

PiXL Reading

TRANSITION NEWSLETTER



SUMMER NEWSLETTER FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS

As your child nears the end of their primary education, so many exciting opportunities await them at secondary school. For some children, this will be a very exciting time and they will hardly be able to wait to get started. For others, there may be some nerves and worries – and this is totally normal. It's important we support children through this process, whilst also enjoying the summer holiday. One of the ways you can do this is to encourage them to keep reading. Research shows that reading has benefits in many areas of education and life. In addition to the obvious benefits on reading comprehension and attainment, it also impacts upon:

- vocabulary
- understanding of grammar
- spelling skill
- writing attainment
- attitudes to reading and writing
- knowledge and understanding of the world and other people
- achievement in other subjects, including maths
- empathy and understanding of emotions
- mental wellbeing
- development of our sense of 'self' and identity.

To help you and your child select some books to read this summer, we have created this newsletter. We hope that some of the following texts may be of interest to them. It not only includes some texts which may help with their transition, but some that your child may really enjoy immersing themselves in over the summer holiday.

In addition to the books contained here, this newsletter provides you with a range of interactive, virtual experiences that can help to build children's wider knowledge and interests. This is obviously not an exhaustive list of books and ideas – there's so much they could explore. Whatever they are curious about, or take interest in, consider looking at books around the topic, or encouraging them to research into the area further through non-fiction texts such as online articles.

We are also delighted to share a video specifically for you from the wonderful author Phil Earle, exploring why he thinks reading is important, as well as sharing ideas for how parents like him can support their child with reading – we hope you find it useful:



Whatever you explore with your child this summer, we wish you a wonderful summer and a very happy start to secondary school in September.

**SHORTER-LENGTH READS, ACCESSIBLE NOVELS WITH
DYSLEXIA-FRIENDLY FONT AND ENGAGING STORIES:**

Fagin's Girl KAREN McCOMBIE



Orphan Ettie Shaw is penniless and homeless on the streets of London when she is spotted by her older brother, Joe. Joe has fallen in with a notorious pickpocket gang run by a man called Fagin, and Ettie has to disguise herself as a boy so she can go back with him to Fagin's lair. At first, Ettie is able to help out with mending and other domestic jobs, but when one of the other boys falls ill, Fagin demands that Ettie go out pickpocketing with Joe – and everything goes horribly wrong...

Dark Peak MARCUS SEDGWICK



One long, hot summer, two children disappear on a school trip. One child is eventually found, but Porter is worried that no one is even looking for the other, Stephen, anymore. Why can no one remember who Stephen is? What happened on the school trip?

The Raven Riddle VASHTI HARDY



Grace's family are wardens of the Griffin map, using its teleport technology to fight crime across Moreland. And now there's someone new on the team: Tom Eely. Grace and Tom are keen to get to work, but their first call to a quiet mountain village doesn't seem to offer many chances to use their exciting gadgets or combat skills. But as the pair

investigate, the situation becomes more puzzling. Why are a flock of ravens attacking the villagers? And are the locals' tales of a mountain witch really to be believed?

Super Sub ALAN GIBBONS



New boy Smithy can't understand why everyone is so excited about a player on the football team called "Bengo". He's been absent for the first few games of the season, and starts the next game on the bench – surely he can't be that special? But Smithy soon gets a chance to see him in action. Bengo is easily the best player Smithy's ever seen, putting in perfect crosses and generally running the opposition ragged. So why is Bengo left on the bench so often, and why does he seem to bottle it when any strong tackles come his way?

