



# Reading at FCC



A key priority at FCC is to **promote reading**.

In working to **increase reading ages**, we are providing our children with the best chance of **achieving well in all of their GCSEs**, ensuring they have the **literacy skills** to not only function, but to **thrive, in society**.

There are many key benefits of reading for school children, most notably:

- It is proven that children who read for pleasure do better in their GCSEs;
- Readers perform significantly better in Maths and Science;
- It increases general knowledge;
- Vocabulary is improved
- It promotes tolerance.

We firmly believe that reading forms part of a **healthy lifestyle**, alongside making **healthier food choices** and taking time to **exercise**.

We appreciate that not everyone, regardless of their age, may 'enjoy' reading and, for some, it will never become a hobby. This is okay! However, it is important to understand the benefits of reading and to try to fit in time to undertake some, just as we would with exercise (even if, like me, we'd prefer to sit on the couch with a box of chocolates!).

Some of the health benefits of reading include

- Reduced stress;
- Improved concentration and focus;
- Supporting healthy sleep cycles.

## Bring your reading book to school daily!

All lesson for Years 7 – 10, across all subjects, begin with silent reading. This promotes the reading culture; ensures a consistent start to all lessons so students know what to expect; provides chance for de-escalation if needed; ensures a quiet, focused start to all lessons, ensuring all students are ready to learn.



### Staff Reading:

Every member of staff at FCC has a little book sign on their door or in their classroom that shows what they are currently reading. Have a look and see whether it's a book, magazine, audiobook or podcast that you may enjoy (remember, these formats all constitute reading!).

### BENEFITS OF READING BOOKS EVERY DAY



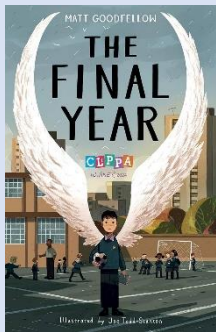
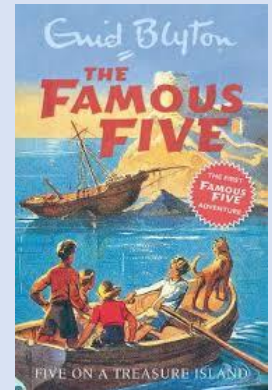
# Reading Recommendations

## Recommended Reads for Children: Recommendations from 7SMc

### **The Famous Five: Five on a Treasure Island by Enid Blyton**

#### **Recommended by Ella**

The book is about some children who visit their Aunt and Uncle. They meet their cousin, called Georgina (George for short). To begin with, she wasn't very friendly but soon settles and takes them to the beach after her parents force her to spend some time with her cousins. There, they see the island that belongs to George... This is a great book for those who like adventures. It is suitable for all ages but to read independently, you'll need to be Year 7 and up as there is some tricky vocabulary.



### **The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow**

#### **Recommended by Jess**

Nate is in about to start Year 6 but his friend PS is in a different class to him. Life at home is tough: Nate has two brothers and his mum. His dad left when his mum was expecting Nate and the family have money struggles. His mum cries at night when she thinks the boys are all asleep.

In Year 6, PS makes friends with the school bully, Turner, and Nate is forgotten. Only when something bad happens in Nate's life does PS come to speak to him again...

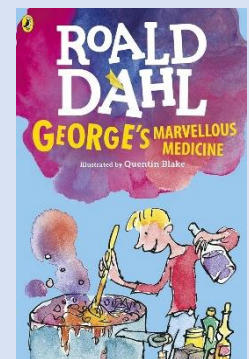
This is a brilliant book for people who like a sad book.

### **George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl**

#### **Recommended by Austin**

George is left at home with his creaky old Grandma. She is a horrible woman and George will do anything to be away from her so he conjures up a plan! If he replaces her medicine with a new one then he can be sent away. What could possibly go wrong?

This book is great for people who love funny books. I'd especially recommend for those who enjoy David Walliams' books.



## did you know?

In Iceland, books are exchanged as Christmas Eve presents, then you spend the rest of the night in bed reading them and eating chocolate. The tradition is part of a season called Jolabokaflokkur, or 'The Christmas Book Flood', because Iceland, which publishes more books per capita than any other country, sells most of its books between September and November due to people preparing for the upcoming holiday.



