



# Stamford Green

## Primary School and Nursery



[www.stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk)

Welcome to our Reading Newsletter - October 2023

Dear Parents, carers and Children,

What a super reading start to the year we have had with the visits of Zehra Hicks and AF Harrold. It was lovely to see the children so engaged and inspired, whether they were drawing monsters and dinosaurs, writing a shared poem or being captivated by a poetry or story performance.

I've been crafting a display for the corridor to inspire reading and thought I'd share AF Harrold's contribution...

"There are many reasons I think reading and books in general are a good thing, but one of the most important is that stories and poems are a way we can travel through time. I can't speak to Charles Dickens or Diana Wynne Jones, for example, but they still talk to me through the books they wrote. And it's the same with all books, even by living authors speaking - we are talking to one another and learning about each other, while having adventures in our heads. Brilliant stuff."

So, let's all pick up some good books, time travel, learn about each other and have some adventures. Happy Reading!

Mr Loughlin  
YR Leader of Learning  
[parents@stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:parents@stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk)

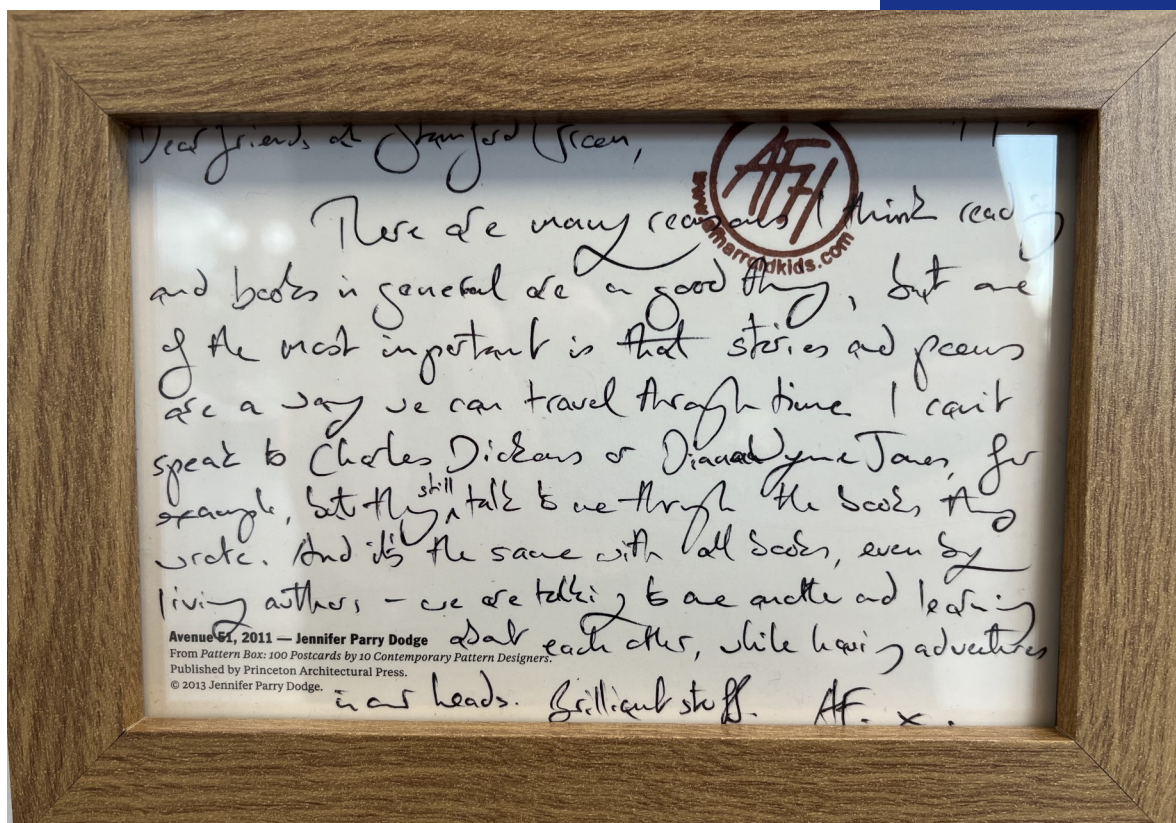
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### Why adults should read children's books

Written by Katherine Rundell (abridged from: <https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20230711-why-adults-should-read-childrens-books>)

*It's to children's fiction that you turn if you want to feel awe and hunger and longing for justice: to make the old warhorse heart stamp again in its stall*



The best children's fiction "helps us refind things we may not even know we have lost", writes the author Katherine Rundell, with many books proving subversive, emboldening – and awe-inspiring.

