

LEASOWES PRIMARY SCHOOL

# READING



# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2023



## A MESSAGE FROM MISS REEVES, ENGLISH LEADER

WOW! What an amazing first term our Leasowes learners have had. One of the biggest highlights of the first term for me is always walking around and hearing the children enjoying their newest class texts. Listening to children enthuse about dragons reading *How to Train Your Dragon* in Year 4, to

imagining we are in the trenches with Private Tommo Peaceful in Year 6, to talking about the Queen's knickers in Year 2, I just love the buzz for reading children at Leasowes have!

Also this term, children have enjoyed our latest reading challenge, "Read the Curriculum!" Children were challenged to read 6 books that celebrated all the fantastic areas of learning in the wider curriculum. Would they read a sports star's biography? A picture book about going to the moon? A story about a budding musician? Some of the best reads discovered by our children are outlined in this issue of the Leasowes reading newsletter.



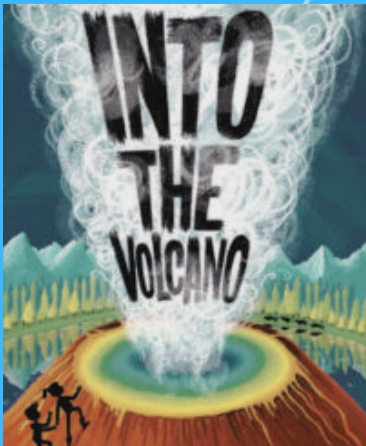
# READ AROUND THE WORLD

## GEOGRAPHY FOCUS

### MISS REEVES' RECOMMENDATION



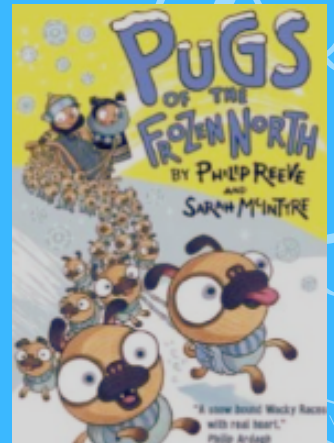
I've shared my love of Hannah Gold's writing before. Perfect for KS2 (with younger readers likely enjoying this with an adult) her stories are heartfelt and with a wonderful sustainability message. Dive into this incredible story about the connection between a boy and a whale and the bond that sets them both free.



This story, set on top of a super volcano in Yellowstone Park in America, starts with an act of senseless and terrifying violence but turns into a beautiful story of friendship and bravery.



This is a beautiful picture book that explores the remarkable journey of the water cycle. From a few drops of rain in a little boy's jar to the depths of the vast ocean and back to clouds in the sky above, wonderful water is given centre-stage in this gentle narrative that evokes awe at the sheer beauty and scale of nature's systems.



This is the whacky tale of cabin boy Shen and his friend Sika, who together with a motley crew of pugs enter an exciting race through vast and varied Arctic landscapes. This exciting and amusing tale is a great story to read aloud.

### KIDS FIGHT PLASTIC

This excellent non-fiction book encourages children to be a 2-minute-hero in the fight against plastic pollution. Perfect for KS2 readers, this book carries the message that 2 minutes is all the time it takes to be a superhero and help to save the world! With so many children passionate about our charter 'Protect Today, Preserve Tomorrow', this is a great recommendation.





# A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

## HISTORY FOCUS

### THE CASTLE THE KING BUILT

This brilliant text is great for younger readers who are curious about castles! Packed full of fascinating facts and catchy rhymes, this will surely be a favourite on the bookshelf.



### TRAILBLAZERS

The Trailblazers books are excellent and always very popular titles in the Leasowes Library Learning Hub. These texts are excellent summaries of the lives of significant people. My favourite thing about these books are how they chart people's very humble beginnings before they made history.



