

GOOD READS

This is an eclectic list of books that some parents and children of Cavehill Primary have enjoyed. You may find the list useful or wish to add to it in the future. The books have been split into four categories: picture books, short/first chapter books, longer chapter books good for sharing, and non-fiction.

The joy of picture books can still be encouraged as your child moves onto short first chapter books. Children often find a great sense of achievement when they can independently read a well-loved picture book or even read it to younger siblings. When it comes to reading longer chapter books with your children, it is of course important to select titles carefully ensuring the content matches the interests and sensibilities of your child.

Picture Books

There are no Cats in this Book, Viviane Schwarz, Walker, 2009, ISBN: 9781406324990

My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes, Puffin, 1978, ISBN: 9780141329611

These are two great titles for cat lovers. The first introduces three mischievous cats who just really want to be your friend. There are lots of intriguing flaps and lots of catty antics. 'My cat likes to Hide in Boxes' is an old classic but equally loved by my children especially when read by their Dad who puts on an array of great accents for the cats from around the world.

Can you Catch a Mermaid? Jane Ray, Orchard Books, 2003, ISBN: 9781841212968

This book is beautifully told and illustrated. It is a touching story of loss, loneliness, friendship, and of course magical mermaids.

Stuck, Oliver Jeffers, Harpercollins, 2011, ISBN: 9780007263868

This quickly became a solid family favourite that made us all laugh out loud. Floyd gets his kite stuck up in a tree. Follow his zany antics as he attempt to dislodge the kite!

Millie's Marvellous Hat, Satoshi Kitamura, Anderson Press, 2009, ISBN: 9781842709245

Millie simply loves hats and longs for the one in the hat shop window. The only problem is she hasn't any money. However, the man in the hat shop has an ingenious solution allowing Millie to wear whatever hat she desires. Her only limitation is her imagination.

George and the Dragon, Chris Wormell, Random House, 2002, ISBN: 0099417669

Chris Wormell's illustrations leap off the page in this simple but effective story with a clever twist that really appeals to children. The language is fantastic and a joy to read out loud. Having said that we also have it on CD, and it is hard to beat the reading by Brian Blessed. On the first few readings of this story my middle daughter did peer out from behind a cushion!

Full, Full, Full of Love, Trish Cooke, Walker Books, 2003, ISBN: 0744532345

Every Sunday Jay Jay and his large family have lunch at Granny's house. This is a wonderfully reassuring book full of family love and plenty of delicious food. A great book to share and read again and again.

'Imagine, A book of Imaginings', Norman Messenger, Walker Books (2005) ISBN:074459202

'How to Live Forever', Colin Thompson, Red Fox (1998) ISBN:0099461811

These two picture books are aimed at older readers, require very careful examination of the pictures, are fantastic at sparking the imagination, and help you to see the extraordinary in the ordinary!

Katie and the Sunflowers, James Mayhew, Orchard Books, ISBN: 9781841216348

This is one title in a whole series of books where Katie explores numerous artists and art works. They are a great first introduction to major artworks.

The Yellow Balloon, Charlotte Dematons, Lemniscaat USA, 2004, ISBN: 9781932425017

This is a wordless book which is driven by the illustrations. They are beautifully done. Each scene shows a story, and there are recurring characters and objects to find through out the book (the yellow balloon, a blue truck, robbers etc). Great for keeping kids entertained even before they can read themselves.

The Boy Who Grew Flowers, Jen Wojtowicz and Steve Adams Barefoot Books, 2012, ISBN 9781841484976

I partly chose this because Barefoot Books is such a great publisher and the books are always beautifully illustrated (you can order directly from www.barefootbooks-online.co.uk). But this is also a beautiful story about being different, and finally finding a sense of belonging – not always easy for kids at school.

Alfie and the Big Boys, Shirley Hughes, Red Fox, 2009, ISBN: 9780099488446

Dogger, Shirley Hughes, Red Fox, 2009, ISBN: 9781862308053

Shirley Hughes does some great books with themes that resonate for kids starting school such as the two titles listed above. Some of these books were favourites with my daughter when she was younger, then she went back to them as she started school, and then again when she could read them herself. Don't worry that they are going back to "babyish" books as they may need to be a bit younger at home when they spend all day managing at big school. Also they get something different from classic books at different times.

