



# READING NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Welcome to Term 3's reading newsletter. This has been another busy term in Loose Primary for reading. Last week, we celebrated National Story Telling Week. It was lovely to see the enthusiasm for reading and storytelling amongst our children here at Loose. Our book swap boxes are continuing to be well-loved and well-used in some of our classrooms and it has been fantastic to see some of our reading leaders taking charge with promoting these in their classes. Our reading leaders have also been very busy helping us to plan World Book Day 2024. Read on to find out more about their plans.

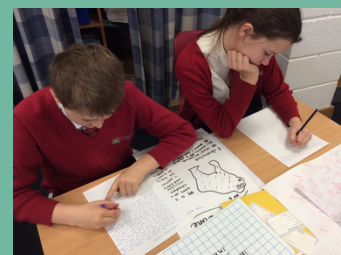
Miss Spelman and Mrs Coleman



## NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK - AUTHOR STEVEN CAMDEN

Many of our classes took part in National Storytelling Week which ran between the 29th January to 2nd February. Year 6 took part in a webinar with the author Steven Camden. Steven took part in a live story planning session in which he invited schools to participate with their own ideas. The idea started off with a street name chosen at random - Crocodile Lane. The ideas for the story spiralled from there. Characters were chosen, settings decided and plot twists invented. What was most inspiring was Steven's message about the planning process: you don't need to have an idea to write a story. Start off with something as simple as a street name and let the ideas build from there. Steven said that he knows where he wants to take his story once he has developed his characters and understands more about them.

Year 6 were so inspired that we decided to drop our usual literacy session and plan and write our own short stories instead. Some were about Crocodile Lane and some were completely different. The one thing we all agreed on was how much fun it was allowing our creativity to shine through.



## National Storytelling Week - buddy reading

Our Year 6 children met their Year R buddies to enjoy a book or two together. It was lovely to see our oldest and youngest members of the school community enjoying a story together.





## Reading bookmarks

Towards the end of last term, many of our classes enjoyed their class reading reward for earning enough reading points for our reading bookmark initiative. Each class that manages to earn a total of 750 points per long term can select a reading reward to enjoy. In the build up to Christmas, many of these classes elected a film and treat afternoon. Here is a picture of Topaz enjoying their film and hot chocolate afternoon



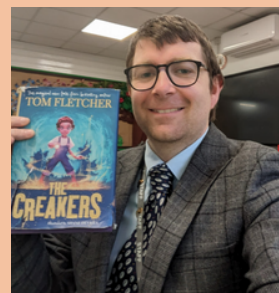
Well done to all of our classes that earned their reading reward. Please do continue to promote this incentive with your children at home as we continue to aim to get as many children reading as possible.

## Mr Hogwood recommends

The Creakers by Tom Fletcher

The Creakers is about a little girl called Lucy Dungston, who is a natural born leader, as well as an instinctive problem solver. Lucy wakes up one day and all the adults in her town have disappeared. She gets her friends, Norman Quirk and Ella Noying, to help her. The children run wild, but Lucy's mind gets whirring about what really has happened, and how she can get them back. She investigates under her bed and finds these strange creatures known as 'The Creakers' and the twisted world of 'The Woleb'. Where have all the grown-ups gone? Who are these mysterious creatures? What is the Woleb? You will have to read it to find out.

It is a cracking, hilarious adventure story that Onyx class have loved, and I love reading to children. I would recommend it for children 7-10 years old. I really like this book as it is an exciting cliff-hanging chapter based book that brings suspense, laughter and adventure all in one story!



## READING VENDING MACHINE

Our book vending machine has continued to be very busy this term. Our teachers are looking very carefully for children that are making lots of effort with their reading at home or at school. Each class will get the opportunity to select two children to receive this prize every half term. Keep working hard with your reading and it could be your turn next. Have a look at the selection of stock that has just arrived to refill the machine.





## Recommended websites

Whilst we all know reading is so important, one of the biggest reasons why a child might lack motivation to read is book selection. There are a vast array of new and exciting books released all the time, so we wanted to flag a couple of recommended websites that we ourselves often use for book selection. The Book Trust have a wide selection of recommended reads.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/great-books-guide/>

We also really rate The Reader Teacher. Each month, he posts his top reads for the month across all age ranges. Here is a selection of his most recent recommended texts.



To find out more  
visit...

[www.thereaderteacher.com](http://www.thereaderteacher.com)



## Reading leader reviews

### Paddington

In Year One we have been reading Paddington. I really enjoyed the book. My favourite part was when Paddington got sticky paws. He touched the seats in the taxi and the taxi driver got grumpy. Paddington went to live with the Browns and he became good friends with Judy. I would recommend this book to my friends because I really like the character Paddington.



### The Polar Bear Explorer's Club

I got this book for Christmas. It is about a little girl who wants to go exploring for her birthday but her dad won't let her. Finally, she gets a chance to join her dad on an arctic mission. The little girl loves polar bears, so she wants to go and find some. On the mission, things don't go to plan. I haven't finished yet but I can't wait to find out what is going to happen next.



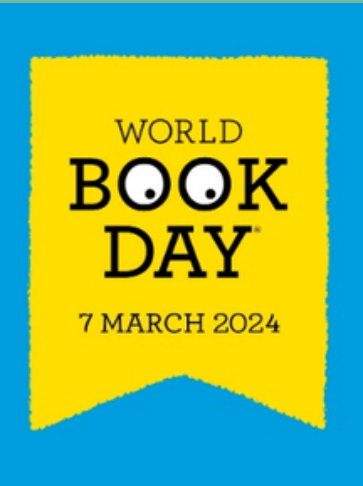


## **World Book Day 2024**

On Thursday 7th March 2024, Loose will be taking part in World Book Day 2024. Children are invited to dress up as a character from a book. We would also like the children to bring this book in with them to share in class if possible. We are planning on holding a book character costume parade on the playground where winners will be selected from each year group.

The reading leaders have been busy planning some ideas for the day. We are in the process of finalising the exact details, but here is a snapshot of some of the wonderful ideas that they have suggested so far:

- Loose Reading Cafe / reading with a buddy class
- a book hunt around the school
- a literature trail around the school
- the Masked Reader
- Drop Everything and Read
- author visits / live webinars
- a special WBD assembly
- mystery reader spots
- sponsored reads
- and much more ...



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
7 MARCH 2024

Find out more about the selection of books available for your child to claim with their £1 book token. These tokens will be handed out at the end of World Book Day.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/>