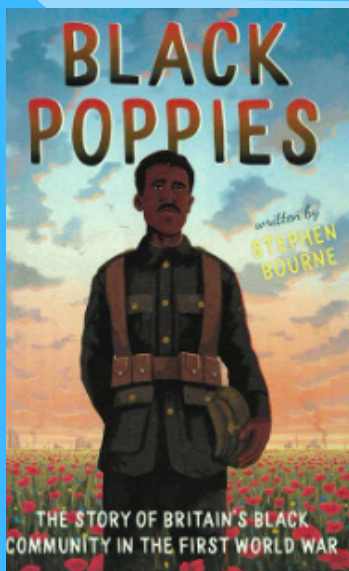
### THE BUILDINGS THAT MADE LONDON

For the curious historian and geographer! This brilliant non-fiction book journeys through England's capital as fantastic drawings from the National Archives are used to chart the skyline over the decades and centuries that have come before the city we see now.



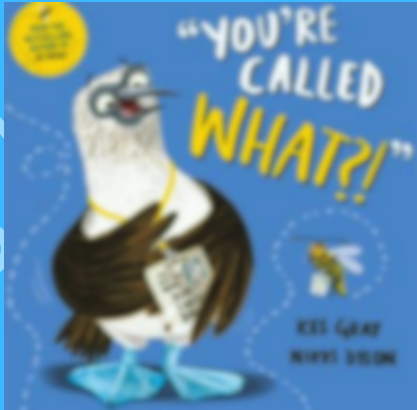
### BLACK POPPIES, STEPHEN BOURNE

Explore the many and extraordinary ways in which Black people helped Britain fight the First World War, on the battlefield and at home. After meeting Stephen's Aunty Esther, we hear the story of Walter Tull, who led soldiers in some of history's bloodiest battles and died in the fighting just weeks before the conflict would end. Through this brilliant book, we explore how ordinary people did extraordinary things.



# A WORLD OF DISCOVERY

## SCIENCE FOCUS

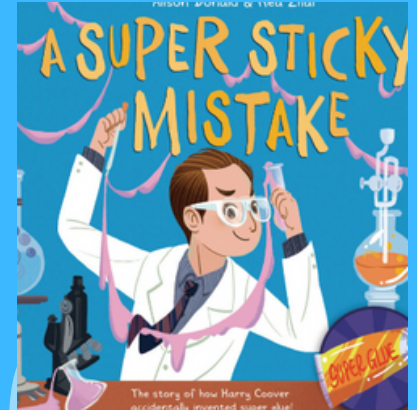


Ice Cream Cone Worm.  
Monkeyface Prickleback.  
Pinkfairy Armadillo.

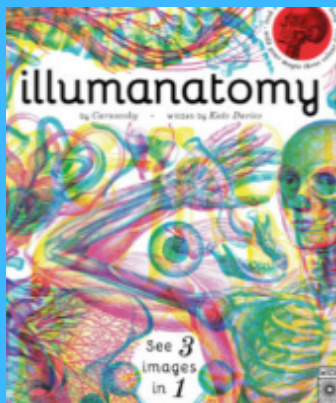
This brilliant picture book is a hilarious story of real animals whose outlandish names prompt them all to want the same thing... a new one!



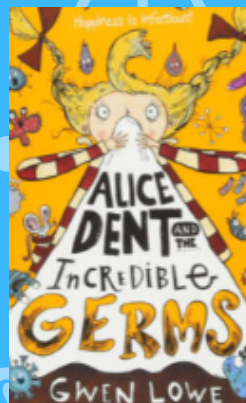
As the weather turns colder, a few of us can identify with the title of this story! This story, with great links to KS1's learning about the changing seasons, shows how much joy can be found from our world as it changes.



Have you heard of Harry Coover? This great book follows the real inventor of super glue, an essential item in most homes which was invented completely by accident!



If you love interactive books where you see something new every time you read, this is for you! With different coloured lenses, look at the human body like never before! Skeletons, nerves, organs are all revealed through some clever tools which will engage budding scientists.



Perfect for fans of Roald Dahl. This debut novel from Gwen Lowe follows Alice as she gets a cold, but no ordinary cold... this one has some WEIRD side-effects! Constant giggling and every nearby animal sticking to her like glue are among her symptoms!