Short/First Chapter Books

Usborne Very First Reading Series

The whole series has good stories, authors and illustrations. A great starting point for launching into first chapter books.

Usborne First Reading Series (Level 1-4)

This next series then has a number of levels to help your child progress and can help provide a sense of achievement. In all these Usborne series there is a nice mixture of stories that should appeal to both boys and girls.

Usborne Young Reading: Series 1, 2 and 3

This series is a great starting point for stories that require longer attention spans. These are chapter books with more text, but still with pictures. My son is mad for history and fighting and all that kind of boy stuff, so particular favorites were *Stories of Pirates*, *Stories of Monsters*, *King Arthur*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Treasure Island*, and *The Story of Castles*, but there are lots more to choose from, including lots with 'milder' themes! I'd recommend almost anything from the Usborne stable.

Orchard Classics Series: Greek Myths or Shakespeare Stories, Andrew Matthews and Tony Ross

Orchard Classic series are very accessible versions of the myths and Shakespeare's most popular stories.

Felix and the Kitten (Leapfrog Series), Maeve Friel and Beccy Blake, Franklin Watts, 2009

This is a great series along with Leapfrog Rhyme Time for early readers with colourful illustrations and good stories despite the word limitations placed on the authors.

Ghostly Shocks and the Three Scares (Seriously Silly Stories), Laurence Anholt and Arthur Robins, Orchard Books, 2002

This is a funny series that has been around for sometime, but does not feel dated and offers a nice twist on familiar tales.

Titchy Witch and the Birthday Broomstick (Orchard Colour Crunchies), Rose Impy and Katherine McEwen, Orchard Books, 2004

Titchy Witch, her family and her cat called Cat-a-bogus get up to all kinds of magic-led fun in this very accessible and appealing series.

Longer Chapter Books Good for Sharing

Clarice Bean Spells Trouble, Lauren Child, Orchard Books, 2009, ISBN: 9781408304150 (Series)

The Clarice Bean stories are fabulous to read out loud. Lauren Child is fantastic at bringing her characters to life. The humour in these stories leaps off the page as you follow Clarice Bean's attempts to make sense of the often confusing world around her. The stories also allow for some thought provoking questions as Clarice comes to understand that many moral questions in life are not simply black and white.

Iggy and Me, Jenny Valentine, Harpercollins, 2010, ISBN: 0007283628 (series)

A great series of family stories centred around exploits of 5 year old Iggy narrated by her older sister. Each chapter reads like a mini-story which makes it great for sharing at bedtime.

Little Wolf's Book of Badness, Ian Whybrow, Harpercollins, 2009, ISBN: 9780007317349(series)

Little Wolf's parents send him off to school to learn to be bad! This is a wickedly funny book that subverts parental norms that desire children to be good. Great fun to read aloud.

The Orchard Book of Heroes and Villains, Tony Bradman and Tony Ross, Orchard Books, 2008, ISBN: 9781843629733

Heroes and Villains is a great selection of short stories.

The Orchard Book of Greek Myths, Geraldine McCaughrean, Orchard Books 1992, ISBN: 9781852133733

Geraldine McCaughrean is a great children's author and has written accessible version of both the Greek and Roman myths.

Kasper: Prince of Cats, Michael Morpurgo, Harpercollins, 2010, ISBN: 9780007267002

A great adventure begins for Johnny Trott a young bell boy at the world famous Savoy Hotel when the Countess Kandinsky arrives with her incredible cat Kasper. A young and spirited American girl will lead Johnny and Kasper on a fateful journey on the infamous Titanic. As always, Michael Morpurgo uses a great blend of intriguing real life events alongside his adventurous imagination.

Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism, Georgia Byng Macmillian, 2010, ISBN: 9782702859100 (series)

Molly, an orphan, seeks solace from her grim surroundings in the library and discovers a fascinating book on hypnotism. She soon masters the skill with incredible results which lead her on a fantastical adventure to New York.

