

PiXL Reading

SECONDARY NEWSLETTER



We hope you and your family had a wonderful Easter break.

As the summer term begins, we hope this newsletter will provide you and your child with a selection of books to choose from to help inspire their reading. Within this newsletter, we have aimed to cover a range of interests, topics and reading accessibility to help you and your child to select their next read/s! However, you could of course explore books online or in your local library/book shop too – there are so many books out there to explore!

Please note that, unless otherwise stated, the texts shared within this newsletter are suitable from Year 7 and up, but please do research the books before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child, as these are just the publishers' guide.

If your child is preparing for exams, they will no doubt be spending time revising and preparing for these. Part of this revision will involve reading – but immersing ourselves in the world of a book is also a way to reduce stress and improve mental wellbeing.

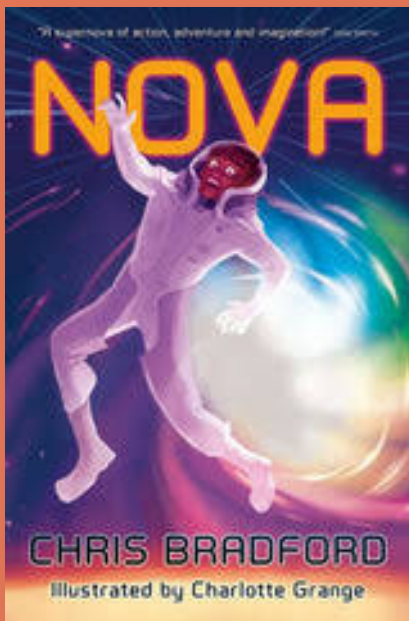
If your child is struggling to read, please do speak to your school about this, and explore ways you could support them at home. For example, by reading with them, to them and encouraging them to find a book which suits their interests as well as their reading level. We hope this selection may spark some ideas. However, it's also worth bearing in mind that some students prefer to 'read' through audio books and that this is still a valid form of them hearing the written word in a fluent and expressive way.

We hope that amongst all these recommendations, you find something which interests your child and we wish you the very best for this half term.



SHORTER-LENGTH READS

In this section, we have collated a selection of shorter-length texts which may capture your child’s interest. As well as being short, they are also published in a dyslexia-friendly font to help make them accessible to all. If your child doesn’t have dyslexia, they can of course still read these wonderful books!

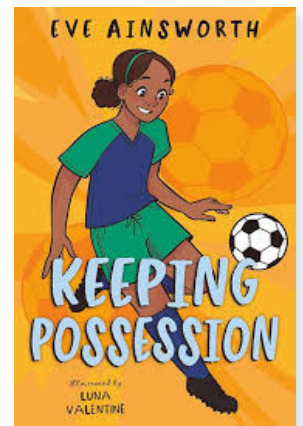


Nova CHRIS BRADFORD

Max Nova is headed to Mercury with his father, a space trucker, when their ship is suddenly diverted: they have a new urgent mission. An abnormal gravity reading has been detected near the sun and there are fears that this could signal the start of a supernova! But what Max and his father discover is much more dangerous – and far stranger – than any supernova...

