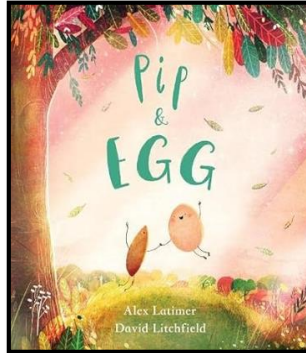


*With this year whizzing by, we paused last week to reflect upon the work taking place across our family of schools to raise the profile of reading. Our aim to create a 'Reading for Pleasure' culture is something we both feel hugely passionate about and there has been much to celebrate in the first few terms of this academic year. We would love to share some of these successes with you here...Happy Reading!*

*Mrs Bugler and Miss Flemming*

## Pip and Egg by Alex Latimer

This beautiful book was shared in all classes across the family of schools to promote discussion and artwork during Term 1. It linked so well to our first school value in focus: **Friendship**.

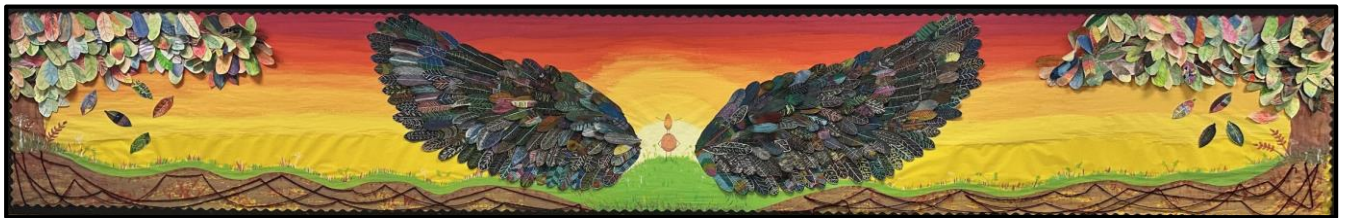


## Roots and Wings

*If I had two wishes,  
I know what they would be,  
I'd wish for Roots to cling to  
And Wings to set me free;  
Roots of inner values,  
Like rings within a tree  
And Wings of independence,  
To seek my destiny.*

Dennis Waitley

The whole school also explored the poem 'Roots and Wings' as our first literacy activity. This then inspired our Hannah More hall display which is such a wonderful, lasting celebration of our learning. Thank you to Mrs Weaver and Mrs Ashworth for their creative talents.



## The 'Whiteoak Spine' - Our Reading Promise

The Whiteoak Reading Spine - Reception



The Whiteoak Reading Spine - Year 1



The Whiteoak Reading Spine - Year 2



The Whiteoak Reading Spine - Year 3

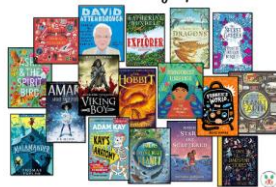


This year, we have introduced our 'Whiteoak Spine' of books in each year group. These books present our core offer to our children throughout the year. Each list includes a diverse range of genres including fiction, poetry, curriculum non-fiction and graphic novels. These texts are used as a class novel, a writing stimulus, in reading teaching or with a cross-curricular focus. We have made a considerable investment in the bookshelves in each classroom to ensure there are multiple copies of each text and subsequent books from the same author.

The Whiteoak Reading Spine - Year 4



The Whiteoak Reading Spine - Year 5



The Whiteoak Reading Spine - Year 6



Schools that have a reading spine, build a common bank of stories that bind the community together.

These are shared and deeply imagined common experiences.

## Author Focus Week

In the second half of the Autumn term, all year groups were given an author from our spine to focus on in their reading teaching for a week. The objectives were to learn more about a particular author, to explore other books written by them and to excite our children about the books available to them! The authors selected were:

- Reception - Benji Davis (Tad)
- Year 1 - Rachel Bright (The Lion Inside)
- Year 2 - Nadia Shireen (Billy and the Beast)
- Year 3 - Chrissie Sains (An Alien in the jam factory)
- Year 4 - Onjali O Rauf (The Boy at the Back of the Class)
- Year 5 - Jasbinder Bilan (Asha and the Spirit Bird)
- Year 6 - Jennifer Killick (Crater Lake)



All children produced fact files on their author and some artwork inspired by the books they have written. We displayed the artwork in our practical areas and sent pictures to the authors. The children have received some wonderful responses. Year 6 have been having their own personal Q&A over email with Jennifer Killick!



