

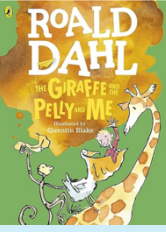
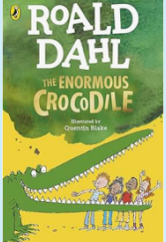






Our Lady of the Wayside

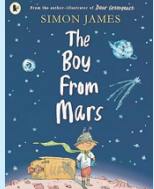




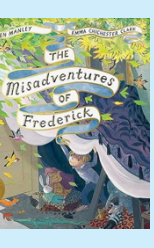
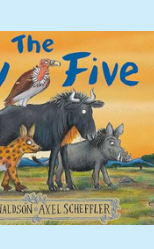


READING SPINE

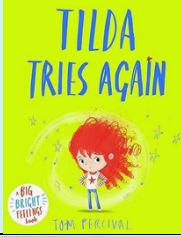


Year 1 Modelled Reads

Title	Author	Why this? Why now?
<p>The New Neighbours</p> 	Sarah McIntyre	<p>Modern author and fun book with a perfect message for our setting. A group of animals are horrified to find out some rats have moved into their block of flats, but learn their lesson when the rats turn out to be lovely neighbours. Perfect for year one with eye-catching illustrations and a well-paced story. The powerful and valuable message isn't overdone, but comes across clearly. Good for both pleasure and important discussion about stereotypes, judging others before we know them and communities.</p>
<p>On the Way Home,</p> 	Jill Murphy	<p>A child hurts her knee on her way home. When she tells her mum, she invents all sorts of things that happened to cause it. Perfect for Year 1 as they have been introduced to author last year. Great for discussions about telling the truth, imagination. Wonderfully inventive text and illustrations. Writing opportunities - what happened on their way home?</p>
<p>The Tiger Who Came to Tea,</p> 	Judith Kerr	<p>A classic loved by year 1 for many, many years. Follows what happens when a tiger unexpectedly visits and eats everything in the house. Children are introduced to this book in Reception and study it. It appears again here as a revisit of a beloved classic. We all go back and reread favourites, even years later. It is no different here.</p>
<p>The Smartest Giant in Town,</p> 	Julia Donaldson	<p>Our Julia Donaldson books are used in Nursery to Year 2 as Donaldson is a fantastic author. This book in particular is perfect for discussions about putting others first -particularly as we prepare children's understanding for discussing Lent with year 1. Books like this are helpful to refer back to. A giant buys himself new clothes but then gives them away to animals that need them more than him. This book will be used for writing opportunities in Spring 1.</p>
<p>Billy and the Beast,</p> 	Nadia Shireen	<p>A little girl has to think fast to save her animal friends when a monster in the woods tries to make them into soup. Sparky heroine which is great to see. Important representation with BAME characters and author. A witty, surprising story, with fantastic artwork – really enjoyable modern story and perfect for Year 1.</p>
<p>Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book</p> 	Lauren Child	<p>The story of a boy who fell into a book...Now if you were going to fall into a book, a book of fairy tales probably would not be your first choice. Because in every story there is always a wicked this, an evil that or a hungry somebody. Fantastic for exploring the traditional tales genre, familiar to Year 1 by now, in a new situation. The book uses Lauren Child's distinctive text and page layout style, which some readers may find hard to follow which is why it is better to be shared and modelled by the teacher.</p>
<p>Handa's Surprise,</p> 	Eileen Browne	<p>A little girl carrying fruit in a basket on her head gradually loses the fruits during her walk as different animals take them. Amusing, repetitive tale with wonderful illustrations. Great for Year 1 as they explore the wonders of diversity, friendship, the vibrant culture of rural Africa.</p>
<p>Farmer Duck,</p> 	Martin Waddell	<p>Simple text with a powerful message. There was once a duck who had the bad luck to live with a lazy farmer. While the duck worked, the farmer lay in bed - until one day the other animals decided to take action! Winner of Smarties Book Prize British Book Awards, Book of the Year Highly commended for the Kate Greenaway Medal. Children not only learn about farm life but also grasp important lessons about collaboration, compassion, and the value of hard work. Great for discussion and how we treat others and will resonates with Year 1's emerging sense of empathy and understanding of fairness.</p>

<p>The Giraffe the Pelly and Me</p>		<p>Roald Dahl</p>	<p>A giraffe, a pelican and a monkey form a ladderless window cleaning operation and make friends with a small boy. Kelly Sallis has read this successfully with year 1 towards the end of the year when year 1 are ready for short chapter books and enjoy the theatrical performance it demands! Dahl is fantastic for introducing a longer read to children and made more accessible by the teacher modelling. This book not only introduces young readers to the joy of storytelling but also provides an exploration of friendship, teamwork and of course, an appreciation of Dahl!</p>
<p>The Enormous Crocodile</p>		<p>Roald Dahl</p>	<p>Large format. About a large greedy crocodile and how the other jungle animals plan to teach him a lesson he will never forget. As with The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me, this is to be enjoyed with year 1 towards the end of the year when year 1 are ready for short chapter books and enjoy the theatrical performance it demands! Dahl is fantastic for introducing a longer read to children and made more accessible by the teacher modelling. After having read many short chapter books to try to beat Dahl in year 1, there simply isn't much of the same standard or as captivating whilst being suited to modelled reading.</p>
<p>The Twits,</p>		<p>Roald Dahl</p>	<p>A true classic! Picture book, full colour edition of the story about a married couple who are mean-spirited and horrible to everyone but are taught a lesson by some clever animals. The book, known for its humour and exaggeration, introduces the concept of right and wrong in a light-hearted manner. Also a great way to introduce Year 1 to Dahl's extreme description and hilarious characters! Used towards the end of the year when year 1 are ready for longer chapter books and the darker, more mischievous themes of this story!</p>
<p>The Worrysaurus</p>		<p>Rachel Bright</p>	<p>A story about living in the moment in which a little dinosaur worries about all the things that might ruin his picnic instead of having fun while he can. A delightful story and a likeable character. Written in rhyming text with expressive language and atmospheric illustrations to support. A great addition to KS1 PSHE discussions. Reading about a character dealing with worries provides an opportunity for children to explore and understand their own feelings and creates a safe space for discussing emotions, making it particularly relevant for this age group as they navigate early social and emotional development.</p>
<p>The Something</p>		<p>Rebecca Cobb</p>	<p>A boy imagines what kind of creature might live in the little hole he finds in his garden. The imaginative story is well matched by the wonderfully detailed illustrations and the gentle touches of humour add to the appeal. Fantastic writing opportunities with this book. What do our children think is down there?</p>
<p>Don't Chew the Royal Shoe</p>		<p>Kate Leake</p>	<p>A bit daft, but fun and reads aloud well. A disgraced palace dog who keeps chewing the royal family's shoes redeems himself when he apprehends a thief who is trying to steal the Queen's jewellery. A light-hearted exploration of behaviour, responsibility, consequences, and the importance of following rules.</p>
<p>Cops and Robbers</p>		<p>Allan Ahlberg</p>	<p>On Christmas Eve while children sleep The scalliwag robbers prowl and creep. Who can catch them? Tell us - who? The one and only Officer Pugh. A classic and a favourite of children for many, many years. Wording and rhyming can be tricky so teacher modelling with make this accessible. The book's playful language and vibrant illustrations make it accessible for early readers, capturing their attention and love for storytelling. "Cops and Robbers" entertains and also provides an excellent opportunity for discussions on themes like justice, cooperation and the consequences of actions.</p>
<p>Pumpkin Soup</p>		<p>Helen Cooper</p>	<p>Warm illustrations accompany a gentle story of friendship and sharing. Pumpkin Soup The best you ever tasted. Made by the Cat who slices up the pumpkin Made by the Squirrel who stirs in the water, Made by the Duck who scoops up a pipkin of salt and tips in just enough. But one day Duck wants to do the stirring...This book was awarded the 1998 Kate Greenaway Medal. Choosing this book for Year 1 is timely, aligning with the developmental stage of children as they begin to grasp the importance of collaboration and social interactions. Lots of discussion opportunities here on teamwork, sharing, and the value of friendships.</p>