I've been writing children's fiction for more than 10 years now, and still I would hesitate to define it. But I do know, with more certainty than I usually feel about anything, what it is not: it's not exclusively for children. When I write, I write for two people: myself, age 12, and myself, now, and the book must satisfy two distinct but connected ap-

petites. My 12-year-old self wanted autonomy, peril, justice, food, and above all a kind of density of atmosphere into which I could step and be engulfed. My adult self wants all those things, and also: acknowledgements of fear, love, failure; of the rat that lives within the human heart. So what I try for when I write – failing often, but trying – is to put down in as few words as I can the things that I most urgently and desperately want children to know and adults to remember. Those who write for children are trying to arm them for the life ahead with everything we can find that is true. And perhaps, also, secretly, to arm adults against those necessary compromises and necessary heartbreaks that life involves: to remind them that there are and always will be great, sustaining truths to which we can return.

There is, though, a sense among most adults that we should only read in one direction, because to do otherwise would be to regress or retreat: to de-mature. But the human heart is not a linear train ride. That isn't how people actually read; at least, it's not how I've ever read. I learned to read fairly late, with much strain and agonising until, at last and quite suddenly, the hieroglyphs took shape and meaning: and then I read with the same omnivorous un-scrupulosity I showed at mealtimes. I read *Matilda* alongside Jane Austen, *Narnia* and Agatha Christie; I took Diana Wynne Jones's *Howl's Moving Castle* with me to university, clutched tight to my chest like a life raft. I still read *Paddington* when I need to believe, as Michael Bond does, that the world's miracles are more powerful than its chaos.

The difficulties with the rule of readerly progression are many: one is that, if one follows the same pattern into adulthood, turning always to books of obvious increasing complexity, you're left ultimately with nothing but *Finnegans Wake* and the complete works of the French deconstructionist theorist Jacques Derrida to cheer your deathbed.

The other difficulty with the rule is that it supposes that children's fiction can safely be discarded. I would say we do so at our peril, for we discard in adulthood a casket of wonders which, read with an adult eye, have a different kind of alchemy in them.

WH Auden wrote "There are good books which are only for adults, because their comprehension presupposes adult experiences, but there are no good books which are only for children."

I am absolutely not suggesting adults read only, or even primarily, children's fiction. Just that there are times in life when it might be the only thing that will do.

*Children's fiction does something else too: it offers to help us refind things we may not even know we have lost*



## STAMFORD GREEN'S BLUE PETER BADGE CHALLENGE

### How many Blue Peter badges could Stamford Green get?

Our latest reading challenge is to see how many of the new Blue Peter Book Badges the school can get. Anybody who successfully applies and gets the badge should let their teacher know, so they can have their name added to the Roll of Honour in the new display coming to the Year 4 cloakroom area. Who will be the first to get a badge? Which class will collect the most badges?

Did you know that Blue Peter badge holders can gain free entry into over 200 attractions (e.g. zoos, castles, theme parks) around the country?

To earn the badge, Blue Peter/the BBC say you must:

- Be aged between 5-15 years old.
- Apply for your Book badge online using the [uploader form](#), or download the [paper application form](#).
- Ask your parent or guardian for permission to apply and ask them to read the [Privacy Notice](#) and badge attraction [terms and conditions](#).
- Tell us about a book you have read and what you think about it. Maybe you liked the characters, or perhaps you enjoyed going on exciting adventures in faraway places.
- Upload your illustration of a character or a scene from the story. This could be a drawing, painting or even digital artwork.
- Let us know what other books and authors you have enjoyed reading and why.
- Get your parent or guardian to help you fill out your form and personal details.
- If applying by post, send your application with the correct postage to: Blue Peter, BBC Bridge House, MediaCityUK, Salford, M50 2BH.

Full details can be found on the [BBC website](#).



## UPDATE FROM ATLANTIS...

## Can you help our library?

We have a range of new books ready to go into the library, we just need help backing them and, as the saying goes, many hands make light work.