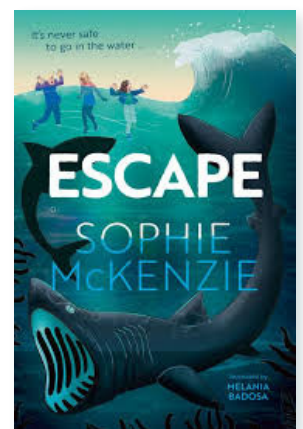
Keeping Possession EVE AINSWORTH

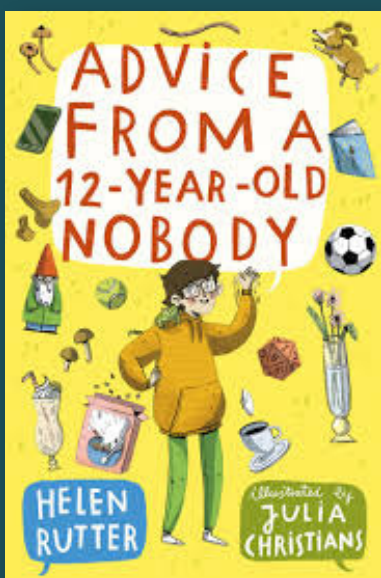
Eboni’s decision to join the Lightmoor Lionesses has led to a falling-out with her closest friends on her old team. They feel betrayed and Eboni is frozen out at school. Feeling isolated, she’s delighted when she forms a new friendship with popular Olivia, quickly realising they have loads in common. But there’s one problem: Olivia isn’t interested in football and can’t understand Eboni’s dedication to the sport that she loves. Will Eboni stay true to herself or will she sacrifice her footballing dreams for friendship?



Escape SOPHIE MCKENZIE

A dream school trip to a sea-life sanctuary turns into a nightmare for Bernice when she finds herself in a race against the tide. When her friends’ reckless behaviour plunges them all into the freezing waters of Shark Bay, Bernice has to confront her fears and summon all her knowledge of marine life to find a way to safety. But, in shark-infested waters, can she act quickly enough to save the day?

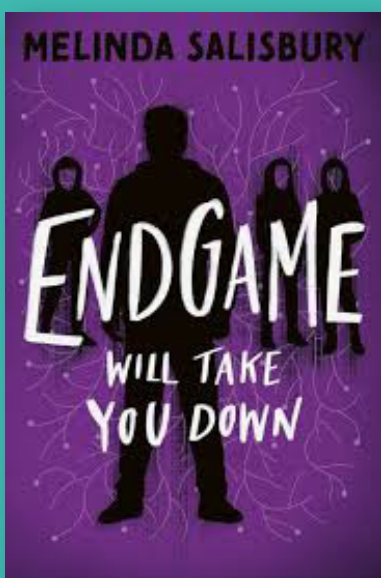




Advice from a 12-year-old Nobody

HELEN RUTTER

Vinny's got problems – lots of them. His family's falling apart, and his best mates have dumped him for some really annoying girls. He should be able to turn to his mum for help – she's an online life coach who answers other people's problems for a living – but she's too busy to see that Vinny is really struggling. Unable to solve his own issues, Vinny starts replying to unanswered posts on an old blog of his mum's. At first the solutions seem easy, and he can be as hilariously honest as any 12-year-old boy would be, but what will happen when Vinny realises he's out of his depth?



End Game

MELINDA SALISBURY

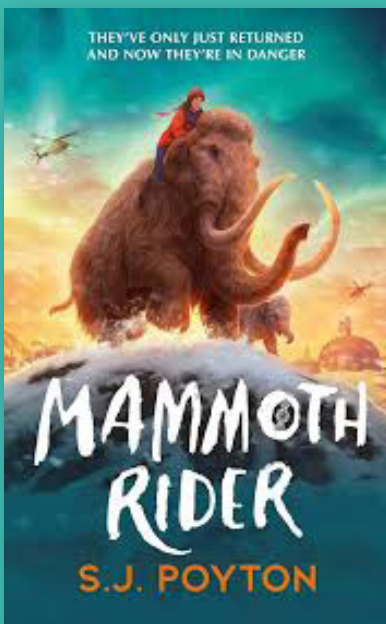
Ruby, Freya and Ivy are all survivors of the Ash Tree Foundation, an organisation that claimed to help teenagers deal with technology addiction but which was a front for a dangerously addictive augmented-reality platform, Novo Reality. Novo Reality was the brainchild of tech-baroness Dagmar Nilsson, who disappeared without trace when the Foundation was busted. But now, a year later, just as the girls are all preparing to start a new chapter of their lives, it becomes clear that Dagmar is continuing with her aim of world domination. Can the three friends draw her out of hiding and shut down the Foundation for good, or will Dagmar's dream of controlling the world finally come true?