For UKS2 readers, Pig Heart Boy is an excellent read following their Animals Including Humans unit. The book follows Cameron as he discovers he has heart disease. The novel deals with the contemporary issue of organ donation and is gripping from the first page.



# MAKE SOME NOISE

## MUSIC FOCUS



### LOUD! BY ROSE ROBBINS

Abigail has ADHD and can't concentrate, but one teacher knows just how to get her engaged. Abigail is frustrated. She can't focus on writing and fools around instead. She is sent to the cooling down room. After that is music class, and she can't make any of the instruments work! Just when things are about to go wrong again, the teacher discovers exactly what to do to engage this little girl, and Abigail ends up finding a special voice of her very own.

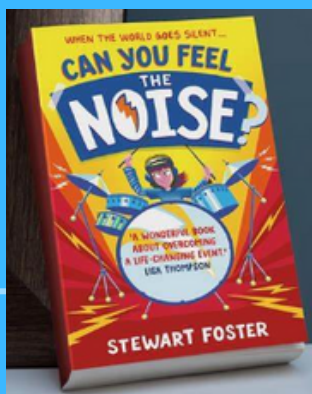
### AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

How on Earth do you play a bass that's 3.5 metres tall? How can you play a theremin without touching it? Can you turn a cave's stalactites into an organ? (Spoiler alert: yes, you can!) Including a stunning central gatefold that opens out to reveal the family tree of musical instruments, this book is a visual celebration of the huge variety of instruments played across the world, from those you know to those you almost certainly don't.



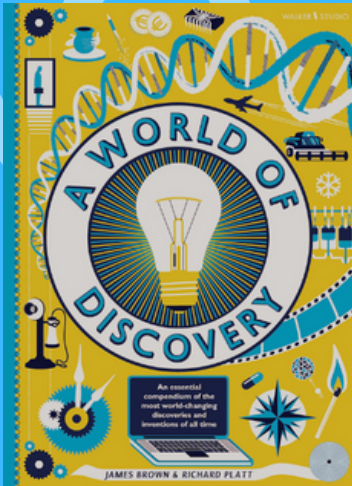
### MISS REEVES' RECOMMENDATION

Sophie lives for one thing: to succeed in her school's Battle of the Bands concert with her best friends. When one morning she wakes up with a buzzing in her ear, it's the beginning of a journey of hearing loss and her life is – in her words – OVER. However, once she discovers she can feel the music through the vibrations of the drums, well... is her goal within reach after all?



# CREATIVE SPARKS

## ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY FOCUS



A stunning collection of the world's most important discoveries for all the family to enjoy.

In the stylish miscellany, print-maker James Brown travels through the past and present, showing the amazing breakthroughs in science and technology that have changed our lives for ever.



Get to grips with the mind-boggling advances that have been made in engineering. Find out about awe-inspiring buildings and technology. The books in the Awesome Engineering series are filled with impactful artwork, diagrams and explanations that make the awesome feats of engineering easy to understand.



A Traveller girl with a passion for design and technology collects cans for her local recycling plant and uses the metal to renovate an elderly neighbour's caravan.

When Janie's neighbour Mrs Tolen goes into hospital with a broken hip, it looks as though she will have to move out of her old caravan and into a house.

Janie is desperate to help...



## TRIXIE PICKLE, ART AVENGER!

A weird sickness bug has been spreading through Wormwood Town and everyone is wondering if there's something in the water. Trixie Pickle Art Avenger uses the power of art to investigate – can she get to the bottom of the mystery around the town reservoir? She's got a lot on her plate – being bored to sleep by Money Week at school, making comics with her best friend Beeks and finding a way to bring down the local mean girls – but with artistic inspiration from Botticelli, Damien Hirst and Kehinde Wiley, the Art Avenger is sure to win the day.