If you'd be able to help us by backing a few books, we could have lots of the books below available for the children to borrow and enjoy in no time at all. We will provide the sticky back plastic but your own pair of scissors would be useful!

Please email Mr Loughlin through [parents@stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:parents@stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk) if you can help and he'll arrange a bag of books and some sticky back plastic for you to collect.

Look at all these lovely books just waiting to be read...

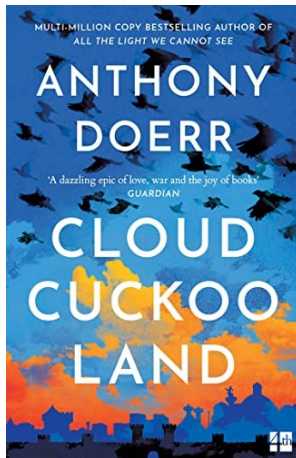




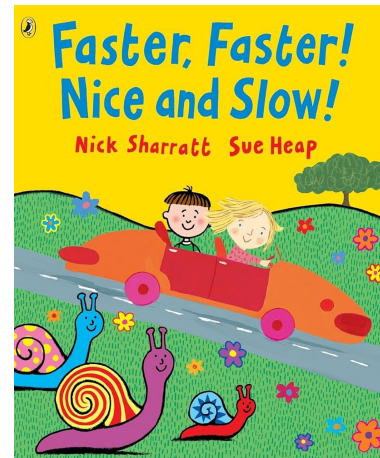
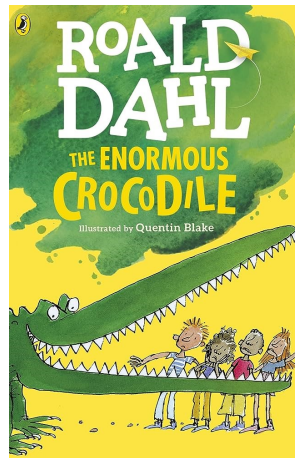
## WHAT WE'RE READING IN THE STAFFROOM...

Need a suggestion for a book to read (adults and children). Here's what some of the Stamford Green staff are reading right now...

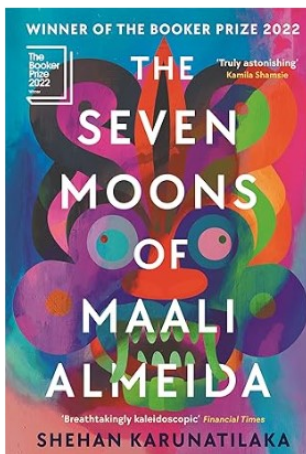
Mrs Bowe:



Miss Verlander (and her children):



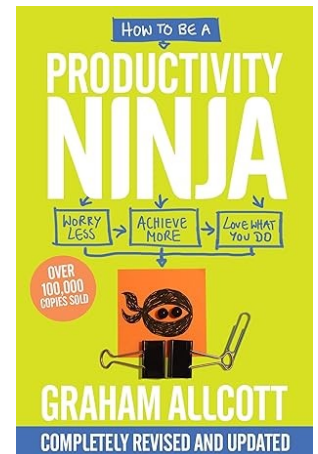
Mrs Druce:



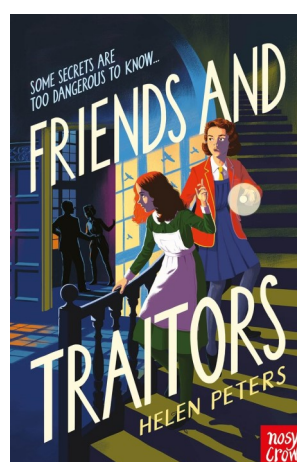
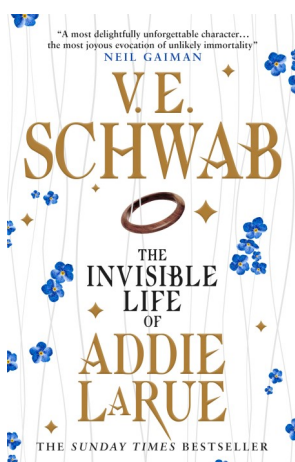
Mrs Temlett:



Mrs Dray:



Mr Loughlin:



Mrs Yeld:

