



Bredon Hill Academy  
— LEARNING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS —

## Reading for Pleasure Newsletter Autumn 2024

**Our aim is for every student to say: “I am a Bredon Hill Academy student. I am a reader.”**

Welcome to our new cohort in year 6 and welcome back to years 7 & 8. The Reading Newsletter is here to help you and your parents/carers choose the best reads over the coming academic year. We have decided to move to publishing them once a term this year. So there will be three editions.

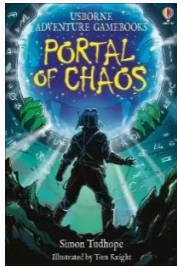
**Our focus this term is: trying to develop a rigorous habit.** We can help our children find the tools they need to succeed in life. Having access to information through the printed word is an absolute necessity. Knowledge is power, and books are full of it. But reading is more than just a practical tool. Through books we can enrich our minds; we can also relax and enjoy some precious leisure moments. With your help, your children can begin a lifelong relationship with the printed word, so they grow into adults who read easily and frequently whether for business, knowledge, or pleasure.

Year Group	Time advised for daily reading and target for words per minute (average adult reads 250 WPM)
6	30 minutes WPM 120-150
7	45 minutes WPM 150-184
8	60 minutes WPM 184-204

Do have a look at the handout accompanying this newsletter for further advice and links to resources. Enjoy your reading.

## Books to try...

Year 6 9+

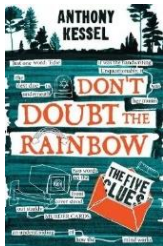


Not that you have any interest in being a hero. You're a bounty hunter, and in your line of work heroes don't last long. But now you've been given a mission you can't refuse. Make it out alive, and you'll never need to work again. Fail, and, well... you'll never need to work again.

And so, staring up at the stars from the cockpit of your spaceship, you blast off on an epic adventure where every choice is yours, and your survival depends upon the decisions you make. Who to fight? Who to trust? In a book where nothing is as it seems, you find yourself grappling with forces beyond your darkest dreams. And you realise it's not just your fate hanging in the balance. No, the universe needs a hero - and like it or not, that hero is you!

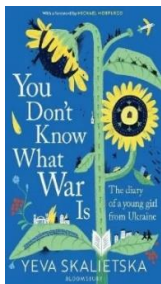
Bringing together a thrilling story, beautifully illustrated picture puzzles and an exciting combat system, this is an adventure that will have you gripped from beginning to end.

Year 7 11+



Don't Doubt the Rainbow is a new contemporary detective series with a difference! Each book in the four-book series is an adventure story in its own right – set in a diverse range of settings from the south-east of England to Canada and Poland. Throughout each book, the reader is encouraged to explore how things are not always how they seem – how our ‘thinking’ often represents our imagined reality rather than what is necessarily true – and examines the nature of the link between thoughts and feelings. As a result, this ground-breaking series will provide middle grade and early teen readers with psychological tools they can use to successfully navigate the challenges of their own lives and develop their “innate health” .

Year 8 12+



Everyone knows the word 'war'. But very few understand what it truly means. When you find you have to face it, you feel totally lost, walled in by fright and despair. Until you've been there, you don't know what war is.

This is the gripping and moving diary of young Ukrainian refugee Yeva Skalietska. It follows twelve days in Ukraine that changed 12-year-old Yeva's life forever. She was woken in the early hours to the terrifying sounds of shelling. Russia had invaded Ukraine, and her beloved Kharkiv home was no longer the safe haven it should have been. It was while she was forced to seek shelter in a damp, cramped basement that Yeva decided to write down her story.

And it is a story the world needs to hear. Yeva captured the nation's heart when she was featured on Channel 4 News with her granny as they fled Ukraine for Dublin.

## Graphic Text 11+

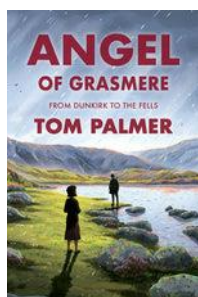


Dyslexia-  
friendly Text  
11+

To the millions of readers who fell in love with R J Palacio's *Wonder*, Julian is best-known as Auggie Pullman's classroom bully. *White Bird* reveals a new side to Julian's story, as Julian discovers the moving and powerful tale of his grandmother, who was hidden from the Nazis as a young Jewish girl in occupied France during the Second World War.

An unforgettable, unputdownable story about strength, courage and the power of kindness to change hearts, build bridges, and even save lives, from the globally bestselling author of *Wonder*.

A full-colour graphic novel, brilliantly illustrated throughout by R. J. Palacio.



July 1940 – as Tarn struggles to come to terms with the loss of her beloved brother in the chaos of the British retreat at Dunkirk, she and her friends scour the hills around their Lake District home, watching for any signs of the long-dreaded Nazi invasion.

But as the war drags on, with little good news from the front, the locals become aware of someone carrying out anonymous acts of kindness, such as saving a flock of sheep from a snowdrift and getting help for an injured farmer who might otherwise have died. With no one claiming credit, they come to think of this unidentified stranger as a kind of guardian angel, but when his identity is finally revealed, can Tarn come to terms with the truth...?

## Neurodivergence-Focused Text 11+



The first in a duology from Elle McNicoll, multi-award-winning author of *A Kind of Spark*, *Like a Charm* is ablaze with magic, mythical beings, and the indomitable derring-do of its inspirational neuro-divergent heroine. Also underpinned by powerful messages around self-discovery and community, and the power of books and booksellers, it delivers all the thrills and twists of a classic adventure with contemporary verve. Providing positive inspiration for neurodivergent readers (“I’m dyspraxic and fantastic”. “I am resilience. I have a brain and a pair of hands and two eyes that do things differently to the rest of the herd”), *Like a Charm* also offers an allegory for our times, with the toxic Sirens of the story linked to the kind of politicians who turn “neighbour against neighbour”, resulting in “people getting meaner”. Unforgettable Ramya will have a huge range of young readers under her spell, and stirred to empowering self-belief.

Let Mrs Bartlett know of any good texts you would like featured in these newsletters. Drop her an e-mail [cbartlett@bredon.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:cbartlett@bredon.worcs.sch.uk) or leave her a post-it-note in room 4.

## Exciting News: Our New Library!

We are currently in the process of having our new library built. We will be officially opening our new space May. We will be having a special guest to open it for us and to work with students. Watch this space to find out who...

### **Competition Time – Design your Dream Library.**

We want to see what your dream library would look like. If you want to win £25 vouchers to spend at the Book Fair, design your library for us to see. Design your dream library and give it to your English teacher by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November to be entered. A4 or A3 paper or digital. Don't forget to put your name on it. Get designing!

We are always on the look out for good quality books to boost our stock too. If you have any age-appropriate (10-13) good quality texts that you no longer need, do think about donating them to us. Just drop them off at reception. We would be extremely grateful.

Places to visit for book information:



<https://www.lovereadingleading4kids.co.uk/>

<https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/early-literacy-development/articles/reading-your-child>



<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>



We will be holding our annual Scholastic Book Fair on the week of the 14th November 2024. On 18th November the Book Fair will be open to parents/carers between 3:20 and 5pm in the Foyer.

Thank you for your time. Our next issue will be out in March.

The English Department.