## DINOSAURS DON'T DRAW!

Dinosaurs aren't known for their drawing – they're known for their stamping and stomping and ROARING! All except for one creative young dinosaur who just can't seem to stop! He transforms rocks, chalk, sticks and mud into the most wonderful works of art – much to the confusion of his fierce, fighting dinosaur family.





## R.E FOCUS

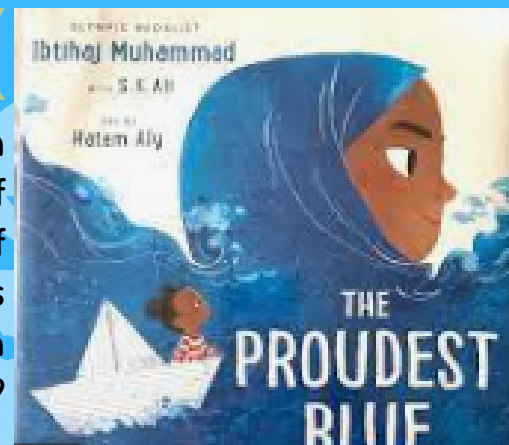
### AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 FESTIVALS



Celebrating diversity in culture and religion, this book is a real stunner! This is a visual celebration of festivals from across the globe, from the more familiar to those you might never have heard of before. Discover more about Junkanoo in the Bahamas, Juneteenth in the United States, Matariki in New Zealand and Poland's Great Dragon Parade. As you journey around the world, explore celebrations of food and drink, nature, culture, religion and history, plus ways to mark the passing of the year.

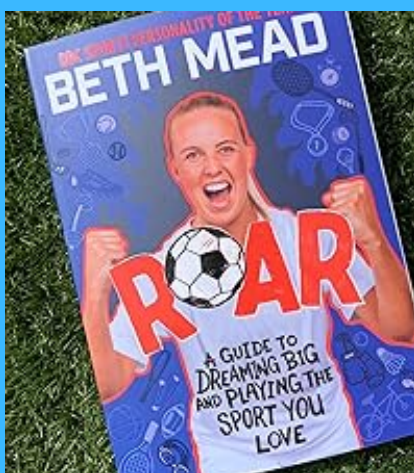
### THE PROUDEST BLUE

Asiya's hijab is like the ocean and the sky, no line between them, saying hello with a loud wave. It's Faizah's first day of school, and her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab – made of a beautiful blue fabric. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful. In the face of hurtful, confusing words, will Faizah find new ways to be strong?



## SPORT FOCUS

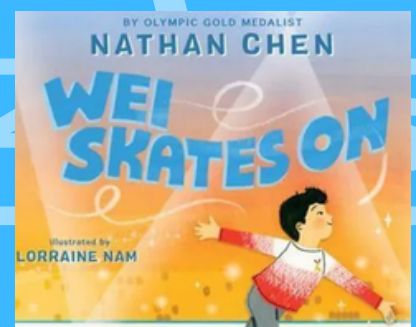
### ROAR: DREAMING BIG AND ...



From finding something you love, having fun and setting superstar goals to raising your game, working as a team and flicking your superstar switch, sport has the magic to help you achieve success in all areas of your life. But it's also about fun, freedom, friendship, focus and flair, and it is for EVERYONE. So stretch your legs, lace up your boots and discover Beth's insider tips, tricks and activities and for dreaming big and playing the sport you love.

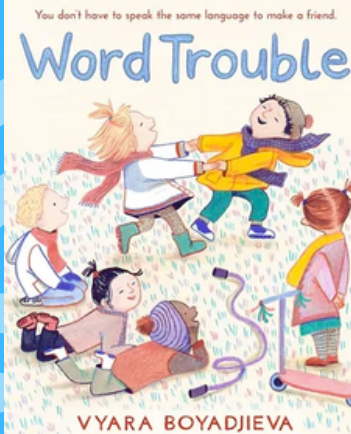
### WEI SKATES ON

Olympic gold medalist and three-time World Champion Nathan Chen delivers an inspirational picture book about facing your fears and finding the joy in sports, no matter the outcome.



