



**READING
ROCKS!**
FEBRUARY 2023

LOVE



At Abbey Academies Trust, we understand the importance of encouraging children to read for pleasure. It might not seem like a particularly important task, but actually, research shows that reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school and even into adulthood.

Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others.

TIPS

READING

Here are some ideas for encouraging your child to read for pleasure:

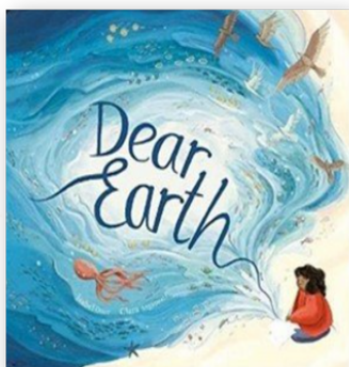
Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time – it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

Check out some top reads for February

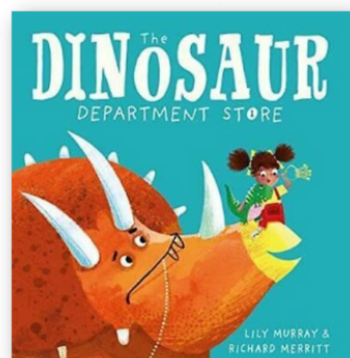


by Isabel Otter and illustrated by Clara Anganuzzi

Dear Earth is a breath-taking book about the world. This book illustrates the true beauty of the natural world brilliantly. The connection between Tessa and Grandpa shows how stories and time together can inspire the next generation. Through Grandpa's stories, Tessa is inspired to become an explorer and starts to paint pictures of the world in her mind. Tessa writes to the earth explaining what she will explore when she is older. Tessa blows bubbles with whales, swims with unicorns in the Arctic, joins in with the screeching hullabaloo and so much more. As she writes, the pictures come alive on the page to show the reader the wonder of earth. The illustrations are breath taking and help show the reader the world in all its glory. There will be something new to find every time you read the book.

by Lily Murray and Richard Merritt

If you have a child that is dinosaur obsessed, this book is for them! Before reading this book, it might be worth checking how to pronounce some of the names! Eliza Jane is obsessed with dinosaurs and all she wants for her birthday is a real one! Mam and Dad grant her wish and take her to the dinosaur department store. When entering the store, she is met by the magical Mr Magisaurus who will take her on the grand tour. On her tour, she meets carnivores grinding their jaws, honking Hadrosaurs, a colossal Diplodocus and so many more. There are dinosaurs I had never heard of before! The illustrations are bright and detailed, they show the dinosaurs off in the best light and will keep readers enthralled. If you look carefully, the dinosaurs have clothes or objects to show their personalities. The ending has a good twist and if you look at the illustrations, you can guess what Eliza Jane is going to do!



by Darren Simpson

This gripping science-fiction mystery follows Cyan, a resident of the faintly sinister Elsewhere Sanctuary, on his quest to discover what the words etched into the bones of a marooned whale skeleton really mean. Stranded in a world of sand dunes, long since abandoned by the sea, Cyan and his friends spend their days exploring wrecks of ancient cruise ships, with little regard to why they are there or what the pills they imbibe are doing to them. They only know that they all came here to forget something traumatic from their past. As new resident Jonquil begins to resist her treatment and then disappears altogether, Cyan suspects that something isn't quite right. This is a thrilling and thought-provoking adventure story from Darren Simpson, an intriguing storyteller for older readers – his debut novel, Scavengers, was also an excellent mystery and coming-of-age book.



Suggestions?

If you have any suggestions that you would like to include in our next Reading Rocks newsletter, tell your teacher.