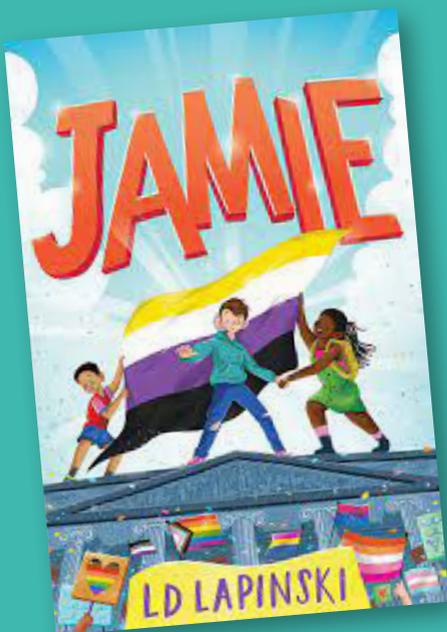
OTHER FICTION READS

Jamie

L.D. LAPINSKI

Jamie is a happy 11-year-old non-binary kid who likes nothing better than hanging out with their two best friends, Daisy and Ash. But when the trio find out that in Year 7 they'll be separated into one school for boys and another for girls, their friendship suddenly seems at risk. And when Jamie realises no one has thought about where they are going to go, they decide to take matters into their own hands, and sort it all out once and for all...

Watch L. D. Lapinski talk about their book here:

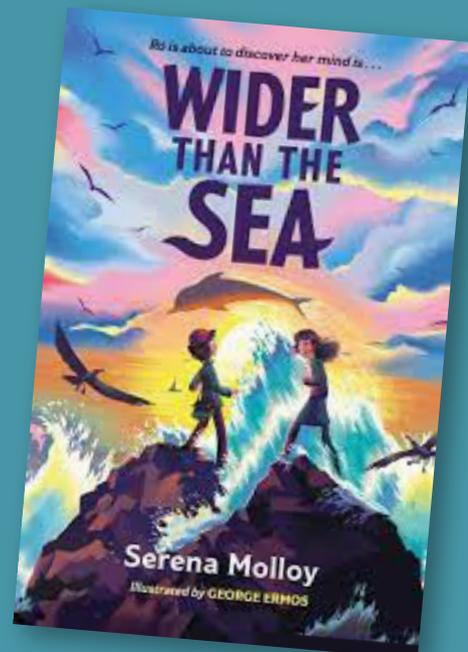


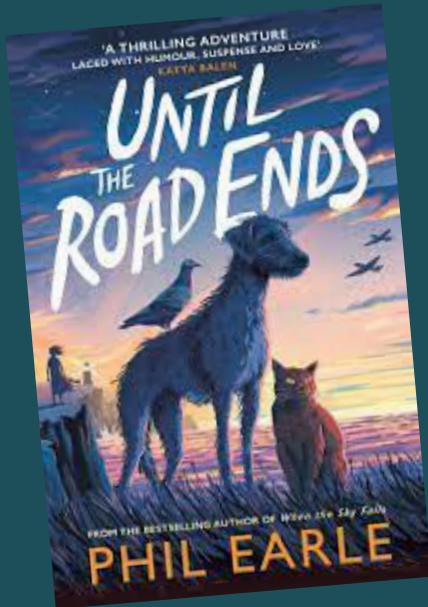
Wider than the Sea

SERENA MOLLOY

Ró finds school impossible. She knows people think she's shy – and stupid. But when she goes to the bay each afternoon to watch the dolphin leap through the water, she finds the strength to keep going. Then the dolphin disappears, and everything starts falling apart. Can Ró overcome her fears to find him?

Watch Serena talk about her book here:





Until the Road Ends

PHIL EARLE

When Peggy saves a stray dog from near-death, a beautiful friendship begins. Peggy and Beau are inseparable: the only thing that can ever come between them is war. Peggy is evacuated to the safety of the coast, but Beau is left behind in the city, where he becomes the most extraordinary and unlikely of war heroes. Night after night, as bombs rain down and communities are destroyed, Beau searches the streets, saving countless families. But then disaster strikes, changing Peggy's life forever...

