

Reading Newsletter

AUTUMN TERM 2024



Welcome to our Autumn Term reading newsletter.

We have had another busy term promoting and encouraging reading for pleasure. This initiative is always a priority at SFJS and even more so due to the recent National Literacy Trust report, which highlights the significant decline in the number of children and young people who enjoy reading, read daily and read in their free time.



- Just 1 in 3 (34.6%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2024. Reading enjoyment levels have decreased by 8.8 percentage points over the past year alone.
- Only 1 in 5 (20.5%) 8- to 18-year-olds told us that they read something daily in their free time in 2024, again, the lowest levels we've recorded since 2005.
- Slightly more children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they enjoyed reading at school (40.5%) than in their free time (34.6%).

In light of these concerning statistics, I want to thank you for your ongoing support at home with the logging on Boom Reader and ensuring that children are reading at least four times a week. I am sure you recognise the positive impact that reading has on your children's overall development and wellbeing. Encouraging a love for reading at home can significantly enhance their literacy skills and foster a lifelong appreciation for literature. I was incredibly proud to see the remarkable number of children who successfully completed the Summer Reading Challenge. Remember that listening to audiobooks also counts as reading for pleasure. All of our children have access to Sora, which offers a wealth of eBooks and audiobooks.



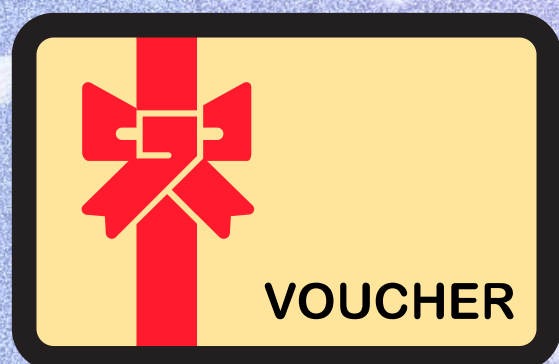
Winter Reading Challenge

As we finally reach the Christmas Holidays, it means it is time for our Winter Reading Challenge. This year, not only do I want the children to read as much as possible, but also to ensure children are sharing their reading with each other. As always, there are prizes to be won. **This homework is due in on Friday 10th January**




Winter Reading Competition

Would you like to win a book
voucher?

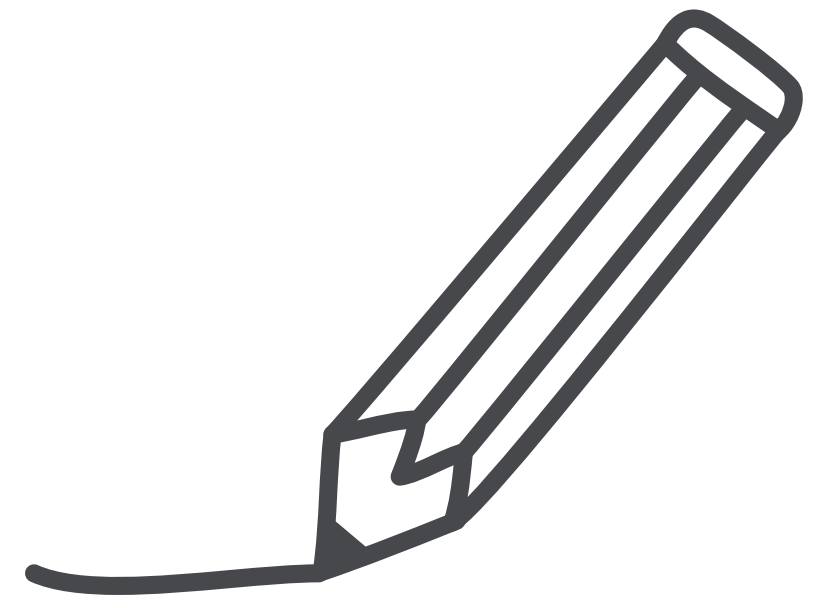


Ho, ho, ho! 🎄 This Christmas, I want to encourage you to read as much as possible! But this year, let's make it extra special.

Pick your favourite book and write a fun book review! There'll be a winner from each year group, and I'll proudly display your amazing work in the library. Happy reading, everyone!



Name: _____



My book review

Title

Author

Characters

Three new words I
learned

My favourite part was

How did you feel about
this book?