The Bad Beginning (A Series of Unfortunate Events), Lemony Snicket, Egmont Books, 2003, ISBN: 9781405208673 (series)

The Baudelaire siblings suffer a multitude of unfortunate events in this very dark Dahlesque and gothic world. The adventure starts as the children's parents are killed and they are pursued by money grabbing uncle Count Olaf. Despite the misery heaped upon Violet, Klaus and Sunny you quickly become hooked not least by the foreboding interjections of the author and his great play with language and the genre of children's fiction.

Bill's New Frock, Anne Fine, Egmont, 2007, ISBN: 9781405233187

The story of a boy called Bill Simpson who goes to bed as a boy but wakes up the next morning to find that everybody thinks he's a girl. To make the nightmare worse, his mother insists he wears a pretty pink frilly dress to school! This is a funny and thought-provoking book that really captures the imagination.

Pippi Longstocking, Astrid Lindgren and Lauren Child, OUP, 2010, ISBN: 9780192782410

I can't recommend Astrid Lindgren's work highly enough, especially this edition illustrated by Lauren Child. Her *Pippi Longstocking* books are great fun for both boys and girls and can be seen as an influence on many modern authors.

Emil and the Clever Pig, Astrid Lindgren, OUP, 2008, ISBN: 9780192727565

There are many titles and different editions of the Emil stories about a mischievous boy on a farm who seems to get himself into allsorts of humorous scrapes. These had me laughing out loud, and begging my son to let me read them again.

The Great Piratical Rumbustification and The Librarian and the Robbers, David R Godine Books, 2006, ISBN: 9781567921694

This is a great collection that's just mad, but may make sense of children's experiences. The first story is about how a pirate turns up for the position of children's child minder, and the second is about a librarian who gets captured by robbers and converts them to the joys of reading.

The Ogre of Oglefort, Eva Ibbotson, Macmillian Children's Books, 2011, ISBN: 9780330513050

The Secret of Platform 13 Eva Ibbotson, Macmillian Children's Books, 2009, ISBN: 9780330398015

These are just two titles which are part of Eva Ibbotson's magical world series in which children go on an adventure with a series of magical creatures (witches, ogres, fairies, selkies, etc) to overcome evil of some kind. My son loved these stories. I liked the fact that there was always a boy/girl team, but there was no sexualising of this friendship. At times the books dealt with quite adult themes, like death and killing, but never glorified these.

Non-Fiction

Actual Size, S Jenkins, Frances Lincoln, 2011, ISBN: 9781847801852

My children are real fans of the TV programme 'Deadly 60' and any of the spin-off shows. It has really sparked their interest in weird and wonderful animals. This book illustrates animals at their actual size something that is often hard to gauge on the tv-screen.

Nature Adventures, Nick Manning and Brita Granstrom, Frances Lincoln, 2012, ISBN: 9781847803269

A family guide to local habitats, packed full of great ideas of things to collect, see and do when out and about in the natural environment. Beautiful illustrations help identify local species of flora and fauna.

Kingfisher First Encyclopaedia, Kingfisher, 2011, ISBN: 9780753431849

My daughter has always preferred factual books. One of her favourites is the Kingfisher Encyclopaedia as it covers a variety of topics such as how the body works, how things work, animal kingdom etc.

I Know How we Fight Germs (Sam's Science Series) Kate Rowan, Walker Books, 2000, ISBN: 9780744572223

These titles are a great cross over between fiction and non-fiction. Other titles include 'I Know Why I brush my Teeth' and 'I Know Where my Food Goes'.

How Things Work, Usborne, Martyn Bramwell, 1989, ISBN: 9780746004159

This is another title in this nice lift the flap series which is great if your child has a scientific bent and likes to know how things work.

Knight's Tales, Roman Tales, Greek Tales and Egyptian Tales, Terry Deary, A&C Black.

In these series, Terry Deary of 'Horrible History' fame takes real historical events and adds child characters into the center of the action to make a great story. The 'afterword' at the end of the story helps to explain the historical context.

Usborne Young Puzzles Series

If your child isn't into stories, the Usborne Young Puzzles series is good. A team of children set out on the first page to go on an adventure, but you must 'solve' the various puzzles on each page in order to help them on their way.

Famous People Famous Lives Roald Dahl, Emma Fischel Franklin Watts, 2002, ISBN: 9780749643515

This series covers many famous lives including biographies of Boudicca, Florence Nightingale, John Lennon, Henry VIII and so on.