## LANGUAGES FOCUS

### WORD TROUBLE



You don't have to speak the same language to make a friend... When Ronnie moves to a new house, in a new country, he's excited to make friends. But when he introduces himself to everyone at nursery – "My name is four. I am Ronnie years old." – the other children can't help but giggle. His words are all mixed up! Ronnie misses home and laughing with his old friends. But new doesn't stay that way for long...

### TALKING IS NOT MY THING

The autistic sister in this sibling pair is non verbal, but she finds plenty of ways to communicate and have fun with her brother. Although she can't talk, this little girl understands everything, and has plenty to say, and lots of ideas. Through body language, drawing pictures, making gestures or using flash cards, she is able to contribute to their life together. Her brother and granny are able to understand her whether she needs help or is helping them!



## PSHE FOCUS

### A WORLD FOR ME AND YOU



In this uplifting picture book, you imagine a world where everyone looks identical, where all food tastes the same, where we all speak the same language. A world that is...well, pretty boring. But with an explosion of colour, the pages soon come to life. This joyful picture book encourages children to imagine the world as a vast library, with room on the shelves for everybody's story. It is a celebration of our incredibly diverse world as it really is: home to 195 countries with thousands of different cultures, 10 million colours and 4,300 religions.

### MISS REEVES' RECOMMENDATION

This is a book for you Year 6s! Life can be tough in your last year of primary school. Tests to take, preparing for the change to high school. Nate is ready for it all, knowing his best friend PS is at his side – they've been inseparable since Nursery. But when they are put in two different classes and PS finds a new friend in Turner, the school bully, Nate's world turns upside-down. His new teacher, Mr Joshua, sees a spark inside of Nate that's lit by his love of reading and writing and shows him how to use this to process what's going on. But with so much working against him, and anger rising inside him, will this be enough?

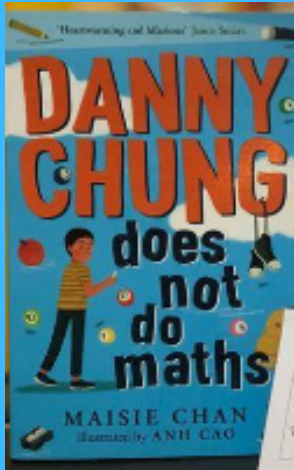




# MORE THAN A NUMBER

## MATHS AND COMPUTING FOCUS

### MISS REEVES' RECOMMENDATION



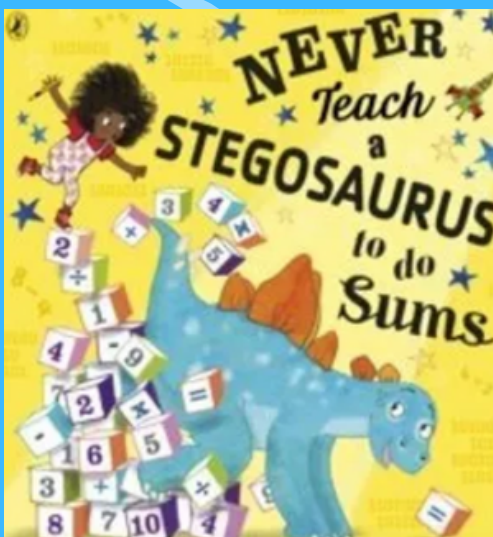
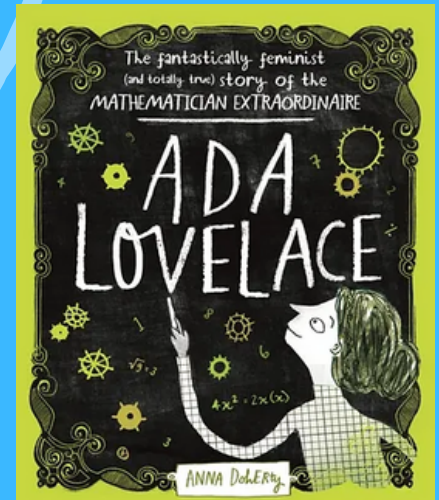
Eleven-year-old Danny Chung loves drawing more than anything – certainly more than maths, which, according to his dad and everyone else, is what he is 'supposed' to be good at. He also loves having his own room where he can draw in peace, so his life is turned upside down when a surprise that he's been promised turns out to be his little, wrinkly, ex-maths champion grandmother from China. What's worse, Nai Nai has to share his room, AND she takes the top bunk!