LONGER-LENGTH READS

Mammoth Rider

S.J. POYTON

After millennia, mammoths have returned, brought back by scientists to help combat climate change. Ash Grimes, born and raised at the Arctic research centre, dreams of becoming a Mammoth Rider, just like her dad. But mammoths are wild animals and it isn't easy to earn their trust. So, when Ash meets a white mammoth calf, the first of its kind, she's determined to do anything to protect her new friend. With a trophy hunter threatening the safety of the herd, Ash, along with best friends Ruby and Jack, must race across the tundra to save their families, the rare calf, and the very future of the mammoths.



The Lion's Run

SARA PENNYPACKER

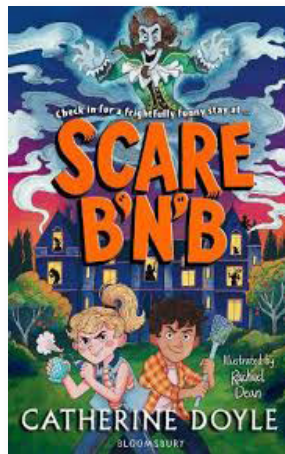
Petit éclair. That's what the other boys at the orphanage call Lucas. He's tired of his cowardly reputation, just as he's tired of the war and the Nazi occupation of his village. He longs to show how brave he can be. The chance arrives when he saves a litter of kittens from cruel boys and cares for them in an abandoned stable. There he meets Alice, the daughter of a horse trainer, who is hiding her beloved young horse from German soldiers. Soon Lucas begins to realise they are not the only ones in the village with secrets...



Scare BnB

CATHERINE DOYLE

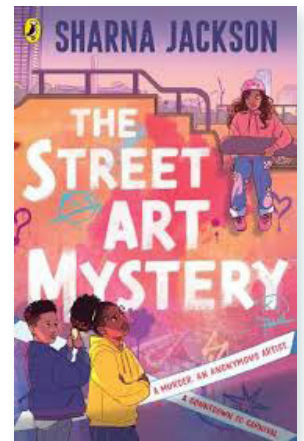
Ted McKenley would rather live anywhere than with Frankie 'spawn-of-the-devil' Stark. And Frankie wouldn't go near a coward like Ted. Too bad – their parents just got married and blew their savings turning a creepy old mansion into a boutique hotel. But when Ted encounters a disappearing housekeeper and Frankie runs into a screaming suit of armour, their feud becomes the least of their problems...



The Street Art Mystery

SHARNA JACKSON

Margot, Wesley and Josephine have got an awesome weekend mapped out for the end of the holidays before they start high school – but when they are staying with Margot's mum and her new boyfriend in Notting Hill, something happens that they just can't ignore...



The House with Chicken Legs Runs Away

SOPHIE ANDERSON

All Marinka's life, she has lived in her house with chicken legs. Running across the world on magical adventures, Marinka knows how her house is feeling, and it listens to her, too. But something is wrong. And before anyone can stop it, the house has pulled itself apart and run away.

Travelling across far-distant lands, through new realms and magical places, Marinka must face up to her fears, but her house might not want to stop running...



Sequel to **The House with Chicken Legs!**



Crookhaven: The School for Thieves

J.J. ARCANJO

13-year-old Gabriel is a brilliant pickpocket, a skill which he uses to keep his often empty belly not quite so empty. And then one day, he's caught. But, instead of being arrested, he is invited by the mysterious Caspian Crook to attend Crookhaven – a school for thieves. At Crookhaven, students are trained in lock-picking, forgery and 'crim-nastics', all with the intention of doing good out in the world, by conning the bad and giving back to the innocent. But... can you ever really trust a thief?

Skulmoor HANA TOOKE

Once, the great house of Skulmoor stood proudly on its hillside. Now, it is a curious puzzle of a place – not least thanks to the giant wall which cuts it straight in half, separating the two warring families that live inside it. Many years ago, the Fox family was torn apart by a question of murder – and of inheritance. With no clear heir, the vast family fortune – and the house – has been literally divided in two. But now, two young cousins must race to solve the crime – or face losing their home forever.