The Boy From Mars		Simon James	A little boy misses his mum when she has to travel away for work, and pretends that a Martian has taken his place so that he can behave differently to how he would normally. Keywords: Families, Imagination, Emotions, PSHE,
Ravi's Roar,		Tom Percival	Keywords: Emotions, PSHE, Families, BAME characters. Endearing character with a simple and effective story to illustrate this emotion. Nice sharing read with lovely illustrations. Most of the time Ravi can control his temper but, one day, he lets out the tiger within. Tigers can do ANYTHING they want! But who wants to play with a growling, roaring, noisy, wild tiger who won't share or play nicely? Ravi is about to discover something very important about expressing his feelings and making amends. Great empathy read.
Troll Stroll,		Elli Wollard	A rhyming story about a troll who wants to eat children in different vehicles on the bridge. Perfect for reading aloud. The rhythmic language enhances early literacy skills and also captivates attention, making the reading experience enjoyable and interactive. Troll is fed up with eating boring old goats, so off he strolls in search of some scrumptious children. But the little boy on the bike insists that the four children in the car behind him would be FAR tastier than him. Funny and shows quick thinking resilient children outwitting the troll.
It's a No Money Day,		Kate Milner	An essential book to help develop empathy in younger readers. Relayed through a child's eyes, a story illustrates how a mother struggles to manage to buy day-to-day necessities, and has to rely on a foodbank to feed them both. Matter-of-fact narrative does illustrate this pertinent issue effectively & with some positivity. Lots of discussion points here Keywords: Poverty, Parent and child, Citizenship, PSHE, Situation books
Never Ever		Jo Empson	Humorous book. Nothing ever happens to me. Never, ever. Ever, never. Nothing. Or does it? A little girl bemoans that nothing exciting ever happens to her as a series of events unfold around her which she completely fails to notice. Great for sharing- children will respond well to repetition and will easily pick up on the pattern and be able to join in with some of the 'ever's. Discussion opportunities here!
The Misadventures of Frederick,		Emma Chichester Clark	Endearing main characters, nice illustrations and developing friendship through letters - very appealing. Using letters written on paper aeroplanes, a young girl tries to encourage a boy to leave his mansion room to play with her in the forest. It's a glorious summer's day...and Frederick is indoors. When Emily invites him outside to play, Frederick is worried. What if he catches a chill? What if he falls off his bike? What if he gets swarmed by hornets? Emily, however, is not the type to give up so easily. Great book for Year 1 for discussions about involving others, worries, overcoming fears.
The Ugly Five,		Julia Donaldson	Written in Julia Donaldson's signature rhyming style, the story introduces readers to the wildebeest, warthog, vulture, hyena, and marabou stork—playfully known as "The Ugly Five." This book is a wonderful choice for Year 1 as it not only engages them with its rhythmic language and vibrant illustrations but also imparts a valuable lesson about acceptance and embracing differences. Themes of self-esteem, diversity, and the importance of inner qualities over outward appearances.. Can generate discussion about real beauty and what we admire in people. Encouraging positive values early.
Grumpycorn,		Sarah McIntyre	A unicorn alienates his friends as they try to help him when he decides to try and write a story but struggles coming up with inspiration for an idea. Content suitable for generating discussion about how we treat our friends, what good friends do, how to control our emotions, when to express them. Encourages Year 1 to embrace the creative process, even when faced with obstacles, and the humour embedded in the story provides a light-hearted approach to valuable lessons about resilience and imagination.
Rocket Mole,		Matt Carr	Bold bright colours, an endearing adventurer with plenty of humorous touches and plays on words. An entertaining fun read. Armstrong the star-nosed mole wants to go to the moon, alone. Fun book with fun facts about moles and the moon. Provides opportunities for discussions on perseverance, the joy of exploration, determination, friendship, and the pursuit of dreams in a fun and accessible manner.

Peace at Last,		Jill Murphy	Revisit of an old favourite. Important to keep a few classics among the many new authors being used. Mr Bear tries in vain to get a good night's sleep despite a host of distracting noises. Opportunities for discussions on daily routines, empathy, and the importance of a peaceful sleep environment.
Thud		Nick Butterworth	In a fantastical land where even warthogs are beautiful, the peace is shattered one day when a mouse hears the deafening thud of a monster. All the animals agree to approach the monster together, only to find they are in for a surprise. Delightful. Told with characteristic humour. Excellent for reading aloud to Year 1 and for discussing making judgements before we know someone. Or letting others convince us to believe something!
Albert le Blanc,		Nick Butterworth	Another for discussion. The toys in a toyshop put on a show to cheer up a sad looking bear. PSHE. Friends meaning well...sometimes talking and LISTENING is more important rather than assuming we know best.
My Name is not refugee		Kate Milner	Clear, moving illustrations complement this simple, touching book that explains the refugee crisis in an accessible way. Young readers are asked direct questions at each stage of the boy's journey to help them think about the challenges faced by a displaced child. Year 1 teachers requested more books like this after the success of discussions following Milner's 'It's a no money day'
Hansel and Gretel,		Anthony Browne	Expressive pictures and a typical Browne style. Each year group from 1 -4 has a Browne book. Great for generating discussion about the traditional tales that they are familiar with vs Browne's version.
Milo's Monster		Tom Percival	Another book from the Big Bright Feelings series after the success of Ravi's Roar with our children: what to do when jealousy comes between friends. Warm and uplifting, Milo's Monster is an ideal starting point for helping children to build strong friendships and say goodbye to jealous feelings. This series provides kid-friendly entry points into emotional intelligence topics: being true to yourself, dealing with worries, managing anger, and making friends. These topics can be difficult to talk about. These books act as sensitive and reassuring springboards for conversations about mental and emotional health, positive self-image, building self-confidence, and managing feelings.
Tilda Tries again		Tom Percival	As above – another book from the Big Bright Feelings series following success of Ravi's Roar. Tilda doesn't like change. But one day, Tilda's world turns completely UPSIDE DOWN. Things that were once easy now seem incredibly challenging. Everything is just so different and hard. Bold, bright, and empowering, this inspiring story about coping with unexpected changes is perfect for helping children build resilience. Perfect for challenges we have been experiencing since lockdown.
Teach your dragon to understand consequences		Steve Herman	An introduction to consequences in a removed way, putting children in a position of responsibility instead of feeling like they are having something put upon them. A dragon is taught that everything we do, no matter small or big, will come back in return, and so he should consider doing good things instead. Discussions abound, teaching children valuable social and emotional life lessons.
Wigglesbottom Primary		Pamela Butchart	Longer book – looking into chapter books. We need to branch out from Dahl (although he does this so well!) This modern series offers a whimsical and relatable glimpse into the everyday adventures of school life. The humour and imaginative storytelling by Pamela Butchart provides an opportunity to explore chapter books in familiar settings, and lots of opportunities to laugh.

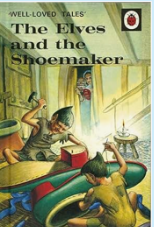
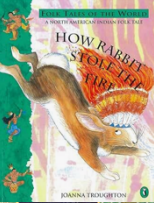
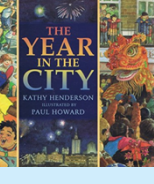
Get Moving (poetry)		Kev Payne	Get Moving is a good choice for Year 1, as it combines the joy of poetry with a focus on movement and physical activity encouraging them to engage both mentally and physically. Great introduction to the fact that poetry should be heard and felt!
Caterpillar Cake (poetry)		Matt Goodfellow	A diverse and inclusive collection of original poems perfect for Year 1. This read-aloud collection for young children has lots to join in with and is great for introducing poetry. Matt Goodfellow is a former primary school teacher. His books are used in year 6 too, so this is a good introduction to the poet.
Wriggle and Roar		Julia Donaldson	A lively and rhythmic book that invites children to join in and make noise as they explore various animals and their movements. The engaging text and vibrant illustrations create an interactive and entertaining reading experience for children – perfect for joining in.
Nag Club		Anne Fine	Another slightly longer book to start introducing Year 1 to this kind of read. Well-known female author who will be revisited in year 2 with The Killer Cat series.
The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch		Rhonda Armitage	Another revisit to a classic originally shared with the children in Early Years. Its engaging narrative, charming illustrations offers opportunities for discussions on teamwork, ingenuity, and the joy of overcoming challenges.
Dread Cat		Michael Rosen	Another longer read. Witty, lively and full of fun, this cat-and-mouse tale from a former Children's Laureate is sure to delight Year 1 with clever twists and the satisfying defeat of one terrifying cat.
Dirty Bertie		David Roberts	Another longer read. (with the shorter picture book version in Grow with a Book) The humour and relatable situations in Bertie's adventures make these books entertaining and enjoyable for Year 1 who are transitioning into longer books among their important picture books and short stories.
Jelly Boots Smelly Boots		Michael Rosen	Important poet to get to know (especially after reading 'The Bear Hunt' earlier in the school, but with a book of poetry that may not be considered over the more obvious 'Chocolate Cake' Filled with colour illustrations and packed with silly rhymes, witty wordplay and thought-provoking story poems, this collection will delight Year 1.
Would you rather		John Burningham	An excellent book to share aloud with Year 1 children as it will lead to a lively discussion. The book presents whimsical scenarios, posing entertaining and thought-provoking questions that encourage children to explore their preferences and make choices. The interactive nature of the book not only engages young minds but also promotes language development and critical thinking skills.
A Little Dose of Nature		Alison Greenwood	A non-fiction book. Being surrounded by greenery, wildlife, and fresh air is scientifically proven to be one of the most effective – and neglected – ways to de-stress and boost wellbeing. This book introduces kids to nature's five 'key ingredients', which can provide cognitive and emotional benefits. Great to support forest school.
Jack Beechwhistle: Attack of the giant slugs		Kes Gray	Humorous, action-packed storyline, and quirky characters. Kes Gray's writing style, combined with Jim Field's lively illustrations, creates an engaging and entertaining reading experience for young readers getting used to longer reads. The Jack Beechwhistle series is designed to appeal to children who enjoy humorous and adventurous tales so this is a good place to start with our budding readers.
Little Red Riding Hood		Ladybird	Classic fairy tale introduced during early years and revisited here. Familiar and timeless tales help create a shared literary experience and create a sense of cultural continuity. The repetition in language patterns supports early reading skills by helping Year 1 recognise and understand common words and phrases, contributing to their emergent reading abilities. The fairy tale format, with a clear beginning, middle, and end, provides an introduction to basic story structure. Year 1 can begin to understand narrative elements such as characters, setting, and plot development. This familiar book will be used at the beginning of year 1 as a stimulus for writing outcomes.

<p>The Gingerbread Man</p> 	<p>Ladybird</p>	<p>As above: Classic fairy tale introduced during early years and revisited here. Familiar and timeless tales help create a shared literary experience and create a sense of cultural continuity. The repetition in language patterns supports early reading skills by helping Year 1 recognise and understand common words and phrases, contributing to their emergent reading abilities. The fairy tale format, with a clear beginning, middle, and end, provides an introduction to basic story structure. Year 1 can begin to understand narrative elements such as characters, setting, and plot development. This familiar book will be used at the beginning of year 1 as a stimulus for writing outcomes.</p>
<p>Where the Wild things Are</p> 	<p>Maurice Sendak</p>	<p>Another timeless classic, celebrated for its rich narrative and enchanting illustrations, which serves as a gateway to the world of imagination and emotional exploration. At this critical stage of cognitive development, the book provides a platform for teachers to delve into discussions about emotions, self-expression, and the importance of understanding one's feelings. Great writing opportunities and will be used as part of writing curriculum.</p>
<p>Down behind the Dustbin (poetry)</p> 	<p>Michael Rosen</p>	<p>How could we not include Michael Rosen? Whimsical and rhythmic poem engages children with its playful language and relatable imagery which also serves as a delightful introduction to the joy of poetry. At this early stage in their literary exploration, exposing children to the rhythmic patterns and expressive nature of poetry enhances their phonemic awareness and language development supporting early literacy skills. This poem will be used as a stimulus for the writing curriculum.</p>
<p>First Cookbook. (Non Fiction)</p> 	<p>Usborne</p>	<p>An important non-fiction text to share with Year 1 so that they see instructions in action and use them in practice. Following a recipe in a step-by-step process, reinforces the importance of sequencing and structuring information in a logical manner. Instructional texts are a form of functional literacy that provides practical skills. Using a children's cookbook allows Year 1 to see the real-world application of reading, as they can follow the instructions to create something tangible—like a simple recipe. This book will be used as a stimuli for writing outcomes.</p>
<p>Funnybones</p> 	<p>Allan Ahlberg</p>	<p>A classic, known for its engaging humorous story, rhythmic language, and delightful illustrations. Children will enjoy actively participating in the storytelling process with the patterned language. Repetition aids in reinforcing vocabulary, enhancing phonemic awareness, and building confidence as children begin to recognise and predict words. It will also be used as a stimuli for writing outcomes.</p>

Year 2 Modelled Readers


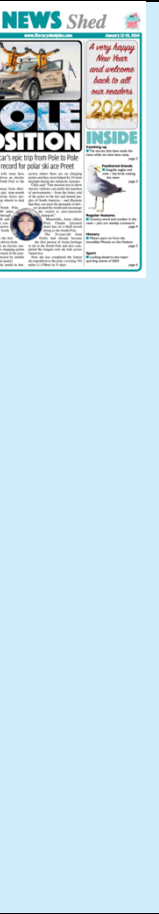
Title	Author	Why this? Why now?
The Diary of a Killer Cat 	Anne Fine	Funny story told in diary form by Tuffy the cat. Tuffy the cat is in big trouble. On Monday he left a dead bird on the carpet. On Wednesday he brought in a dead mouse but worse of all, on Thursday Ellie and her family discover Thumper, next door's rabbit. Dead. Reading age 7-9 (which is why I have included sequels in Grow with a book for confident readers) but sarcastic sense of humour could do with some explaining by teacher modelling for the first in the series!
The Iron Man 	Ted Hughes	A classic! The Iron Man came to the top of the cliff. Where had he come from? Nobody knows. How was he made? Nobody knows. But one little boy realises that the Iron Man is not here to destroy the Earth. He could even save the planet from a new, more deadly danger! A favourite of Mrs Butler and lots of D&T opportunities for Year 2. Quite full of peril! Read first and be sure of your class - perhaps one for later on in the year.
Flat Stanley 	Jeff Brown	Follows the adventures of Stanley, when he becomes only half an inch thick. Stanley Lambchop was just an ordinary boy - until a noticeboard fell on him. Now he's flat as a pancake! Short, fun chapter book classic for children who are getting used to hearing a longer book. Lots of writing opportunities and will be used as part of the writing curriculum to produce another Stanley Adventure.
Where the Poppies Now Grow 	Hillary Robinson	Short, poignant book, told in the style of 'The House that Jack Built', tells the story of two friends who join the army to fight in World War I. Doesn't have a huge amount of information about the war - but would beautifully accompany the information given and poetry taught in November.
The Sheep Pig 	Dick King Smith	A classic. Not too long. An orphaned piglet is adopted by a sheep-dog and discovers that he is a natural at herding sheep. One of Dick King-Smith's most famous tales but we are eager for children to hear the story before relying on the ever-popular 'Babe'! Reading age 8-10 but this has been used successfully with Year 2 with teacher modelling and making more accessible.
Fantastic Mr Fox 	Roald Dahl	Three mean farmers try unsuccessfully to trap the cunning Mr Fox. Now the farmers have hatched a plan to BANG-BANG-BANG shoot Mr Fox dead. But, just when they think Mr Fox can't possibly escape, he makes a fantastic plan of his own...A children's classic and important to continue introducing children to Dahl as there is an overreliance on watching the film over the past few years. Reading age 8-10 but teacher reading will make this accessible. Perfect length and chapter length for year 2 children who are starting to listen to longer books.
The Owl who was afraid of the Dark 	Jill Tomlinson	A baby barn owl is afraid of the dark until some exciting nocturnal adventures help him to overcome his fear. Heart-warming classic. Great for discussion about our fears in Year 2. Short chapter book - ideal for start of year 2 when children are getting used to hearing a longer story.
How to Train your dragon 	Cressida Cowell	For cohorts who may need something more: A young not-so-heroic Viking becomes a hero when he saves his tribe from a gigantic sea dragon. Well-written and exciting with pace and humour. Interest level banded as 7-11. Teacher reading this story nearer the end of Year 2 will ensure that this fantasy story is accessible to all. Will hopefully encourage further reading of this series independently in coming years - we have many in the library!
Mr Men and Little Miss Series 	Roger Hargreaves	This series provides a perfect blend of entertainment and educational value. The seemingly simple narratives are engaging and cater to the developmental needs of young readers, fostering a love for reading while honing essential literacy skills such as ambitious vocabulary, authorial intrusion and deliberate repetition of structure. The relatable and diverse characters in the series offer valuable lessons on emotions, friendship and problem-solving - relevant to the social and emotional growth of children at this crucial stage in their education.
An Alien in the Jam Factory 	Chrissie Sains	Brilliant, fun characters, fun modern plot and sensitively written where the main character is living with cerebral palsy, but this isn't relied upon as the main draw of the story. Scooter's cerebral palsy affects him, but it's doesn't define him – an important message for our Year 2s to understand. More in the series for children who enjoy this – Year 3 Grow with a Book section.

