



Castlefield School  
Upper School Reading Newsletter  
Autumn 2023

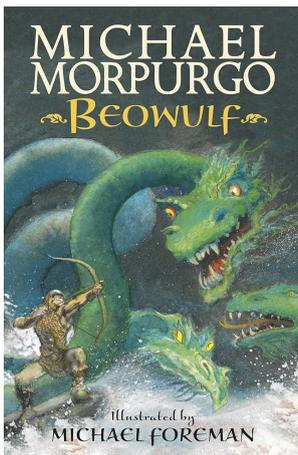


Welcome to our Reading Newsletter. This is a place for us to share reading recommendations and support your children in accessing and enjoying great books. One of the best ways families can support their children with their learning is to encourage reading at home. Regular reading is crucial - not only for academic learning, but also as a way to relax and escape.

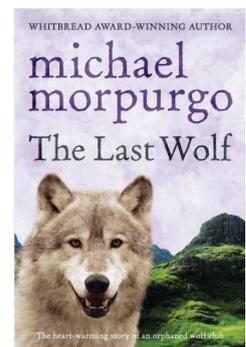
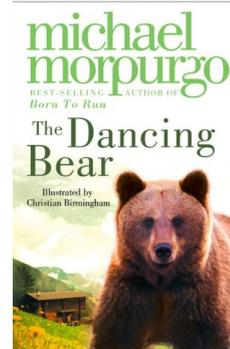
It is not always easy to get hold of physical books, so this newsletter has some useful weblinks to ebooks and audiobooks. The hyperlinks give more details about the authors and where to buy the books. As with all media, please check you are happy with the content. Reading them yourself or with your child provides a wonderful opportunity to share and talk about your favourite characters and plots with your children.

### What are we Reading in Class?

**Year 4** We are reading *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo.

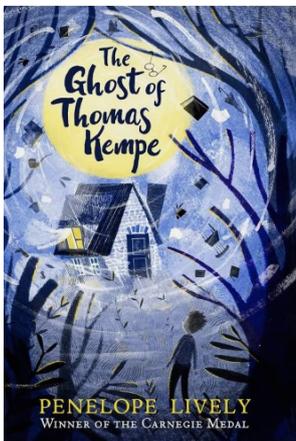


If you are enjoying the story you could read more animal based books by Michael Morpurgo.

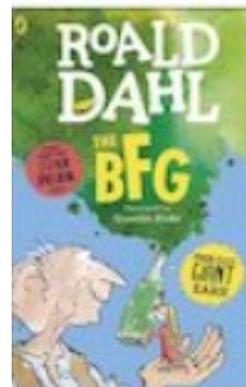


Find out more about him on his website  
<https://www.michaelmorpurgo.com/>

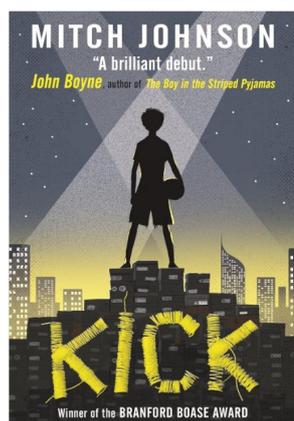
**Year 5** We are reading *The Ghost of Thomas Kempe*.



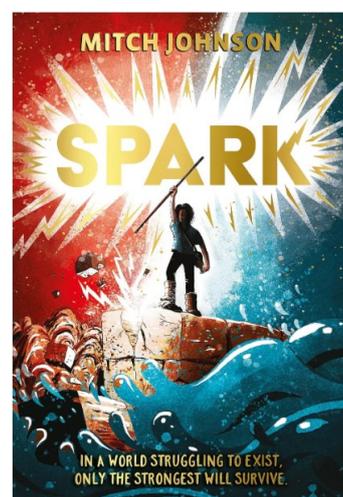
If you are enjoying the story you may want to read another book by Penelope Lively. Alternatively, check out these books by Roald Dahl who you read last half term.



## Year 6 We are reading Kick.



If you are enjoying the story you could read more exciting books by Mitch Johnson.



## What could you read at home?

This week we held the first of our Reading Recommendations assemblies. Each term all the teachers will suggest books that the children might want to take home from our class libraries. Find out below what the teachers recommend.

## Year 4

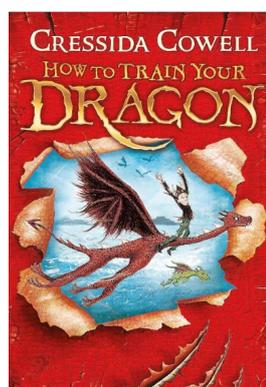
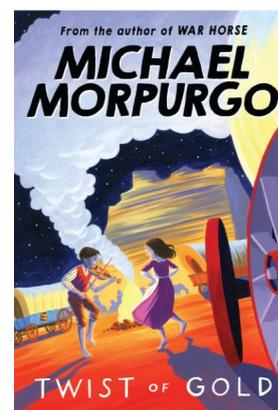
### **Twist of Gold by Michael Morpurgo**

Twist of Gold is a terrific story by Michael Morpurgo of two children who go on a journey from Ireland to America and then travel across the country to find safety with their father.