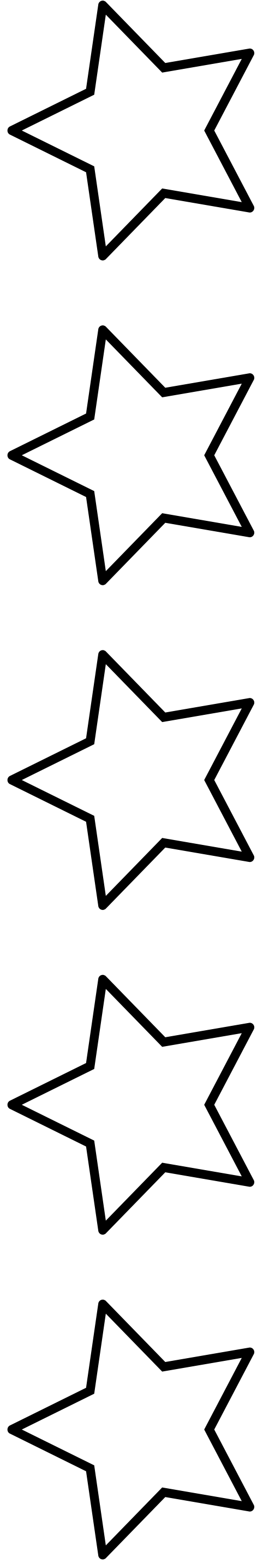
Name: _____ Date: _____

BOOK REVIEW

Title: _____

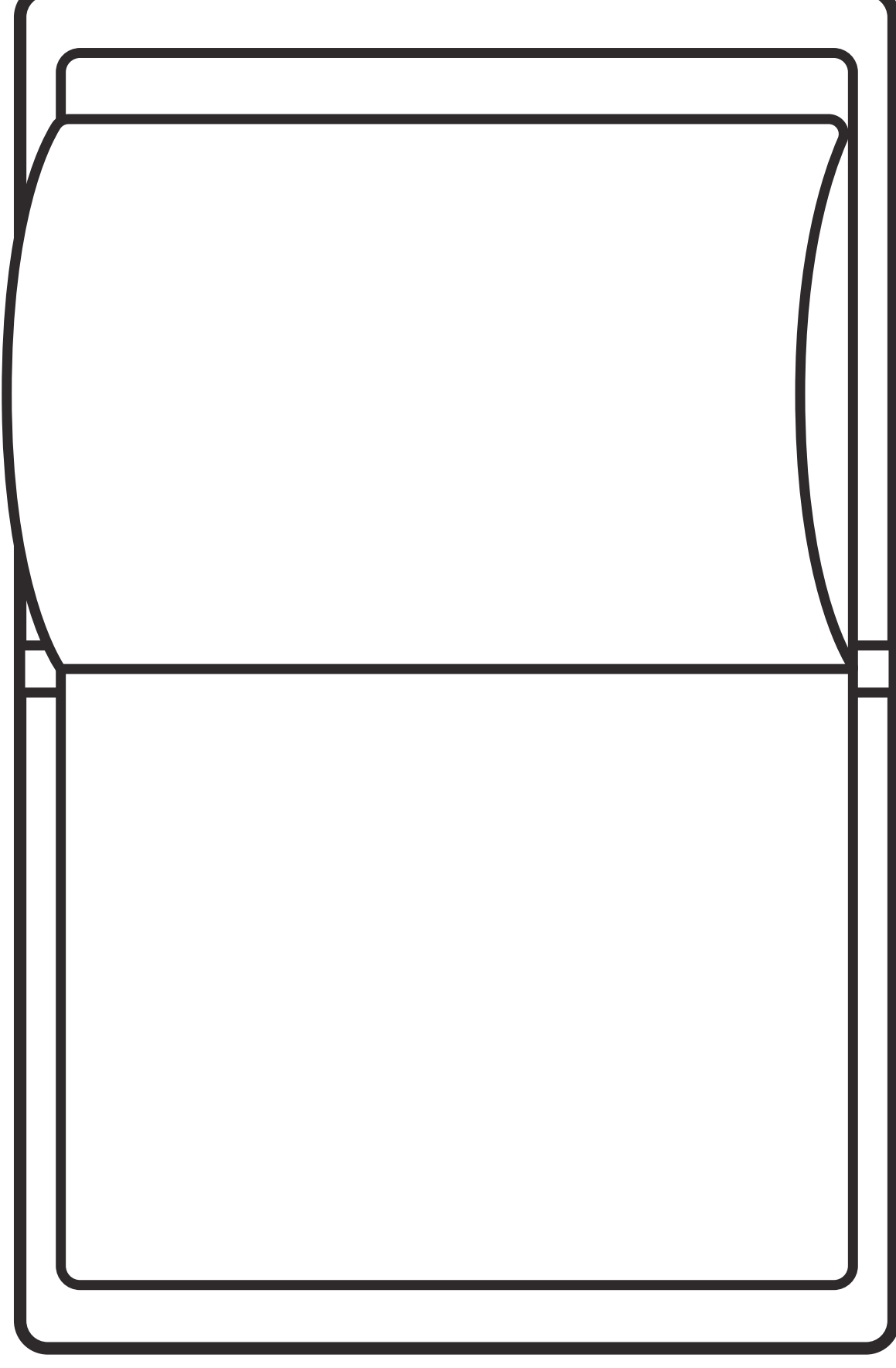
Author: _____

Star rating:



My reason for this rating:

My favourite scene:

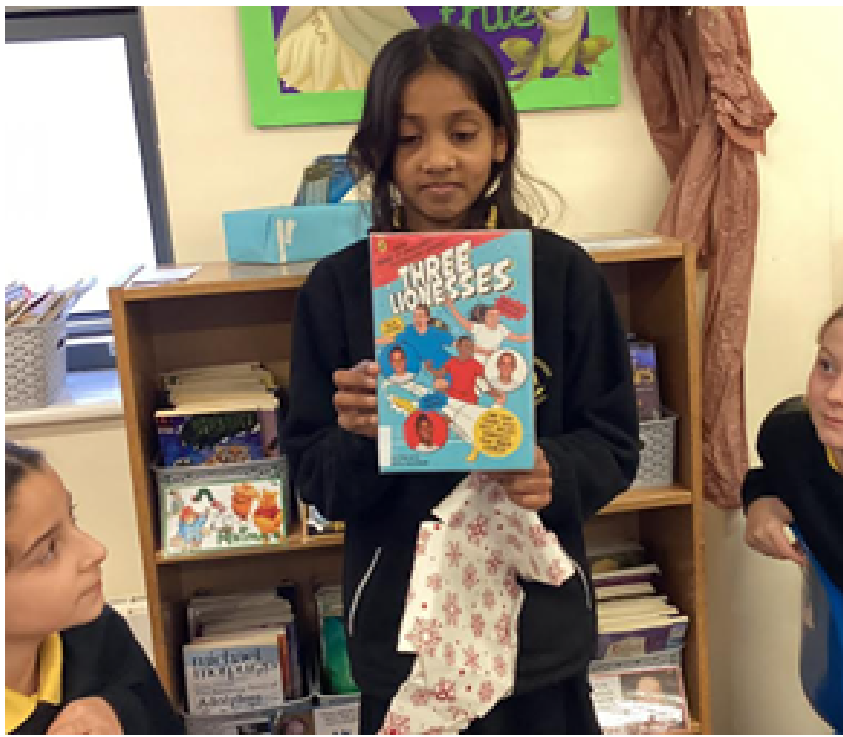




CHRISTMAS BOOK Advent Calendar



This year, the children have been truly delighted with our book advent calendar initiative! Each class received a selection of books carefully chosen based on the children's interests. This thoughtful approach ensures that the reading material really resonates with the children. Once the children have unwrapped these exciting new titles, they are added to their class book corners, enriching their learning environments and fostering a deeper love for reading. It has been wonderful to witness their enthusiasm and engagement!