USEFUL BOOKS FOR PARENTS

The Ultimate First Book Guide, Flynn, Leonie and Daniel Hahn, A & C Black, 2008. ISBN: 9780713673319

Age range 0 – 7 coverage includes novelty books, classic and contemporary picture books, chapter books and more challenging reads. The themed lists can be really useful if your child has a favourite genre.

The Ultimate Book Guide, Flynn, Leonie and Daniel Hahn, A & C Black, 2009. ISBN: 9781408104385

Age range 8-12. Could be useful to find books you may read to your child. Again the themed lists on animal stories, school stories, adventure stories etc can be helpful.

The Puffin Handbook

This book was published to celebrate 70 years of publishing. It comprises Puffin's best 70 titles for children of all ages along with expert advice and related articles. Available to download from the puffin website: www.puffin.co.uk

The Reading Bug... and how to help your child catch it.' Paul Jennings, Penguin Books (2004)
ISBN: 0141318406

This book is incredibly accessible and is a practical guide for parents to help them support their child's journey towards becoming enthusiastic, confident and proficient independent readers. The overwhelming message from the author Paul Jennings is that reading systems are important in teaching your child to read, but they are by no means the most crucial factor. Immersing your child in the world of books, stories, pictures and imagination can help to create the drive and motivation needed to be able to unlock these worlds for themselves. Without the desire and enthusiasm, learning to read can be a stale and demotivating process. Unfortunately, this is the most up-to-date edition of this book, the recommendations inside are by and large still available.

Superpowers for Parents: the psychology of great parenting and happy children, Stephen Briers, Pearson Education, 2008, ISBN: 9780273714354

Stephen Briers argues for a more positive approach to parenting, and that kids will behave better given a positive incentive, rather than a negative one (like the naughty step). He had some nice ways of helping you to get inside your kid's head, to work out their motivation, which can often be the secret to defusing an argument.

How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk, Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish, Piccadilly Press, 2001, ISBN: 9781853407055

This book helps you to think about how we as parents communicate with our children. It looks at what we say and do with our children and how this can impact on them. It has some helpful suggestions on how to phrase things more positively and make your child more likely to talk and listen more freely.

Understanding your child series (Tavistock)

This is a series that begins with Understanding your baby and goes all the way up to the teens. A different author writes each book, but all are clinicians and experts in child development and mental health. The understanding your 4 – 5 year-olds has a great bit on starting school.

Your Baby and Child by Penelope Leach, Dorling Kindersley, 2010, ISBN: 9781405348492

This has been my child-rearing bible and is full of wisdom as well as good practical advice. Although it only goes up to 5 years it has a great section on helping your child be ready for starting school both emotionally and practically.

USEFUL WEB RESOURCES

Check out publisher's websites as they are packed with lots of information about their latest titles, information on the authors and illustrators, games puzzles, downloads and competitions. There are also often links to the author/illustrators' own websites with many more activities and opportunities for your child to extend their reading experiences. There are usually sections highlighted for parents that often offer lots of helpful advice on supporting your child's reading. Walker Books in particular has a really helpful section for parents. A further good source of recommendations are children's book prizes. A few of the bigger prizes have been listed below.

National Literacy Trust: www.literacytrust.org.uk

The Words for Life section offers heaps of advice and guidance for parents and carers helpfully chunked into children's age bands. They have mapped out useful developmental milestones along with fun activities and downloads.

Booktrust: www.booktrustchildrensbooks.org.uk

This site features author interviews, illustrator gallery, themed booklists, games, and quizzes, and is full of great recommendations and tips for sharing books for children of all ages.

Booktime: www.booktime.org.uk

This site supports the work of a national free book programme aimed at nursery school children. It provides a lot of useful tips on supporting early reading, activities and games that would still be relevant for P1 children.

Book Awards

Children's book awards are a great way of finding out about new titles. Some awards are made by the children themselves or by experts in children's literature.

The Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Book Award: www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk

Red House Children's Book Award: www.redhousechildrensbookaward.co.uk

Waterstone's Children's Book Prize: www.waterstones.com

Costa Book Awards: www.costabookawards.com

Guardian Children's Book Prize: www.guardian.co.uk

Blue Peter Book Awards: www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/articles/blue-peter-books-2012