Watch Phil talk about his book here:

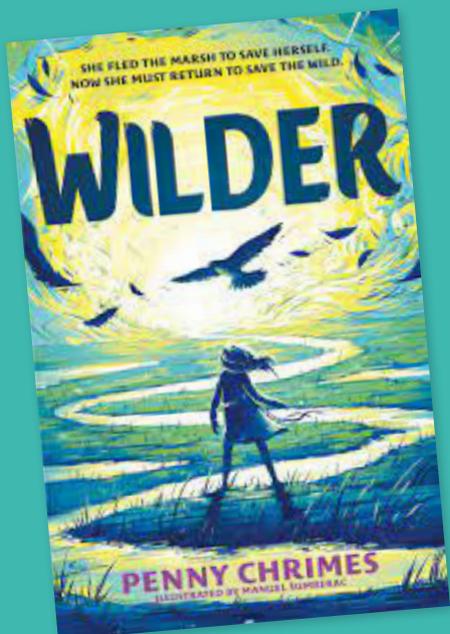


A Tricky Kind of Magic

NIGEL BAINES

Cooper is brilliant at magic tricks. Card tricks, clever illusions – he can do them all. His dad, also known as the Great Eduardo, taught him the tricks of the magical trade before he passed away. But the one thing Cooper can't do is see his dad again. So, when a talking rabbit appears from his dad's top hat and reveals there is a place where Cooper might find him, he jumps at the chance. Magic is about believing the impossible, after all. And Cooper desperately wants to believe that he can see his dad once more. But what – and who – is waiting for them in the land where magic goes wrong? Watch Nigel talk about his book here:





Wilder

PENNY CHRIMES

When the child emerges from the wilderness, no one in the village knows what to do with her. She is odd – half-wild, without speech and seems to have an unnatural bond with animals, especially the falcon, who is always circling above her. The Wise-Woman takes her in, and names her Rhodd, but the rest of the villagers remain suspicious. Over the years, as Rhodd grows, the village realises that the river, which is their connection to the wider world, is beginning to die, and eventually a dark sickness begins to spread. Soon, too soon, the villagers turn their suspicion on Rhodd and her falcon...

Girl

TAMSIN WINTER

What's it like to grow up online and have every tantrum, every spot – even your first period – broadcast to hundreds of thousands of followers? Most parents try to limit their kids' online exposure. But not Eva's. Her parents run a hugely successful blog, Happily Eva After – and Eva is the star of the show. But Eva is getting sick of being made to pose in stupid mum-and-daughter matching outfits for sponsored posts. The freebies aren't worth the teasing at school. And when an intensely humiliating "period party" post goes viral, Eva is outraged. She's going to find a way to stop the vlog, even if she has to sabotage it herself.



NON-FICTION

Go Big

MATTHEW BURTON

The bestselling back-to-school handbook, from the nation's favourite headteacher, Mr Burton. Secondary school can seem scary. Corridors are wide, older students look terrifying and there's homework, messy friendships and stressful exams to deal with. But, whether you're about to land at secondary school or you're still settling in, Mr Burton is here to guide you through your journey – worry-free.

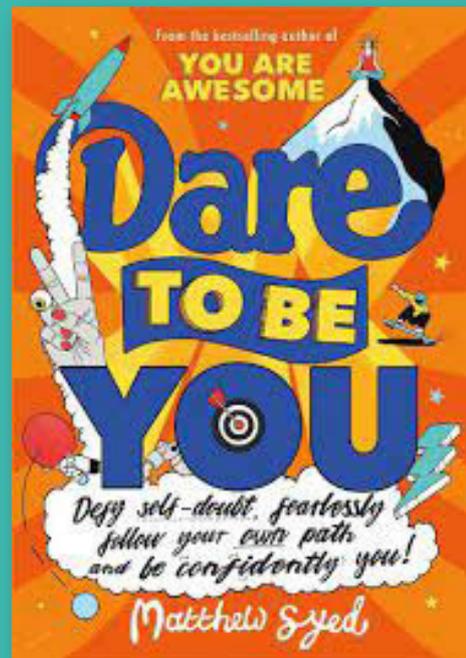


Dare to Be You

MATTHEW SYED

What would you dare to try if you stopped worrying about fitting in? Drawing examples from sport, science and even business, Dare to Be You empowers young readers to follow their own path, love what makes them different and question the world around them.