It is an amazing book full of sadness and adventure. The children show great bravery and they stick together even when things get really tough.

This book filled my eyes with tears, and my heart full of hope.

I'd recommend it to anyone in Year 3-6 as a wonderful story which will take you to Ireland and America in your imagination.



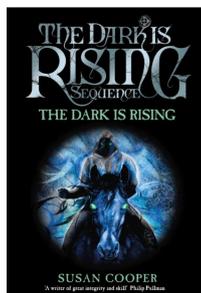
### **How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell**

"How to Train Your Dragon" holds a special place in my heart because of its enchanting narrative that weaves together humour, courage, and the bonds of friendship. The story of Hiccup and Toothless is a joyous adventure that took me on a delightful journey of discovery and self-acceptance. What I particularly enjoyed was the imaginative world created by Cowell, where dragons and Vikings coexist in a magical land. Hiccup's endearing character, coupled with the challenges he faces and overcomes, resonated with me on a personal level. The book beautifully imparts essential lessons about empathy and celebrating differences, all wrapped up in a captivating tale that kept me eagerly turning the pages. "How to Train Your Dragon" is more than just a children's book; it's a source of inspiration that encourages readers, young and old, to embrace their uniqueness and find strength in unexpected friendships. I have always compared the relationship I have with my dog Colby to the relationship Hiccup had with toothless!

## Year 5

### The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

'The Goldfish Boy' is about a boy who spends most of the time in his room because he suffers from OCD and finds it really difficult to do everyday things like going to school or coming down for dinner. He is gradually finding that he needs to find a way to overcome these difficulties in order to help the police with their investigation when somebody goes missing in the neighbourhood. Lisa Thompson is very good at showing the characters' emotions and keeping the reader guessing about the mystery.



### The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper

The Dark is Rising is one of my all-time favourite books. It is second in the Dark is Rising sequence but stands alone as a story too. One of the reasons I personally love it is because it is set very locally, in Buckinghamshire/Berkshire and the main character is born in December (the same as me). The story is one of the battle of the Light against the Dark, of good versus evil, just like Harry Potter. It is full of suspense and terror and makes the book completely impossible to put down. If you are a relatively confident reader and you like the Harry Potter genre, I think you will love this book.

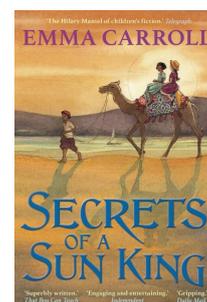
**Shield Maiden by Stuart Hill-** This is a story of King Alfred's daughter Aethelflaed. This book is set in the Anglo-Saxon times and is told from the point of view of the daughter of King Alfred, Aethelflaed. The story is about Aethelflaed. She wanted to become a shield maiden so she could fight in the war beside her father, King of Wessex. She was determined for her kingdom to win the battle. This is a gripping story about how Aethelflaed becomes a fierce, warrior princess. The story begins when Alfred's great hall is destroyed by the Vikings, the king must flee with his family. But Aethelflaed knows that hiding in the marshes, far away from the battlefield, is the last thing she wants to do; can she fulfil her destiny and become a warrior princess, a shield maiden?



## Year 6

### Secrets of a Sun King by Emma Carroll

A historical adventure story centred around the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in Egypt. Lilian Kaye discovers a mystery parcel on her grandad's doorstep the day he falls ill and is shocked to see that it was sent by a famous Egyptologist found dead that very morning. Is the curse of Tutankhamun the cause for his death and her grandad's illness? Lilian decides, with the help of new friends, Tulip and Oz, that the only way to help is to return the package to its resting place and break the deadly pharaoh's curse. This is an enjoyable, thrilling book that you won't want to put down.



### Malamander by Thomas Taylor

Twelve-year-old Herbert Lemon lives and works in the Grand Nautilus Hotel in the strange and frequently foggy seaside town of Eerie-on-Sea. The hotel's 'lost and founder', he's tasked with cataloguing lost things and trying to find their owners. Left in the hotel as a baby after her parents mysteriously disappeared, Violet Parma is determined to find out what happened to them and wants Herbert's help. Following the clues quickly leads Herbert into far more danger than he'd like, opening up a whole lot of questions about the town's residents and the secrets they're hiding. And on top of this, things keep pointing them towards the terrifying legend of the Malamander, an infamous local sea monster which Herbert would really rather stayed a legend...

### Tamarind and the Star of Ishta by Jasbinder Bilan

Tamarind is a young girl who lost her mother during childbirth as well as her mother's side of the family, when her father mysteriously takes her to England and refuses to speak a word about it all. For her 12th birthday, she is reunited with her mother's family in India, who are just as secretive about her mother. The majestic family home is at the foot of the Himalayas which provides a rich setting of forests, caves and wild creatures, all exposed to the monsoon storms. Tamarind feels isolated and frustrated as no one will speak of her mother. Exploring the enchanted garden, she befriends a strange girl, Ishta, and golden monkey who give her confidence and strength to stand up for herself and face grave dangers. Due to this connection, she finds her mother's hidden treasures and learns that she is closer to her than she thinks.