NEWS

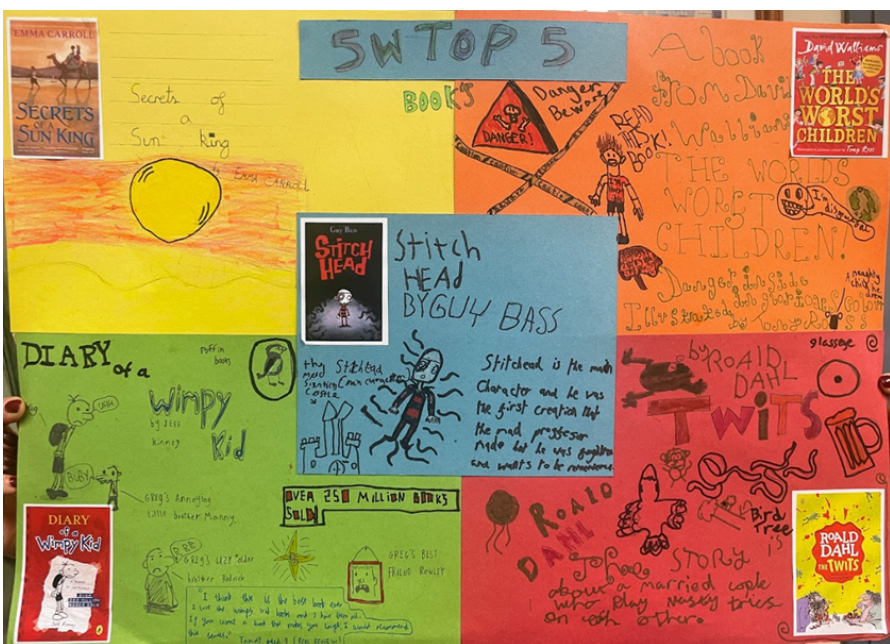
for Spring Term

We are thrilled to announce that we will be welcoming the award-winning poet, James Carter, into our school on Thursday, 13th February, in preparation for our World Book Day Celebrations in March. This exciting visit will include captivating poetry performances and engaging workshops, enhanced by a hint of music. More information will be provided in due course, alongside the opportunity to pre-order his books, which he will sign on the day. We look forward to an inspiring experience!



British Reading for Pleasure Programme

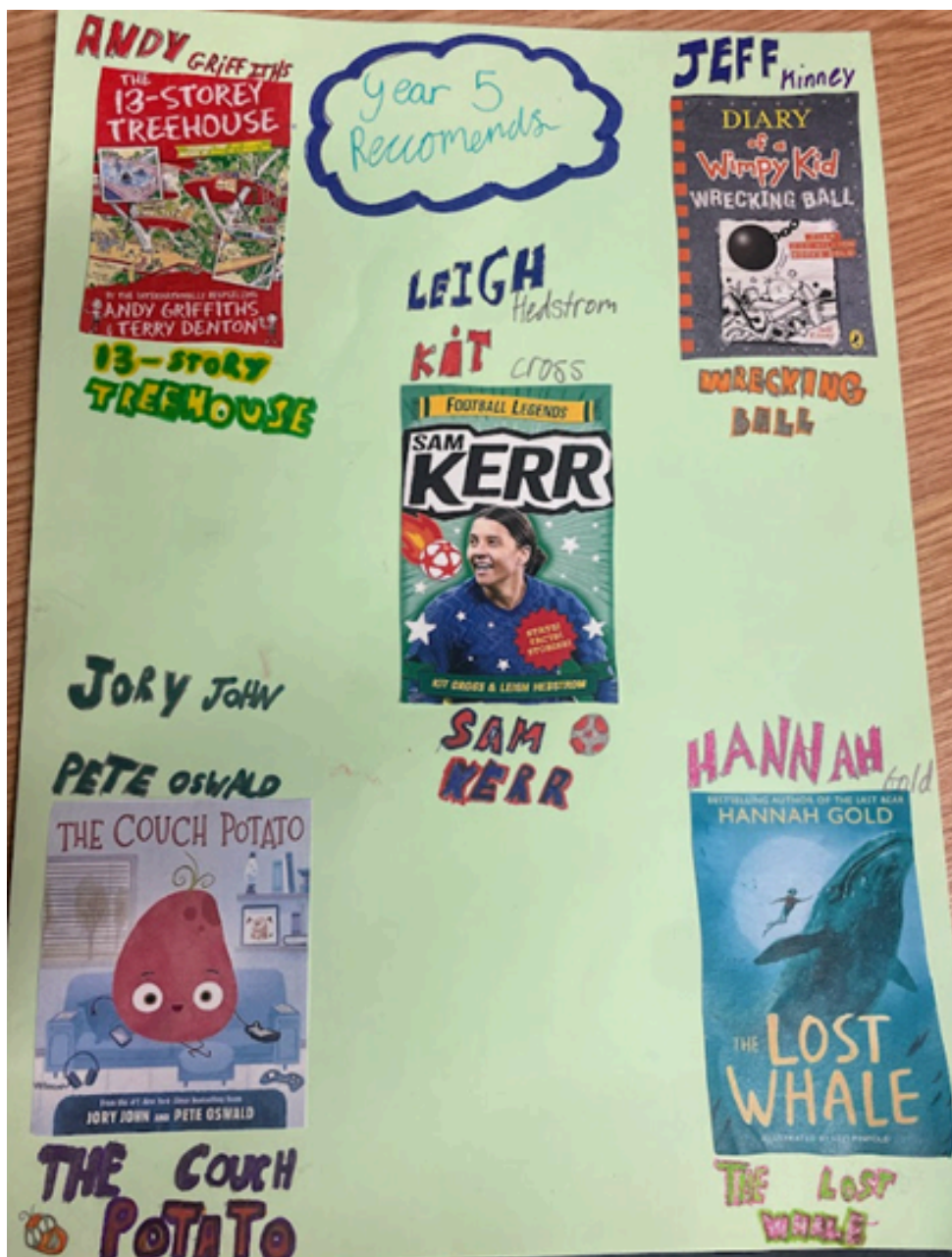
This year we are participating in a Reading for Pleasure Partnership with two wonderful schools in Jamaica. Our Year 5 pupils have enthusiastically shared their top five favourite reads, showcasing their love for literature. Additionally, our reading ambassadors have diligently captured numerous images of our vibrant reading areas, which will be shared with the children at Mountwood Primary and Lucea Primary. This initiative not only fosters a love of reading but also builds connections across cultures.



