

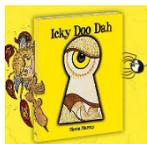
# The Rivermead Reading Newsletter

Summer Term 2024

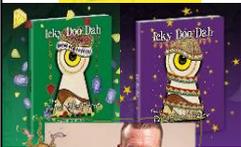
## Summer Author Special

Rivermead is set to have an exceptionally enriching Summer Term with the arrival of three accomplished authors, each bringing their unique perspective and talents to the students.

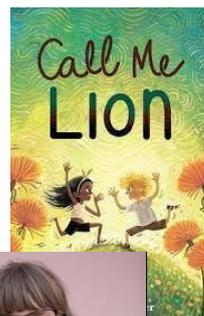
First up in April is Daniel Thompson, renowned author and poet, whose works include "Being Me: Poems of Positivity" and the newly released "Outside In: 50 Nature Poems." Daniel's focus on positivity and self-belief through poetry aligns perfectly with the school's mission to foster a supportive and encouraging environment for its students. His poetry workshop with year 4 and 6 students promises to inspire creativity and inner positivity, while his readings during assembly will captivate the entire school community.



In May, the school eagerly anticipates the visit of Simon Murray, author and illustrator of the beloved book "Icky Doo Dah." Simon's illustration workshop with EYFS, Year 1, and Year 2 students will underscore the important link between literacy and visual storytelling. Through his interactive sessions, students will gain a deeper appreciation for the role illustrations play in enhancing storytelling and comprehension.



Wrapping up the author visits in July is Camilla Chester, acclaimed author of "Call Me Lion." Camilla's focused work with Year 3 & 5 students will delve into the themes of empathy and compassion, aligning with



her collaboration with Empathy Lab and the Empathy Movement. As her book "Call Me Lion" garners recognition, including being shortlisted for the prestigious UKLA Awards 2024, students will have the opportunity to engage with thought-provoking stories that encourage understanding and tolerance.



None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our wonderful school PTA team. I'd like to say a huge thank you from the entire school community for their invaluable contributions to enhancing the reading experience at Rivermead.

## Woodley Library

Headley Road  
RG5 4JA

Opening Hours:

**Mon** 9.00- 13.00

**Tues** 9.00- 17.00

**Wed** 9.00- 17.00

**Thurs** 9.00-19.00

**Fri** 9.00-17.00

**Sat** 9.30-16.00

**Sun** 10.30am - 4pm

## Reading Fundraising and Wishlist

At Rivermead we are always looking at ways that we can enhance and enrich its curriculum through books. We understand that children can thrive and benefit from a diverse range of literary resources.

This term the Year 6 Reading influencers and Miss Seymour are collaborating fundraising ideas to support the enrichment of the curriculum at Rivermead for all year groups.

The support and generosity of parents in purchasing new books or donating pre-loved books has been invaluable and we are truly grateful for the support from our Rivermead parent community. This term, alongside fundraising the school will be sharing year group wish lists with parents, inviting them to contribute to the enrichment of the curriculum if they are able to do so.

The school understands and respects the varying financial situations our families find themselves in, and there is absolutely no obligation for anyone to contribute.

## Adults: Reading With Your Child



# A Guide to Book Chat

Research indicates that parents who regularly read with their children at home lay solid foundations for language and literacy development. It's a precious time for you both to relax, share your thoughts and feelings, have fun and chat together. Whilst sharing books, your child has your undivided attention, and the conversation, connection and enjoyment they experience is invaluable.

To promote children's pleasure in reading and foster the habit, we need to read **to** children and **with** them and to **talk** to them about books. These conversations are crucial as they help children to engage and think deeply.

### There are several ways to prompt book chat, these are our Top Tips.

Watch and listen carefully to follow their interests

**Observe and respond:** Pay attention to what captures your child's attention and build on their interests, for example, 'Oh, you've spotted the...!'

**Leave pauses:** So they can look closely and think, this will lead to comments on the pictures or questions. Respond to their lead and let the book chat flow.

Invite your child to get involved

**Pose questions:** Open questions encourage thinking and discussion, such as, 'How do you think the boy is feeling?'. Try to avoid closed questions, such as 'What colour is that?'; these have a single answer and don't keep the conversation going.