The Big Book of the Blue		Yuval Zommer	Important to have a captivating non-fiction option too. A Golden Thread link as children look at impact of ocean pollution. Why do octopuses have eight arms? Why do crabs run sideways? Are jellyfish made of jelly? This fascinating book provides the answers to these and many more fishy questions. Quirky illustrations, chatty, funny and full of amazing facts. Several more in the series if this is popular. Will be used for a writing outcome too.
It's a wonderful world		Jess French	Another important and captivating non-fiction option. A Golden Thread link as we consider the impact of humans on our world and, more importantly, how we can make a difference. Direct appeal from author to children makes them realise that they have a role to play and see how important they are to the future of our planet. An empowering and practical guide and perfect for Year 2 – especially with our resident Eco Queen: Mrs Sallis!
The Christmas Pine		Julia Donaldson	The Christmas Pine is based on a true story. It celebrates a 70 year tradition. Every year, the Mayor of Oslo in Norway presents the British people with a spectacular Christmas tree. The tree is a symbol of peace and friendship, and a thank you for the UK's support during World War II. Nice to have another nod to WWII that doesn't just fall in November. Each year, the UK Poetry Society asks a poet to write a poem to welcome the tree. Julia Donaldson originally wrote The Christmas Pine to celebrate the 2020 Christmas tree. The poem was performed by London schoolchildren, and displayed in Trafalgar Square. Chance to perform and enjoy the poetry in our classroom setting and also a source of descriptive writing in our writing curriculum.
The Koala who could		Rachel Bright	The beautifully illustrated story follows Kevin the Koala, who initially resists change but learns to adapt and embrace new experiences. The theme of overcoming challenges is very relevant to the developmental stage of Year 2, encouraging discussions about facing changes and building resilience. The story explores emotions and the process of navigating change, providing an opportunity for Year 2 to develop emotional intelligence. Discussions around Kevin's feelings and the importance of expressing and managing emotions contribute to social and emotional growth. Kevin's journey encourages empathy as children relate to his initial fears and cheer for his eventual triumph. This story will be used as a stimulus for writing outcomes.
Not Now Bernard		David McKee	Classic again. A boy's parents ignore his warnings about a monster and fail to notice when he is eaten. The tale of Bernard's attempts to communicate his needs in a busy world provides an engaging platform for discussions on effective communication and the significance of listening. Not a challenging read at all and children could read it themselves, but so much important discussion can come from this book it feels more suited to year 2 than year 1.
The Proudest Blue		Ibtihaj Muhammad	Important picture book about religion, sisterhood and identity. It's Faizah's first day of school, and her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab – made of a beautiful blue fabric. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful. In the face of hurtful, confusing words, will Faizah find new ways to be strong? This is an uplifting, universal story of new experiences, resilience and of being proud of who you are. Important in year 2 for teaching tolerance, more than tolerance – love for others who may not have the same beliefs as us. Year 2 look at Islam during multi-faith week and this is an important book to share with them.
People Need People (Poetry)		Benjamin Zephaniah	Uplifting and so perfect for our school and our ethos of showing love to others. Picture book about the power of people, and the importance of connecting with others. Important for teaching children how we thrive when living with others and their differences, reminding us all to be kind to one another.
A dinosaur at the bus stop (poetry)		Kate Wakeling	A 'not so obvious' poet. Wakeling's poems are easy to relate to and cover a great range of topics and emotions, from stick collections to monsters to yawns, toes and kites. Quiet and thoughtful. Hilarious and questioning. There's a huge variety to enjoy, ranging in form, rhythm and imagery with really beautiful, engaging illustrations. The poems leap off the page, they are tangible, visual, evocative and fun. Fantastic for Year 2.

<p>The Elves and the Shoemaker</p>		<p>Ladybird</p>	<p>A classic traditional tale already introduced in Early Years and revisited now. Working with timeless tales fosters a sense of cultural continuity and provides a shared literary experience. Many fairy tales, including this one, feature repetition of structure and predictable narratives. This repetition supports early reading skills, contributing to year 2s reading fluency. The familiar pattern of a problem, helper and resolution provides a scaffold for Year 2 to understand and predict story elements. Will be used as a stimulus for writing outcomes.</p>
<p>How Rabbit Stole the Fire</p>		<p>Joanna Troughton</p>	<p>Traditional tale rooted in Native American folklore, providing Year 2 with a valuable opportunity to explore different cultures and traditions. It opens the door for discussions on diversity and fosters an appreciation for storytelling from various backgrounds. Lots of potential for discussions on themes like resourcefulness and the consequences of one's actions. This text will be used as the stimulus for writing outcomes.</p>
<p>This is the City.</p>		<p>Kathy Henderson</p>	<p>The poem invites children to create mental images of the cityscape through its vivid poetic language. Developing the skill of visualisation is crucial for reading comprehension, and 'This is the City' provides a sensory and imaginative experience of the urban environment for Year 2. The rhythm makes it more than suitable for read-aloud sessions and it will be used as a stimulus for writing outcomes.</p>


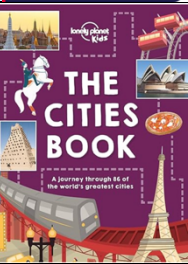
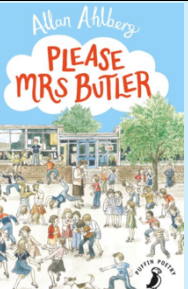
Year 3 Modelled Readers

Title	Author	Why this? Why now?
Akimbo and the Elephant 	Alexander McCall Smith	An African boy tackles elephant poachers by using unusual techniques. Conservation theme - links closely with Year 3 Golden Thread, How our actions impact the planet with a focus on poachers. A hit with Year 3 each year.
George's Marvellous Medicine 	Roald Dahl	George is left to look after his grandmother but gets into trouble when he brews a potion to make her more likeable. A core perennial favourite. Links well with Year 3 writing instructions and such a wonderful book to read aloud. The book's engaging narrative and eccentric characters make it a compelling choice, leading inevitable to a lively and interactive classroom environment. Perfect to continue the Dahl journey and don't forget to enjoy Rik Mayall reading it too!
Charlotte's Web 	EB White	This timeless classic, celebrated for its poignant themes of friendship, compassion, and the circle of life, aligns with the emotional and intellectual development of Year 3. The characters of Wilbur and Charlotte provide a platform for discussions on empathy, morality, and the interconnectedness of life, fostering not only literacy skills but also emotional intelligence. The rich vocabulary and descriptive language in the book contribute to language enrichment, made more accessible by teacher reading to children.
A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning 	Lemony Snickett	As Year 3 progress in their literary journey, the series introduces them to a more intricate and suspenseful narrative structure. The darkly humorous (but safe as there is and no sense of 'reality') and mysterious tone of the book not only engages children but also encourages them to think critically about plot twists and character motivations. An interesting authorial style to discuss and the series, known for its wordplay and sophisticated vocabulary, contributes to language enrichment. Great for persuasive techniques and new vocabulary.
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe 	CS Lewis	Classic fantasy novel and a great example of the more sophisticated literature children are ready for on their reading journey. Great for introducing new genre to Year 3. (with a series available in library for fans of CS Lewis) The enchanting world of Narnia introduces children to a classic tale of adventure, friendship, and the eternal struggle between good and evil. The novel's rich narrative and vivid descriptions captivate the imagination and provide a more intricate storyline, challenging students to engage with complex characters. Perfect for writing opportunities and is the source of writing outcomes in year 3.
Llama Out Loud 	Annabelle Sami	Wonderfully funny and diverse modern book! Perfect for reading aloud to year 3 and so many character voices to really enjoy! About a 10 year old girl who doesn't speak. Annabelle Sami realised there was a lack of representation of funny girls and diverse characters in children's books – and she decided to do something about it. Growing up mixed-race, she never found her own life reflected in a book and now it's her mission to make sure that every spirited, witty and adventurous girl has her own special book that she can relate to.
Leon and the place between 	Angela McAllister/Grahame Baker-Smith	This book's enchanting narrative and captivating pictures stimulates creativity and encourages students to explore the boundaries of reality and fantasy. The font is a bit tricky to navigate so teacher modelling is vital for this story. Discussions on themes of bravery, curiosity, and the concept of magical realms. Will be used for Writing outcomes as part of our writing curriculum.