My all time favourite book from the book corner is Planet Omar by Zanib Mian. My favourite part is when Omar spat a spitball on his little brother while sleeping because it was really funny.

My all time favourite book from the book corner is The giant arctic jelly fish by chloe savage. My favourite part is when the jelly fish is under the boat because it is funny that they can't see it.

My all time favourite book from the book corner is My Headteacher is a Vampire rat by Pamela Butchart. My favourite part is when some of the characters go to a cinema because the grandma gets trapped in the bed.



My all time favourite book is Diary of a Wimpy Kid the getaway by Jeff Kinney. My favourite part is when Greg gets to an island that his parents went to on 11 day honeymoon but when his parents went, they stayed on the wild side of the resort, but when Greg gets with his two best friends (Manny and Rowley) they had to stay on the nice side of resort. (in Greg's words) "LAME" activities, not jetsetting like on the wild side of the resort.

Bob, 5W

My all time favourite book is The Twits by Roald Dahl. My favourite part is when Mr Twit slowly adds an ant to Mrs Twit's walking stick and pretends she is getting sick and he says she only ever is for stretch so Mr Twit 100 balloons for Mrs Twit but she pops the balloons by biting through the string then she came flying down and landed on Mr Twit because I think it is VERY FUNNY!!!

My all time favourite book series is Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney. My favourite part is when Greg writes a thank you note about underwear to his Auntie I also like when Greg gets his Christmas presents like a washing basket that sticks to his door so he can throw his washing and when he gets locked in a room where he plays music.

Jaxon 5W

My all time favourite book from the book corner is Malala Yousofzai by Maria, Isabella Sanchez Vega. My favourite part is when Malala didn't give up and she inspired me to never give up and that I should believe in myself and be a hard worker and stand up for people and their rights.

Labika 5W

READING VOLUNTEERS



We are reaching out with an exciting opportunity for you to support our young readers! Hearing children read regularly has a tremendous impact on their reading skills and overall academic success. However, we have noticed that fewer children are choosing to read in their spare time, and we would love your help in changing this trend.

Could you spare a couple of hours a week to hear our children read? Your participation not only enriches their learning experience but also fosters a love for reading that will last a lifetime. Together, we can make a real difference! Please contact the school office for further information.



BBC 500 Words

A special mention to Bill and Georgia in year 6 for getting through the first stage of the BBC 500 words competition. Their stories have been shortlisted from over 10, 000 entries and they should be very proud of this achievement.

Finally, I would really appreciate it if you could complete the reading questionnaire in the link below as I really do value your views.

<https://forms.gle/UV3426yQ5qAqWU957>

Wishing you all happy reading over the Christmas holidays!

Mrs Nelson