Jennifer Killick



Miss Kerlogue

My class were absolutely thrilled to hear Jennifer Killick's responses to their questions. They are very excited about her book for World Book Day.

Hello, Year 6 at Whiteoak Nailsea!  
I hope you're all well, and that you're enjoying the start of 2024.  
I saw a picture of the beautiful, creepy artwork you created, and I wanted to tell you how much I love it, and how honoured I am that my stories inspired such wonderful art.  
I'm really happy that you've been enjoying my books, and I wondered if you have any questions you'd like to ask me?  
Best wishes, Jennifer

Freddie: Will you be writing a new book series?

Jennifer: As sad as I am to leave Dread Wood behind, I have some plans for a new series that I'm very excited about. I'm discussing them with my publisher over the next month or so, so fingers crossed they like the sound of it and want to publish it.



## Virtual Author Events



Year 4 attended a Waterstones virtual event with one of our spine authors, **S.F Said**, author of **Varjak Paw** and **Tyger**. He discussed his incredible writing journey, sharing how he finally managed to get his first book accepted by a publisher. It took over 12 re-edits!

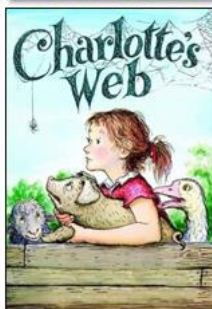
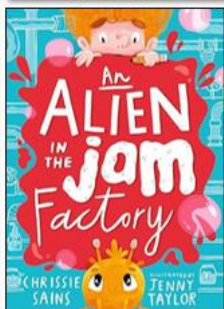
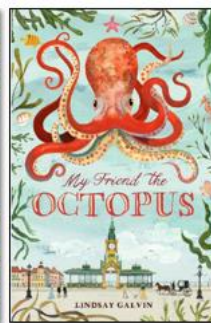
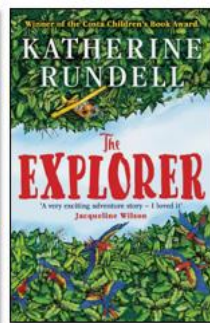
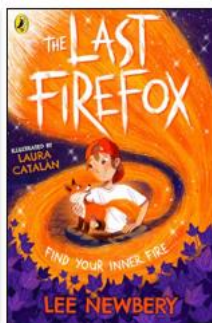
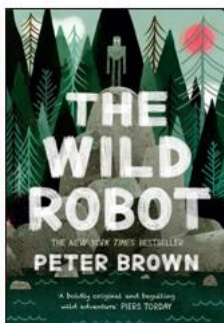
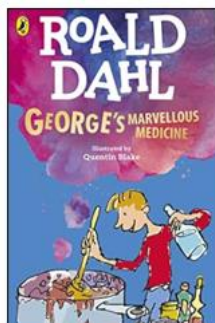


Year 5 attended a Puffin virtual event with one of our spine authors, **Adam Kay**. He is the author of a favourite text of KS2 – **Kay's Anatomy**. He was discussing his new STEM book Kay's Incredible Inventions. Adam brings his knowledge as a GP and his humour as a comedian into his books. They are a popular addition to our science book boxes.

Year 3 have had their own personal Q&A with another of our spine authors, **Chrissie Sains**, author of their last class novel – **Alien in a Jam Factory**. The children were able to ask Chrissie all about her books and the inspiration behind the characters. They are really excited to have both follow up books on their book shelves.