Nai Nai can't speak a word of English, which doesn't make things easy for Danny when he is charged with looking after her during his school holidays. Babysitting Nai Nai is NOT what he wants to be doing!

Before long though it becomes clear to Danny that there is more to Nai Nai than meets the eye, and that they have more in common than he thought possible ...

### ADA LOVELACE

Meet the remarkable Ada Lovelace: rebellious rule-breaker and maths whizz-kid. Growing up in the shadow of her eccentric superstar father, the poet Lord Byron, and under the eye of her strict mother, Ada spends her time inventing and designing flying machines and studying her favourite subject – maths. In Ada's time, girls aren't encouraged to pursue maths, physics or engineering as they're considered not clever enough but Ada doesn't let this stop her.

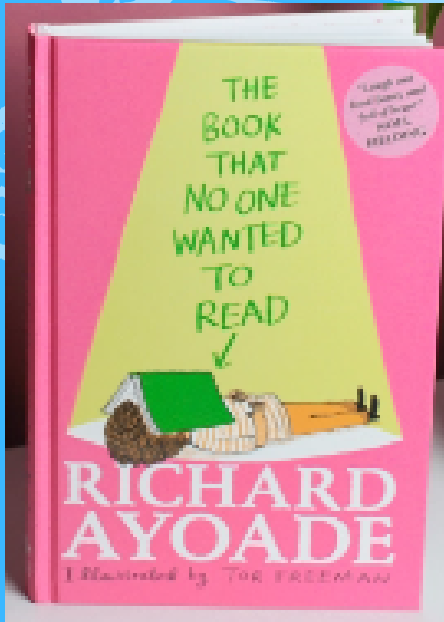


### NEVER TEACH A STEGOSAURUS TO DO SUMS

A love letter to learning and the power of numbers from exciting talents, Rashmi Sirdeshpande and Diane Ewen. A laugh-out-loud 'what if...?' adventure that celebrates maths being fun in this riotous read. If a Stegosaurus knew how to do sums – well, what would happen? Maybe she'd learn to code, to invent, to fly to the moon! From the creators of Never Show a T-Rex a Book!

# ROOTED IN READING

## ENGLISH FOCUS



## THE BOOK THAT NO ONE WANTED TO READ

Have you ever thought about how it feels to be a book? To be left under a whiffy pant pile or shelved, forever collecting dust? To have your pages bent backwards or your spine BROKEN? What if you don't have a sparkly unicorn or dragon adorning your cover – who will pick you out of the bookshop then? This is the story of the sadly neglected Book That No One Wanted To Read – can its destiny change when it finally meets the right reader? Spoiler alert: yes.

## MISS REEVES' RECOMMENDATION

When Rachel and Robert are passed a stolen book by their librarian father, they have to go on the run and protect it at all costs. With their father captured and everyone hunting for the Book, they must uncover its secrets and track down the final, missing page. But the cruel and calculating Charles Malstain is on their trail.

When the children discover the astonishing, magical truth about the Book, they resolve to do everything in their power to stop it falling into his hands. For if it does, he could rule forever. Step inside the pages of an immortal adventure and discover a truly unforgettable journey of wonder, courage and magic...



## POEMS ALOUD!

Poems are made to read OUT LOUD! A wittily illustrated anthology of poems, designed to be read aloud. Twenty poems by the award-winning Joseph Coelho arm children with techniques for lifting poetry off the page and performing with confidence. Perfect for confident children and shy readers alike, this book teaches all sorts of clever ways to performing poetry.

