURAGE? Everyone is welcome to have a go (even adults!) Please get your entries into the Office - closing date Friday 13th October.

The Reading Trolleys...

Please keep an eye out for the Reading Trolleys in the playgrounds before and after school. We would be most grateful if you sign any books out and bring them back once you have finished with them.

Library Club:

Library Club is on a Thursday at 12.30. All pupils are welcome!

If any parents would be willing to help out in the library please let the office know.

Reluctant readers?

A great way of getting some of our pupils to read, is to encourage them to read the sports pages. With the football season underway and the Rugby World Cup now in full swing lots of pupils in year 6 have enjoyed reading about the matches that are taking place. If you do read the sports pages and don't mind donating them to us after you have finished with them, we would be most grateful. Please pop them into the office if you can help. Thank you!

Check out the following local bookshops!

<https://www.steyningbookshop.co.uk/> (Steyning)

<https://www.chapter34.co.uk/> (Shoreham)

<https://booksalive.co.uk/> (Hove)

Author News...

We recently had **Jamie Crawford** in for immersive storytelling workshops in year 2 and year 4. He shared some intriguing myths (y4) and traditional tales (y2) to enrich the children's English learning and helped them to become storytellers too!

On Friday 11th October, **Hannah Peckham** is visiting our school which will be very exciting! She will be talking to Reception, KS1 and years 3 and 4! If you would like to pre-order a signed book please check your emails/pings – the order forms have gone out!

Reading Challenge:

A great way to get your child to enjoy their reading a little more is to set a Reading Challenge. The idea is that they read a book, do a book review (and a quiz on it) and then – at a suitable time for all, have a 'Cinema Afternoon' where they get to watch the film version of that book! We do this in Year 6 every term and it is always very popular.

Please ask Mr de Waal for further information on this if you are interested in doing one at home!

Reading Recommendations

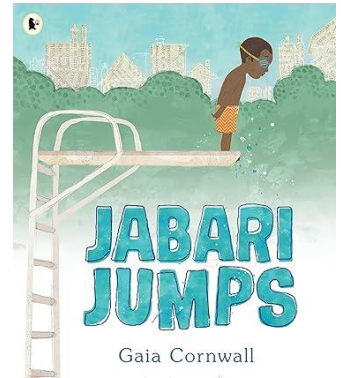
Are you looking for something new to read? Would you like to discover a new author's work and find a new favourite? Check out the recommendations below for some inspiration:

Jabari Jumps Gaia Cornwall

Working up the courage to take a big, important leap is hard, but Jabari is almost absolutely ready to make a giant splash.

In a sweet tale of overcoming your fears, debut author-illustrator Gaia Cornwall captures a moment at the swimming pool between a patient and encouraging father and a determined little boy you can't help but root for.

Age guide: 3-5 years



Night Flight Katie Cottle

A breath-taking book about light pollution and saving the birds

When Ellie moves from her quiet village to a bustling city, she finds that the many different birds she loves to watch are missing. She stares out of her window, searches the skies on walks, but they are nowhere to be found. Then one night, she's visited by a giant starling which asks for her help. The birds are lost because of the shimmering glow from the city's bright lights. Can Ellie help the birds find their way home?

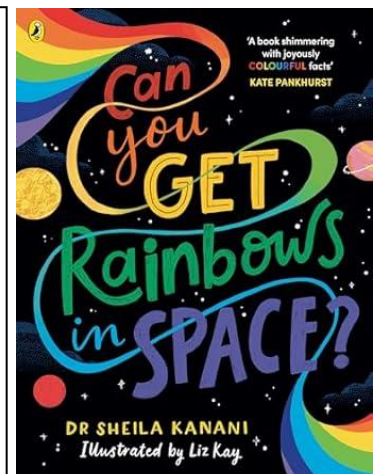
Age guide: 4-6 years

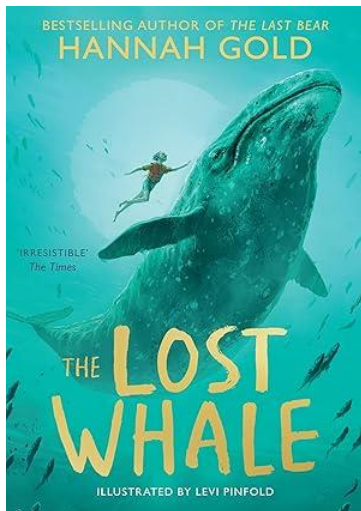
Can you Get Rainbows in Space? Dr Sheila Kanani

Why is blood red? Why are carrots orange? Who invented the lightbulb? Why is the world 'going green'? Is the sky really blue? And what is ultraviolet light?

You'll discover the answers to these questions - and many more - in this incredible collection of scientific facts about colour. You'll find out how some animals are able to glow in the dark and how others change their colours to hide from predators. Keep reading to discover why leaves change colour in the autumn, why your veins look blue but your blood is red, and how the language we use shapes the colours we see . . .

Age guide: 6-9 years





The Lost Whale Hannah Gold
THEIR BOND COULD SET THEM FREE . . .

Rio has been sent to live with a grandmother he barely knows in California, while his mum is in hospital. All Rio wants is for Mum to get better so he can return home. But everything changes when he joins a whale-watching trip and meets White Beak, a gentle giant of the sea. Rio forms an instant bond with the whale, and for the first time in ages he feels a spark of hope. Then White Beak goes missing and Rio may be the only person who can help.

Can Rio draw on their special connection to somehow find and save his whale?

Age guide: 8-11 years