Dragonborn STRUAN MURRAY



Life is no fun for Alex Evans. Ever since her dad's death, her overprotective mother has smothered her with unbreakable rules and unspoken fears. When the frustration inside Alex finally gets too big to bear, it rushes to the surface and flames spill from her mouth, because Alex is a dragon – one of the many who live among us, unless something awakens their true nature. Led by the mighty Oliphos to the legendary island of Skralla, Alex must now train alongside fierce, frightening dragon children, if she is to unlock the power of her birthright. But other dragons are rising too, and Alex has to be good enough for this fight, or we all will burn...

Gone for Good

SARAH CROSSAN

14+

Connie Ryder is taken from her home in the dead of night and sent to Silver Lake Academy – a remote, high-security facility for ‘troubled’ teens. At Silver Lake, the vulnerable and the violent are locked in together under a brutal regime that aims to improve their behaviour. But, when Connie learns she’s been given the bed of a missing girl named Belle, she is drawn deep into a chilling web of secrets and lies...

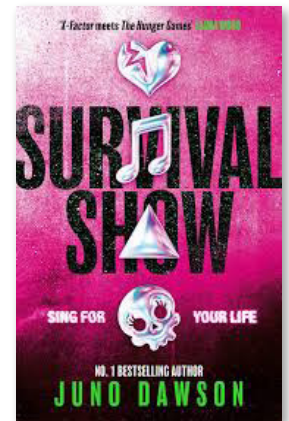


Survival Show

JUNO DAWSON

14+

Tune in for Starmaker, the most watched reality TV show in the world. The rules are simple: young women from all over the globe compete to join an all-singing, all-dancing pop group. If you win, a life of luxury awaits, but there’s a catch: eliminated contestants are literally eliminated. Taryn Beck and the contestants soon realise that reality TV is far from real. They are pitted against each other in cruel challenges and Taryn is determined to expose the brutal regime and destroy Starmaker from the inside...

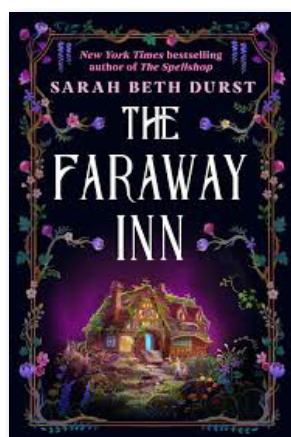


The Faraway Inn

SARAH BETH DURST

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When sixteen-year-old Calisa arrives at her great-aunt’s bed and breakfast for the summer, she’s shocked to find it run down rather than cosy. Grumpy and eccentric, Auntie Zee is determined to keep anyone from messing with her beloved inn, even though she clearly needs the help. To convince her great-aunt to keep her around, Calisa sets to work fixing up the inn, enlisting extra help from the groundkeeper’s son. But the longer she stays, the surer she is that there’s something strange about the B&B – and its residents. Something almost... otherworldly.



Starlight and Storm

RACHEL GREENLAW

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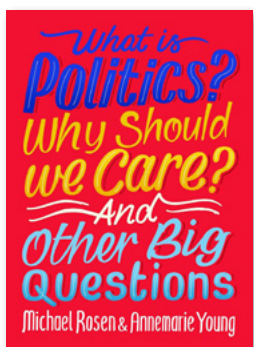
The third and final adventure in the Compass and Blade Trilogy! Mira is trapped in a deadly situation which could see the end of everything she has fought for. She must enter into one final desperate bargain, but this time, it’s with her greatest enemy, the ruling council. To save her life, her home and the people she loves most, Mira is forced to compete in a series of terrifying trials filled with dark magic and dangerous monsters...



NON-FICTION RECOMMENDATIONS

**What is Politics?
Why Should We Care?**

MICHAEL ROSEN & ANNEMARIE YOUNG



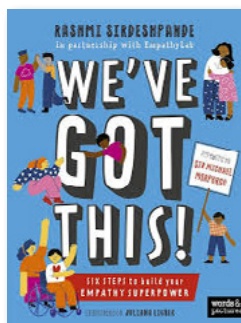
Politics, in its widest sense, affects us all every day. What if there were no politics? What would that look like? What does it mean to be political or non-political and what effect do each of these positions have? This book looks at how politics affects everyone in society. It looks at the whole political spectrum, in

countries around the world and examines what politics means in different contexts and situations. What forms can political action take, and what difference does it make? Readers are encouraged to think for themselves about the issues discussed and decide how or whether they would like to take part in politics at some level.