## Our Autumn Class Novels for Years 2-6



Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

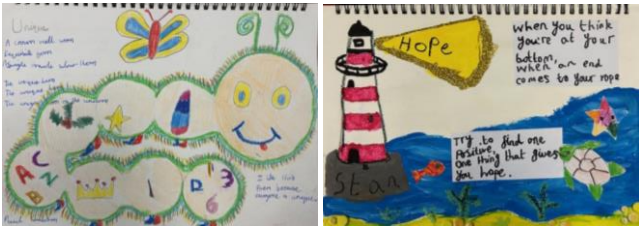
Year 6



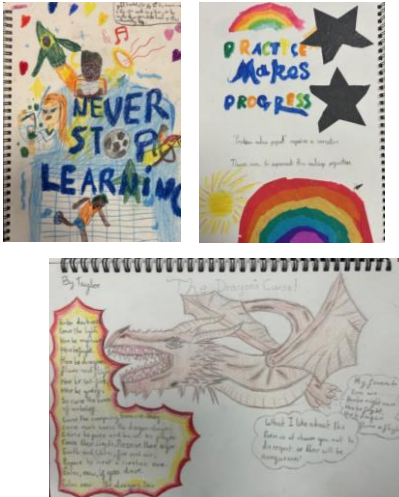
Class Poetry Journals



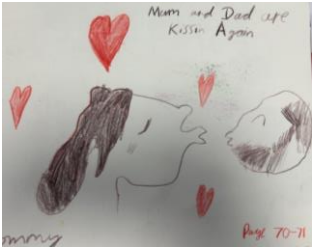
It was great to talk to the children just before Christmas about their year group poetry anthologies and the responses captured in their class poetry journals so far this year.



Planting Dreams. Nurturing Hearts. Growing Minds.



The children spoke so positively about sharing poetry at home with their families and about the freedom they felt to respond in a creative and personal way to their favourite words, verses and poems.



Key Stage One - Reading for Pleasure Chests



This term, we have delivered a treasure chest to each class in the infants filled with wonderful, carefully-selected books.

Each week, children choose a book from the chest that they would like to take home to share with their family. We have ensured that there is a range of fiction and non-fiction in each box and hope there is something that everyone will enjoy. Please help us to look after these beautiful books.

## Yoto and Tonie Boxes

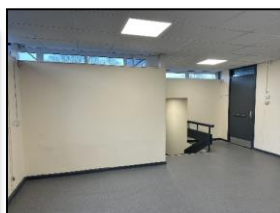
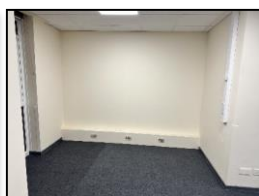
This term, we have invested in Tonie boxes for our Reception classrooms and Yoto boxes for Years 1 and 2. The children LOVE them!

These 'storytelling' devices provide yet further opportunities for our children to listen to stories, factual content and even children's podcasts.

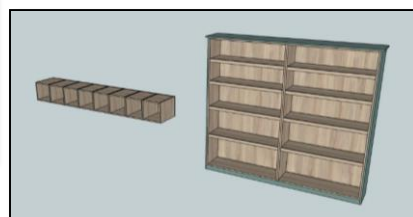
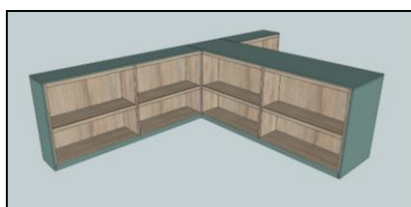
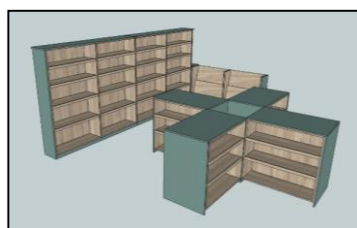


## School Library Update

We are incredibly excited with the progress being made to create our new whole school library. We now have a fully refurbished space with new carpets, freshly-painted walls and blinds.



We are working with West Country Wood Design to design and build our new library. Work is planned to start in the summer term. The space will include a library, soft seating space and a reading culture café.



We want to say a massive **THANK YOU** to WOWSA and to all of our families for your support with school fundraising activities. Without your help we would not be able to create what will be a fantastic space for our children.

*Thank You!*