**Draw attention to illustrations:** Encourage your child to notice details in the pictures and think what they might mean, for example, 'Look! What's that hiding, what do you think it might be?'.

Wonder and connect to your lives

**Ponder and wonder:** Encourage your child to think about what might happen, using phrases such as, 'I wonder if/ whether /who/ why/ what ...'.

**Make personal connections:** Picture storybooks not only allow children to empathise with the experiences of fictional characters but enable them to make sense of events in their own lives. Talk about connections, for example, 'That reminds me of when...'.

Share your emotional responses!

**Comment on your feelings:** By sharing your emotional response to a character or something that's happened you encourage your child to do the same, helping them engage and learn to express their emotions.

Keep it light and enjoyable!

**Your combined pleasure counts:** Bring the story to life with facial expression, actions and sounds, encouraging your child to join in! Do offer information to help with unfamiliar words, such as 'That's the hencoop, it's where the hens live', but keep the focus on fun.

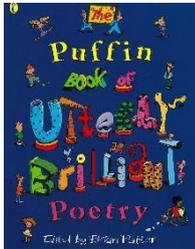
Book Chat encourages readers. Open questions, comments and prompts get the Book Chat going. Invite your child to make connections and share views. Join in with your thoughts too! Book Chat develops language, comprehension and pleasure.

# What we are reading in Master Readers at Rivermead this term

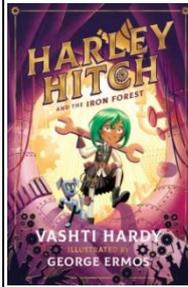
## Summer 1

### Year 2 – Utterly Brilliant Poetry Edited by Brian Patten

An utterly brilliant collection of the very best poems, from Puffin Books.



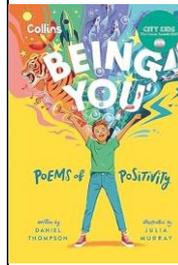
### Year 3 – Harley Hitch by Vashti Hardy



The Iron Forest near Harley's home is unlike any other – plants and trees grow cogs and hinges and other mechanical parts – and all of Inventia depends on it. So when a strange fungus is discovered, there's a race to find a solution. Without essential parts for inventions, the town is quickly falling apart...

But just who or what is behind the mysterious infestation? Harley decides it's up to her to save the day – with chaotic results!

### Year 4 – Author Visit in April!



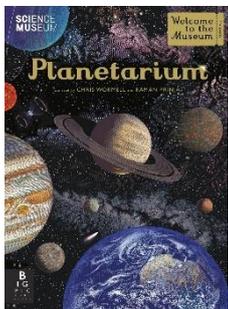
### Being You! Poems of positivity by Daniel Thompson

This collection of 50 poems will inspire confidence and courage, help children to overcome worries and spread kindness.

Beautifully illustrated, it is filled with poems for children to read alone or enjoy with the whole family.

With themes of friendship, self-belief, embracing change and celebrating people's differences, it's the perfect gift book for children to treasure.

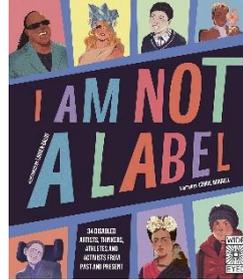
### Year 5 Planetarium by Raman Prinja



Welcome to the museum that is always open to explore... Step inside the pages of this beautiful book to discover galleries of galactic matter, expertly curated to bring you the experience of a fascinating exhibition from the comfort of your own home. Planetarium features all aspects of space, from the Sun and our Solar System, to the lives of stars, the Milky Way and the Universe beyond. With stunning artwork from Chris Wormell and informative text by

Professor Raman Prinja.

### Year 6 I am Not a Label by Cerrie Burnell

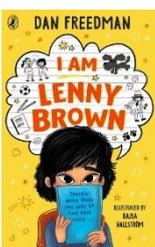


In this stylishly illustrated biography anthology, meet 34 artists, thinkers, athletes and activists with disabilities, from past and present. Find out how these iconic figures have overcome obstacles, owned their differences and paved the way for others by making their bodies and minds work for them.

These short biographies tell the stories of people who have faced unique challenges which have not stopped them from becoming trailblazers, innovators, advocates and makers. Each person is a leading figure in their field, be it sport, science, maths, art, breakdance or the world of pop.