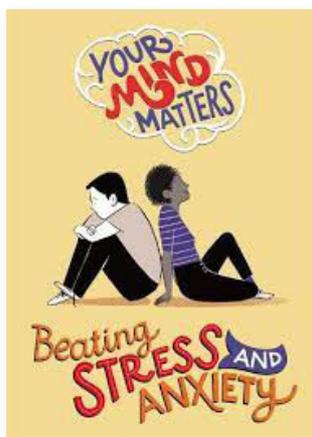
There is also an accompanying Dare to Be You Journal which you could purchase as well, if you think this would be useful for your child.



**Your Mind Matters:
Beating Stress and Anxiety**

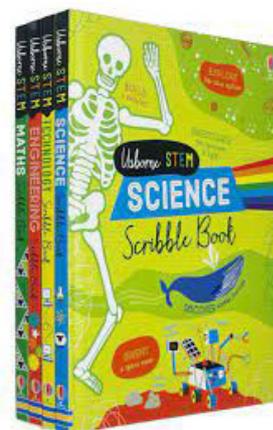
HONOR HEAD

Everyone experiences stress and anxiety at times in their lives, but sometimes the feelings build up and can affect our physical and mental health. This book will help you to recognise the signs of feeling stressed and anxious and what you can do to feel better.



Usborne's STEM Scribble books

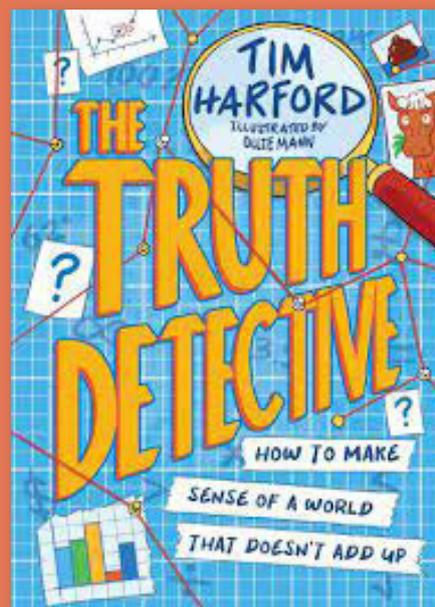
These innovative scribble books are full of activities to explore, discover, solve and create. You can buy a pack of four: Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths – through which you can create an earthquake detector, solve puzzles, crack codes and much more!



The Truth Detective

TIM HARFORD

The world is often full of bamboozling headlines and numbers that don't add up. But don't panic. Within these pages you will transform into a Truth Detective, hunting down the truth about the world around you. You will meet heroic truth detectives, such as Florence Nightingale who started a revolution with a pie chart. You will encounter dastardly villains who have tried to trip us up with dodgy data and misinformation. And you will learn how being smart and savvy with numbers will help you be smart and savvy about everything else in life too. So, grab your detective cap, pick up your magnifying glass and start seeing the world like never before. Watch Tim talk about his book here:



Exploring a wide variety of experiences and activities helps to introduce your child to knowledge and interests they may not otherwise have acquired. You may already have lots of ideas for getting out and about over the summer, but we have also collated a few ideas to start you off below. These may spark an interest in something your child may then want to read about, either through a story book or through non-fiction texts.

- Watch this video by the puppeteers behind Joey, the horse from the stage production of *War Horse* [here](#).
- Explore areas of the Natural History Museum in London through virtual tours [here](#).
- Watch this interview event with Tim Peake, focusing on his experience in space [here](#).
- Read about the history of the Tower of London [here](#) and also the Ceremony of the Keys [here](#).
- Culture Trip have a variety of interesting blog posts to read about various topics and countries, such as Sri Lanka [here](#).
- Explore the use of colour and shape in art on the Tate website. As you read, carefully view the artworks presented and consider the questions [here](#).
- Follow Woodrow Phoenix's guide to making your own comic strip [here](#).
- You can step inside The Globe theatre via an online tour [here](#) and you can read more about it [here](#).