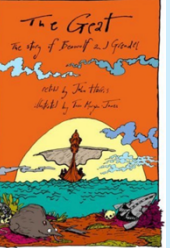
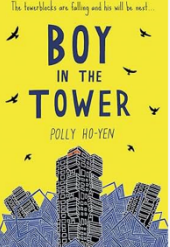
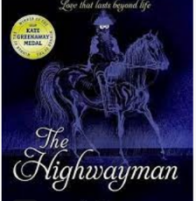
<p>The Magic Box. (poetry)</p>		<p>Kit Wright</p>	<p>An evocative classic poem full of vivid language and creative imagery. The poem encourages children to tap into their own creativity, as they envision and articulate the magical contents of their metaphorical magic boxes. This poem will be used as a stimulus for Writing Outcomes: My Christmas Box.</p>
<p>The True Story of the Three Little Pigs</p>		<p>Jon Scieszka</p>	<p>After working with traditional tales since nursery, this book allows literary exploration. The book's imaginative twist on a classic fairy tale is humorous and introduces them to the concept of perspective. The story provides a playful and engaging way to explore different points of view and narrative structures. This book will be used as a stimulus to inspire writing outcomes: eg 'The true story of Goldilocks'</p>
<p>Courage Out Loud. (poetry)</p>		<p>Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho.</p>	<p>This collection seamlessly blends diverse poetry styles with an exploration of children's emotions. Each poem comes with an introduction, whether providing insights into the poetic form or posing questions and reflections on feelings. The language used is both accessible and challenging. The poems contain mantras to be true to yourself, to help you feel brave, project happiness, conjure a smile, make you laugh and cheer others up. Some are odes, some can be said as personal mantras and some instil confidence and help children realise the power of their voices. Reading these poems aloud will teach children the power of poetry, encouraging them to explore the magic of language. Supportive for navigating through various developmental emotions and can be used to spark discussions on feelings. Opportunities for children to engage in poetry performances to enhance oral communication skills and boost their confidence in expressing themselves.</p>
<p>Non fiction: First News/The News Shed and other Child-Friendly newspaper sources</p>		<p>First News and Literacy Shed Plus News Shed</p>	<p>Shared and modelled reading of newspapers in Year 3 is so important for several reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)Encourages Current Affairs Awareness and enhances General Knowledge: present age-appropriate news stories that introduce Year 3 to current affairs and events happening around the world as well as a range of topics including science, culture, sports. This exposure nurtures an early interest in the world beyond their immediate environment. 2)Boosts Vocabulary Development: News articles often include a diverse range of vocabulary. Exposure to this rich language in context aids in the expansion of Year 3 vocabulary, helping them develop a more extensive language repertoire. 3)Cultivates Critical Thinking Skills: Child-friendly newspapers present information in a way that encourages critical thinking. Modelled by the teacher, Year 3 can learn to ask questions, analyse information, and form opinions, promoting the development of critical thinking skills. 4)Encourages Discussion and Debate: Reading news articles can spark discussions and debates in the classroom. This promotes communication skills, active listening, and the ability to express opinions, fostering a classroom environment where diverse perspectives are valued. 5)Promotes Cultural Awareness: Child-friendly newspapers often cover stories from different parts of the world, promoting cultural awareness and understanding. Year 3 learn about different cultures, traditions, and perspectives, fostering a sense of global citizenship. 6) Builds a Habit of Informed Citizenship: Introducing child-friendly newspapers at an early age helps build a positive habit of staying informed. It lays the foundation for a lifelong interest in current events and being an informed and responsible citizen which perfectly aligns with our Golden Threads and what we aim to do as a school.
<p>Varjak Paw</p>		<p>SF Said</p>	<p>If another book is needed in the year: Modern author, and important for representative diversity. A cat learns about an ancient martial art from a mysterious ancestor when he is forced out of his home and made to survive in the city. I kept putting off reading this book, but I shouldn't have; it's an interesting animal adventure and a challenging read made accessible with teacher reading.</p>