**We've Got This!
Six Steps to Build Your
Empathy Superpower**

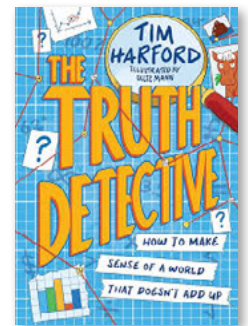
RASHMI SIRDESHPANDE

Harnessing empathy and growing their emotional intelligence allows children and young people to develop the resilience to cope with life's ups and downs as well as to understand and experience other people's emotions, feelings and points of view. In just six steps, readers will be taught how to harness empathy as their human superpower and discover how using this power can change their lives and the world around them for the better.

**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.

**Together We Can**

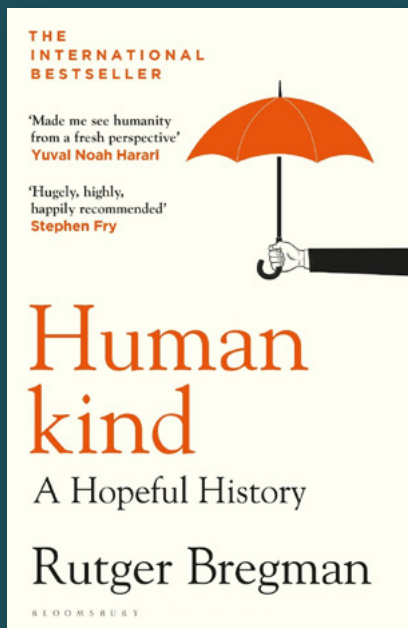
NED HARTLEY

From inventing vaccines in record time to dealing with climate change, the biggest challenges we face can only be overcome when teams of people work together towards a common goal.

Together We Can is a celebration of what we can achieve when human beings work collaboratively.



FOR OLDER READERS



Human Kind: A Hopeful History

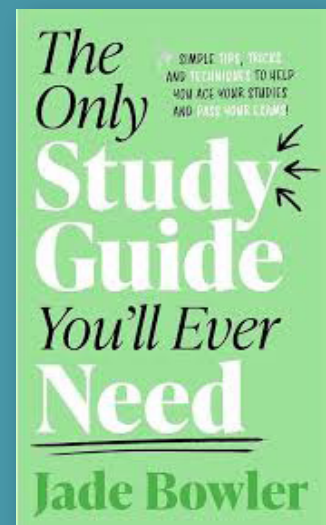
RUTGER BREGMAN

Human beings, we're taught, are by nature selfish and governed by self-interest. *Humankind* makes a new argument: that it is realistic, as well as revolutionary, to assume that people are good. By thinking the worst of others, we bring out the worst in our politics and economics too. In this major book, internationally bestselling author Rutger Bregman takes some of the world's most famous studies and events and reframes them, providing a new perspective on the last 200,000 years of human history. From the real-life *Lord of the Flies* to the Blitz, a Siberian fox farm to an infamous New York murder, Stanley Milgram's Yale shock machine to the Stanford prison experiment, Bregman shows how believing in human kindness and altruism can be a new way to think – and act as the foundation for achieving true change in our society. It is time for a new view of human nature.

The Only Study Guide You'll Ever Need

JADE BOWLER

We've all been there: a new school year starts and there's 8 months till your exams – that's plenty of time, right? Then there's 6 months, 3 months, 1 month and oh, now there's 2 weeks left and you haven't started studying... What happens next is a panic-induced mayhem of highlighting everything in the textbook (without even questioning if it's actually helpful). But I'm here to change this! In *The Only Study Guide You'll Ever Need*, I'll cover a range of different topics, including: how to get started and pick up that pen, learning techniques that actually work, the dos and don'ts of timetabling and combatting fear of failure, perfectionism, exam stress and so much more!



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