## Summer 2

### Year 2 – NEW THIS YEAR! I am Lenny by Dan Freedman

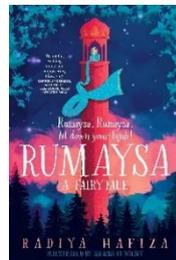


Lenny Brown is eight years old and can't talk. Except to his mum and his dog, Rocky.

When Lenny has to move house and start at a new school, it feels like his whole life is changing, and not for the better. Will he be able to make friends and find a way to fit in?

But when Lenny finds a different way to express himself, everyone is in for a big surprise as they find out just how amazing he can be . . .

### Year 3 – Rumaysa: A Fairytale by Radiya Hafiza

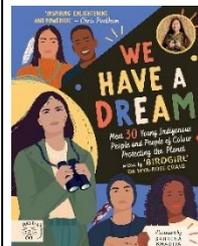


For as long as she can remember Rumaysa has been locked away in her tower, forced to spin straw into gold for the evil Witch, unable to leave. Until one day, after dropping a hijab out of her small tower-window, Rumaysa

realizes how she might be able to escape . . .

Join Rumaysa as she adventures through enchanted forests and into dragon's lairs, discovers her own incredible magical powers and teams up with Cinderayla and Sleeping Sara!

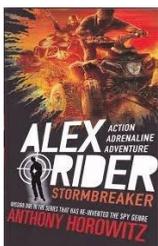
### Year 4 – We Have a Dream by Dr Mya-Rose Craig



In this book, British—Bangladeshi environmentalist and race activist 'Birdgirl' Mya-Rose Craig speaks to campaigners from around the world about what needs to be done.

From wildlife conservation to clean water, air pollution to plastic waste, climate justice to climate strikes, the time has come to listen to a generation of young people of colour demanding urgent change for the world they will inherit.

### Year 5 – Alex Rider: Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz



Alex Rider is just 14 when his uncle (who is also his legal guardian) is shot during a top-secret mission for MI6. Recruited in his place, Alex investigates their suspicions about a newly developed computer called Stormbreaker and a plot that could see thousands of children killed.



### Year 6 – NEW THIS YEAR! The Final Year by Matthew Goodfellow

Life can be tough in your last year of primary school. Tests to take, preparing for the change to high school. Nate is ready for it all, knowing his best friend PS is at his side - they've been inseparable since Nursery. But when they are put in two different classes and PS finds a new friend in Turner, the school bully, Nate's world turns upside-down.

His new teacher, Mr Joshua, sees a spark inside of Nate that's lit by his love of reading and writing and shows him how to use this to process what's going on. But with so much working against him, and anger rising inside him, will this be enough?

A powerful and lyrical story about finding your place in the world and the people that matter within it.

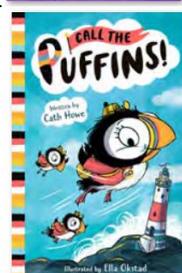
## Year 2 Recommendation Special

The transitional period between picture books and chapter books can be a difficult one to navigate. We have phenomenal readers in Year 2 and we want to celebrate their success by recommending some brilliant chapter books as well as graphic novels, non-fiction and poetry texts to help keep their love of reading a buzz.



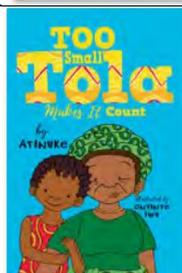
### **Lizzie and Lucky: The Mystery of the Disappearing Rabbit by Megan Rix**

There's a magical competition in town and Lizzie, her dog Lucky and her friend Ted are very excited to be watching it. The famous Lady Azeena will be performing with her rabbit Ruby – and she's Deaf, like Lizzie, so the event is extra special. Yet, when Ruby goes missing, it's time for Lizzie and Lucky to sniff out some clues. Lizzie and her family all use sign language, which is effortlessly incorporated in the story. The author's own experience of partial deafness means that she's keen to share this beautiful language, and at the back she's included the letters of the alphabet in British Sign NC Language, too



### **Call the Puffins! Cath Howe, illustrated by Ella Okstad**

It's time for Muffin the puffin to leave the family burrow and apply to join the Puffin Rescue Team on the Island of Egg. But Muffin's feet turn up at the ends, unlike most puffins. Will she be able to join the rescue team, or will her feet let her down? This is a charming story, beautifully illustrated in black and white with adorably cute puffins. Young readers will understand Muffin's worries about fitting in at 'school' and making friends. The message that you too can rise to the challenge even if you're different from others is subtle and makes for a satisfying read overall.



### **Too Small Tola Makes It Count Atinuke, illustrated by Onyinye Iwu**

This brilliant collection of three short stories stars Tola, who lives in a one-room flat in Lagos, Nigeria, with her grandmummy and older brother and sister. In each story, Tola helps her family and community. But Tola's having trouble at school with friends. If only life were like maths, with easy answers. Will the people whose lives she's touched help this little girl with a big heart? The short stories make this book easy to dip into, and the warm illustrations bring Tola's world to life with humour. An excellent celebration of community, family and love.



### **Secret Beast Club: The Unicorns of Silver Street Robin Birch, illustrated by Jobe Anderson**

Best friends Aisha and Jayden are intrigued when a colourful canal boat moors up near their London block of flats. They are astounded to learn that the boat is actually the headquarters of the Secret Beast Club, an undercover society set up in the 1800s to protect magical creatures. Head of the club, Leila Fanque, is delighted to discover that both children have the gift of magic sight, enabling them to see magical realms which are invisible to most humans.



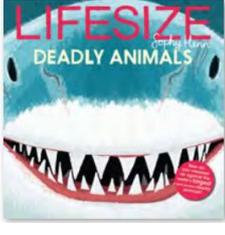
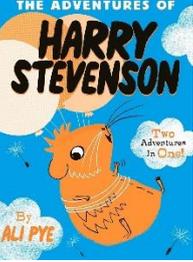
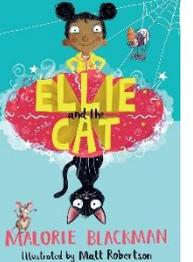
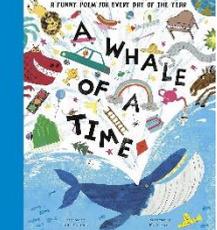
### **Press Start! Game on, Super Rabbit Boy! Thomas Flintham**

Sunny is playing his new computer game, Super Rabbit Land. In the game, the townspeople have fun all day. Singing Dog sings for them and everyone is happy. But King Viking, who lives on Mount Boom, kidnaps Singing Dog. Sunny – also known as Super Rabbit Boy – must complete all six levels of the quest and rescue Singing Dog. But will he have enough lives to do it? This chapter book has brightly coloured blockish illustrations designed especially to look like Minecraft and Lego, so has enormous young gamer appeal.



### **My Heart is a Poem by Various Poetry**

This stunning collection of poems explores and celebrates feelings of all kinds, from excitement to sadness and embarrassment to love. Children will easily recognise these emotions and the situations in which they arise – such as riding a bicycle or feeling frustrated over homework. There are 20 poems – some rhyme, many don't. All will show the child reader that they are not alone when they feel a certain way. There are 20 different poets and four different illustrators. The book is a large format and illustrated beautifully in full colour. This is a collection to read aloud together and to dip into alone.

	<p><b>Lifesize Deadly Animals by Sophy Henn Non-Fiction</b></p> <p>This clever book shows the exact size of deadly animals – or their key parts. It's fascinating to see how big a caiman's jaws are, and a lion's spiny tongue. The smaller predators are shown in all their deadly glory, including bullet ants, Chinese bird spiders and dragonflies. Yes, dragonflies – the most successful predators! A final spread compares sizes – the great white shark is 20 Lifesize books long, while the Bengal slow loris is only one book long – and encourages the reader to measure themselves. Sophy Henn's vibrant illustrations and the bite-size chunks of information add up to a captivating book</p>
	<p><b>The Adventure of Harry Stevenson by Ali Pye</b></p> <p>Meet Harry Stevenson. He doesn't live in a castle, or a witch's cottage, or anywhere exciting like that. His home is in a flat with seven-year-old Billy and his mum and dad. And at first glance, Harry doesn't seem any different from your average guinea pig. He has ginger fur and sparkly black eyes and likes nothing more than snacking on a piece of broccoli.</p> <p>But don't be fooled! Harry may just want to sleep and eat (and then eat some more) but somehow he always manages to get swept up in adventures: whether it's surfing the Pacific on a picnic plate or accidentally attaching himself to a helium balloon.</p>
	<p><b>Ellie And The Cat by Malorie Blackman</b></p> <p>Ellie is the rudest, most spoilt child her grandma has ever met and it's time that she learnt a lesson! So with a little bit of magic and some help from Jolly the cat, Grandma's going to make sure that Ellie changes her ways. Can Ellie work hard to prove that she can be good? Or is she destined to spend the rest of her days trapped in the body of a mean old cat?</p>
	<p><b>The Bee Book by Charlotte Milner Non-Fiction</b></p> <p>Bees are brilliant at building, super social creatures and along with other insects, are responsible for a third of every mouthful of food you eat! Children will be fascinated by the beautiful pictures and learn plenty of buzz-worthy fun facts in every chapter, covering types of bees, beehives, beekeeping, how they pollinate plants and make honey.</p> <p>A beautiful kid's educational book about bees with a crucial message: not only does it inform and educate about an issue that is a real threat, but it also delivers it in a way that is gripping for all ages.</p> <p>A dazzling celebration of bees, packaged in a gorgeous hard backed book made with high-quality paper and spectacular illustrations.</p>
	<p><b>Dog Man by Dan Pilkey – Graphic Novel</b></p> <p>George and Harold have created a new breed of justice -- one that is part dog, part man, and ALL HERO!</p> <p>With the head of a dog and the body of a human, this heroic hound digs into deception, claws after crooks, rolls over robbers, and scampers after squirrels.</p> <p>Will he be able to resist the call of the wild to answer the call of duty?</p>
	<p><b>A Whale of a Time: A Funny Poem for Every Day of the Year Poetry</b></p> <p>This beautifully produced anthology is rib-ticklingly funny to wryly witty, each poem in this uplifting collection is guaranteed to put a smile on your face! Whether it's a poem about socks or spaniels, eggs or elephants, this bright and brilliant collection will bring you cheer and laughter every day. Perfect for reading aloud, sharing even more side-splitting hilarity with family and friends.</p>

## Websites for Book Recommendations

**Book Trust Book Finder:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

**Love Reading 4 Kids:** <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

**The Reader Teacher:** <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>

**The Open University Press– Reading for Pleasure:** <https://ourfp.org/texts-authors/>

**Books For Topics:** <https://www.booksfortopics.com/>

**Booktrust - What to Read After:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/what-to-read-after/#!?q=&sortOption=MostRecent&pageNo=1>

## Royal Recommendations



Queen Camilla has recently released studies from her charity research for “The Queen’s Reading Room”. An advocate for reading for pleasure inspired by her enjoyment of reading from an early age, she has founded a charity which aims to improve reading for pleasure amongst children and adults alike.

Key findings revealed that just **5 minutes of reading can reduce stress by nearly 20%, improve concentration and focus by as much as 11%** and that **reading earlier in the day can help readers feel more connected to others and feel ready to tackle challenges**. They discovered that reading a work of fiction can **significantly reduce feelings of loneliness**. She has compared reading for 5 minutes a day being as important as eating 5 fruit and veg a day.

The results have proven that there is an important link between reading fiction and increased mental health, brain health and social connectedness. **Not only is reading a magical, joyous experience, it turns out that it’s also good for our health!**

**Find books recommended by the Queen here:** <https://thequeensreadingroom.co.uk/bookcategory/children-chosen/>

**Find books recommended by the Princess of Wales here:**  
<https://thequeensreadingroom.co.uk/recommenders/hrh-the-princess-of-wales/>

**For other books recommended by the charity:** <https://thequeensreadingroom.co.uk/bookcategory/children/>

## Important Dates for Reading and Books

<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Daniel Thompson Author Visit
<b>During May</b>	National Book Token Competition winners announced
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	Simon Murray Author Visit
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Rivermead Book Fair Begins
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Empathy Day
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	UKLA Book Awards Announced
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Camilla Chester Author Visit
<b>To be confirmed</b>	Fundraising events and dates upcoming this term