Year 4 Modelled Readers

Title	Author	Why this? Why now?
<p>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane,</p>	<p>Kate DiCamillo</p>	<p>The magical story of the adventures of a lost toy rabbit. Abilene loves her blue china rabbit, but Edward Tulane is extremely vain and only loves himself. On a voyage from New York to London, Edward falls overboard and from there finds himself on an amazing journey. He travels, works as a scarecrow, comforts a dying child ... and finally learns what it is to truly love. Follow this selfish toy on his long journey and see the world through his eyes. A book that is sure to become a modern classic. Beautifully written and so much to learn about the impact we have and can potentially have on others. Important at this age to think about our actions.</p>
<p>Journey to Jo'burg</p>	<p>Beverley Naidoo</p>	<p>A Classic. Frightened that their baby sister Dineo will die, thirteen-year-old Naledi and her younger brother Tiro run away from their grandmother to Johannesburg to find their mother, who works there as a maid. Their journey illustrates the grim realities of apartheid - the pass laws, Bantustans, racism, the breakdown of family life. A book which has been read and enjoyed in Year 4 for many years opening children's eyes to historical events but also allowing them a stepping stone to discuss racism still apparent today and the importance of tolerance, acceptance, love and our Christian values.</p>
<p>The Creakers,</p>	<p>Tom Fletcher</p>	<p>An adventure with a strong female lead and plenty of gruesome monsters and "yuck" moments. A thriller! The book's whimsical and mysterious narrative aligns seamlessly with the expanding imagination and cognitive development of the students. The Creakers not only captivates Year 4 with its engaging storyline but also introduces themes of friendship, courage, and problem-solving, providing valuable life lessons in an accessible and entertaining manner. The novel's blend of humour and adventure serves as a bridge to more complex narratives. The relatable characters and imaginative and funny elements of the story do not exactly provide a challenge but allow children to broaden their repertoire of genres and authors.</p>
<p>The Wild Robot,</p>	<p>Peter Brown</p>	<p>The Wild Robot is a meditation on what it is to be human and a fun adventure full of belonging and fitting in and considering how we treat others. The blend of nature and futuristic technology is unusual and interesting. The language is rich but easy to read and decipher for Year 4 so this will be great for improving comprehension skills. The way the author uses subtle hints to create a picture is creative and lends itself really well to high level inference and figuring out context from words used. The chapters are short so won't over face reluctant readers, but each chapter is full of information - no filler. Sequels can be added to Grow with a Book.</p>
<p>The Last Bear</p>	<p>Hannah Gold</p>	<p>The Last Bear's poignant narrative and themes of conservation and empathy provide a timely opportunity for children to engage with real-world issues. It encourages discussions on environmental stewardship and the importance of compassion. In the context of current global concerns for the environment, The Last Bear becomes a powerful and relevant addition to the curriculum, sparking both literary enthusiasm and a sense of environmental consciousness among Year 4 children. Sequels can be added to Grow with a Book. The author is responsive and active on Twitter and has responded to Mrs Lewis in the past so will be great for engagement. The book will be used as part of the writing curriculum.</p>
<p>The Firework Maker's Daughter</p>	<p>Phillip Pullman</p>	<p>A classic. At this stage in their academic journey, this book's narrative and cultural richness align with children's growing intellectual curiosity and comprehension abilities. It is shorter than Year 3's The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, but there are no supporting films etc and the rich language and diversity feels more suited to year 4. There is a captivating adventure and exposes children to diverse cultural elements, encouraging an appreciation for global perspectives. "The Firework Maker's Daughter" can spark discussions on courage, determination, feminism and the pursuit of one's dreams. Will be used as part of the writing curriculum.</p>


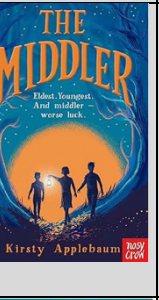

<p>Why the bananas belong to the monkey</p>		<p>Angela McAllister</p>	<p>The story is based on a traditional African folktale, providing Year 4 students with an opportunity to explore different cultures and traditions. It introduces them to diverse storytelling traditions and broadens their understanding of narratives beyond their own cultural experiences.</p> <p>Moral Lessons: Folktales often convey moral or ethical lessons. "Why the Bananas Belong to the Monkey" invites discussions on themes such as fairness, resourcefulness, and the consequences of one's actions. Feel free to explore the other tales in this fantastic collection.</p>
<p>The Cities</p>		<p>Lonely Planet Kids</p>	<p>A lovely non-fiction book. Introduces Year 4 to a diverse array of cities from around the world. Broadens understanding of global cultures, landmarks, and urban landscapes. This book will enhance Year 4's skills in navigating informational texts, providing opportunities for children to extract relevant information, identify key details and layout devices, and develop their ability to comprehend and analyse non-fiction content. Vibrant illustrations and photographs too. This book will be used as a stimulus for writing outcomes.</p>
<p>Please Mrs Butler (Poetry)</p>		<p>Allan Ahlberg</p>	<p>Who doesn't love these poems!?! There are plenty of modern poets available in Year 4's Grow with a Book collection, but this classic collection really is a must. A witty collection of poems about school. Full of classroom events that will be recognised and enjoyed by everyone: the candid revelations in a pupil's newsbook, the problem of copycats, bickering, making up, swaps, picking teams and forming gangs. Many of the poems are suitable for group or individual performances. Engaging Year 4 in recitations or performances of the poems enhances their public speaking skills, confidence, and presentation abilities.</p>

Year 5 Modelled Readers

Title	Author	Why this? Why now?
Floodland 	Marcus Sedgwick	<p>Has certainly become a classic and has earned the title. Linked to Golden Thread - Human impact on our planet. A strong female lead. A girl survives on an island after a catastrophic flood separates her from her family. Imagine that England is covered by water, and Norwich is an island...Zoë, left behind in the confusion when her parents escaped, survives there as best she can. Alone and desperate among marauding gangs, she manages to dig a boat out of the mud and gets away to Eels Island, but what she finds there is even worse! This story teaches us about desperation and what it does to humans.</p>
There's a boy in the girls' bathroom 	Louis Sachar	<p>Heart-warming, funny and engaging with an anti-hero to invest in. Bradley Chalkers. He's the oldest child in the class. He tells ENORMOUS lies. He picks fights with girls. The teachers say he has 'serious behaviour problems'. And no one likes him...Except Carla Davies, the school counsellor, who helps Bradley to see his own value. This is a story of isolation, bravery and acceptance - hugely popular with year 5 who are completely emotionally invested in Bradley's life and enjoy picking apart and analysing the behaviours of each character as they react to events. They will move onto Sachar, Holes in year 6.</p>
The Geat, 	John Harris	<p>The original horror story! 2000 years old. But not just another retelling of the old Anglo Saxon poem. Recaptures the spirit of the original oral tradition story. Has a storyteller 'feel' to the book. John Harris the author is a professional 'storyteller' and tells the story in front of live audiences. So much opportunity here for really going over the top as you read to engage the children. This book has been chosen and intended to broaden the children's understanding and experience of genre by delving into legends and horror. Fantastic at the for year 5 for linking to the 'description' writing genre.</p>
The Nightbus Hero, 	Onjali Q Rauf	<p>After reading 'There's a boy in the Girls' Bathroom and enjoying rooting for the anti-hero as he works on himself, children can look at another 'bully' another boy who is taking the wrong path. Written from the 'bully's perspective, this is another character they can become invested in. With a strong female character for girls to warm to, this book carefully and sensitively explores homelessness. Told through humour it also includes themes of kindness and empathy whilst celebrating that people can change for the good.</p>
The Last Wild 	Piers Torday	<p>The Last Wild's intricate storytelling and environmental themes align seamlessly with children's expanding worldview. The Last Wild is imaginative and can spark discussions on pressing issues of conservation, biodiversity, and the impact of human actions on the natural world – our Golden Thread throughout the school. In the current global context of environmental concerns, the book becomes a timely educational tool, providing students with insights into the importance of ecological stewardship and the interconnectedness of all living things. Will be used as part of the Writing Curriculum.</p>
Boy in the Tower, 	Polly Ho Yen	<p>A really interesting genre. When strange plant spores begin destroying buildings and killing people, a young boy and others strive to survive in their tower block in south London. Almost a thriller for children! Important for children to witness a young carer, a BAME main character, the effects and brutality of racism, a child who doesn't seem to fit in but has a great friend, Gaia who is strong and dependable. Children learn about friendship, thrill at the peril and enjoy the adventure in this HG Wells style tale. Maybe wait until Pandemic is over!</p>
The Highwayman (poetry) 	Alfred Noyes	<p>A narrative poetry, ever-popular classic. This has been well-loved by Year 5 for years and continues to be popular. Known for its rich and evocative language, making it an excellent choice Year 5. The vivid imagery and descriptive language stimulate the imagination, fostering an appreciation for the beauty of language. Literary devices such as alliteration, metaphor, and personification are used to great effect. Introducing these devices to Year 5 enhances their understanding of figurative language and will encourage them to explore the ways poets use language for effect. Used as a stimulus for writing outcomes in Year 5.</p>

Year 6 Modelled Readers

Title	Author	Why this? Why now?
<p>Holes</p> 	<p>Louis Sachar</p>	<p>What a fantastic book! A firm favourite with Mrs Upton. Fantastic for exploring injustice in this humorous book. Issues of racism, bullying, undermining true potential and friendship. Lots of passionate discussion can come from this and it rightly endures as a favourite. After having <i>There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom</i> read to them in year 5, children will be familiar with this author and will be in a position to make comparisons and consider the author's purpose with the two books.</p>
<p>Millions</p> 	<p>Frank Cottrell Boyce</p>	<p>Fantastic story about 2 brothers who trying to cope in their own ways after losing their mum to cancer. One has turned to the saints and knows EVERYTHING about them whilst the other is definitely not so virtuous! The boys accidentally find themselves the owners of stolen money, which is about to become worthless with the introduction of the Euro. Torn between the vices of buying a million pizzas and the virtues of ending world poverty. The saints come to advise! Lovely, heart-warming book for this year group about to make their confirmation and are carefully considering which saint inspires them the most.</p>
<p>Once,</p> 	<p>Morris Gleitzman</p>	<p>With Year 6 Golden Thread looking at why people travel to escape, they will be looking at World War 2. Knowing more about the Holocaust (something Year 6 do in November when they learn from survivors on Holocaust Memorial Day) is important. This book is written from the point of view of an amusing and likeable Jewish boy who was hidden in a Catholic orphanage before he sets off on an adventure. It offers an insight into the atrocities without going as far as <i>The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</i>.</p>
<p>Letters from the Lighthouse</p> 	<p>Emma Carroll</p>	<p>Historical context and themes of resilience, friendship, and the impact of war. Set against the backdrop of World War II, this book offers an opportunity for children to gain historical insights and empathy. <i>Letters from the Lighthouse</i> encourages discussions on important topics such as human rights, diversity, and the enduring strength of the human spirit. In a world where global awareness is increasingly vital, the novel serves as a thought-provoking vehicle for expanding cultural understanding and instilling values of compassion and unity. Being used at the moment as an alternative to <i>Goodnight Mr Tom</i>.</p>
<p>Dreadwood</p> 	<p>Jennifer Killick</p>	<p>A comedy horror! Modern author who has nailed this genre! Really enjoyable. Thrillers seem to be lacking in this age range. This book manages to be suspense-filled and scary but levelled with humour so is perfect for Year 6. Plenty of others in the series for <i>Grow with a Book</i>. Children will love this and provides a light-hearted escape in a year that demands a lot of them.</p>
<p>The Purple Lady (Blackberry Blue)</p> 	<p>Jamila Gavin</p>	<p>A shorter read quest. Refreshing to have non-European characters in traditional fairy tale settings and so valuable for our children to read and internalise. An original story but still familiar in terms of the themes explored such as the dangers of envy, the importance of kindness and of family – a tale of adventure and sacrifice, of loss and triumph. It is also quite scary! So definitely more appropriate for Year 6. This will be used as a stimulus for writing outcomes. Feel free to share the other tales from this collection.</p>
<p>The Listeners</p> 	<p>Walter de la Mare</p>	<p>"Is anybody there?" Another classic narrative poem with mysterious, supernatural and atmospheric themes, prompting Year 6 to engage their imaginations. The mysterious encounter between the Traveller and the spectral Listeners provides a thoroughly captivating narrative that sparks curiosity and discussion as the children try to figure out who the traveller is, who the listeners are and what did he promise? Analysing the poem encourages an appreciation for poetic language, metaphor, and the rhythmic elements of verse. This will be used as the stimulus for writing outcomes. Don't forget to enjoy the creepy YouTube version!</p>

<p>Windrush Child.</p>		<p>Benjamin Zephaniah</p>	<p>Choice to Listen to via audiobook whilst writing about The Windrush. Using this as a 'choice' book as whilst it is fantastic, there are already two historical fiction modelled readers.</p> <p>An exploration of historical migration and identity resonates profoundly. Against the backdrop of the Windrush generation, this book offers a critical perspective on themes of belonging, cultural heritage, and the resilience of the human spirit. In an era where cultural awareness and inclusivity cannot be promoted enough, Windrush Child, enriching the children's understanding of diverse perspectives and historical narratives. The novel serves as a poignant vehicle for fostering empathy and initiating important discussions on social justice.</p>
<p>The Middler</p>		<p>Kirsty Applebaum</p>	<p>Use if other books are completed before year is finished.</p> <p>What a book! A dystopian novel set during the 'Quiet War' in a town called Fennis Wick, enclosed and protected from the outside world by a boundary, beyond which the Quiet War rages and the dirty, dangerous wanderers roam. Main character is a 'middle child' desperate to be noticed and very relatable! Superb characterisation, an interesting female lead, fear, lies and corruption abound. Children begged for each chapter. Why this? Children at this age seem to be getting fixated on specific authors and genres. This introduces a new author and a genre they won't have been exposed to.</p>
<p>Goodnight Mr Tom,</p>		<p>Michelle Magorian</p>	<p>Used depending on cohort. Letters from the Lighthouse used at the moment.</p> <p>Classic. Linked to Year 6 Golden Thread 'Why people travel' and the link to evacuation, this classic novel is a stunning story with well-developed characters to love and hate, Filled with moments of grief and joy as children explore WW2 from an evacuee's perspective. A young boy blossoms under the care of Mr Tom. There are extremely sad moments in this book which require sensitive handling (child abuse, mother having child outside of marriage, close friend dying, baby dying due to neglect)</p>