# Staff Reading

## My Reading Experience:

Ms Masters (Assistant Headteacher)

I love reading as it helps me to relax. I enjoy delving into the lives of characters and stepping out of my life for a little while. I think that turning the pages of a physical book is part of the fun and I love to visit my local book shop, Bert's Books in Swindon. I like supporting small bookshops so take my children there to buy their books - it's a great place to sit and read too and you can always get a recommendation for your next read.

Being a parent has allowed me to appreciate all the books I read when I was younger and we love Roald Dahl - our favourite being *The Witches*. When reading aloud to my children, I have discovered I have a pretty effective Grand High Witch Voice!

My favourite place to read is the garden so I love a sunny, warm day, reading with a cup of tea. I am currently reading the Becky Chambers *Wayfarers* series which was recommended to me by the book club I am part of. I would never have thought to read Sci fi but I'm really enjoying it and my favourite so far is *The Long Way to a Small Angry Planet*.



## Author Focus: Cressida Cowell

Cressida Cowell is the author and illustrator of the bestselling *How to Train Your Dragon*, *The Wizards of Once* and *Which Way to Anywhere* books series, and the author of the *Emily Brown* picture books, illustrated by Neal Layton.

As a child, Cowell states she grew up in London and on a small, uninhabited island off the west coast of Scotland, and that it was during summers spent on the Inner Hebrides, where she first began to develop her writing and drawing skills.

Cressida Cowell regularly attends talks and book signings in the local area, most recently at Oxford's Story Museum and Bath Literary Festival.

# Parent & Carer Reading

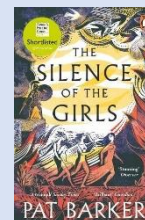
## Recommended Reads for Parents & Carers:

Mrs Thomas (DT Teacher)

Some recommended reads to enjoy over Christmas...

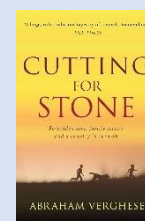
### **The Silence of The Girls by Pat Barker**

This is a retelling of the classic Greek myth about the siege of Troy from a female perspective. The main character and narrator, Briseis, a high-born woman is taken captive by Achilles after she witnesses his involvement in the brutal killing of her husband and brothers, she suffers the further trauma of becoming as his "bed slave." Without being too preachy, this book helps us to imagine what conditions were like for women in a time when they were seen as the spoils of war in a camp full of "heroes."



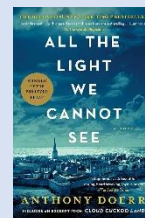
### **Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese**

I love a book that both entertains and informs, and the first paragraph of this book does just that with its beautiful description of the Italian style piazzas in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia and the coffee culture that remains after the Italian colonisation of the country. This is a book that spans five decades and moves from Ethiopia to USA and India. It is the story of three generations of medics centred on conjoined twins who are born in Ethiopia to a Nun; astounding the people around, who were unaware even that she was pregnant! Once separated, they are destined to live very different lives, becoming radically different people. A great book to curl up with over Christmas.



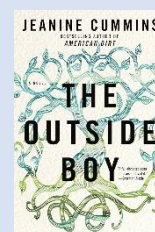
### **All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr**

Set during WWII, All the Light We Cannot See follows the stories of Marie-Laure, a blind young French girl and Werner Pfenning, a German orphan. The story is told from their alternating perspectives, with chapters that go back and forth in time. The novel opens in 1945 with both Marie-Laure and Werner, in the German-occupied, French town of Saint-Malo, as Allied Forces prepare an air strike. We then go back in time, to follow both characters and learn what has brought them to this point. It is an engaging and well-written story that reminds us of the horror and inhumanity of war, and also the kindness that humans are capable of.



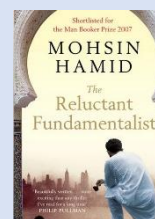
### **The Outside Boy by Jeanine Cummins**

I love a book that helps me to walk in the shoes of another person and this one does just that. It is written from the perspective of a young gypsy Irish boy who lives with his father and travels around Ireland in a wagon train with his grandparents, his aunt and uncle, and his cousins selling what they can; begging or stealing when their selling comes up short. It is well written; part mystery, part love story, and finally, a coming-of-age story. It will make you laugh and cry and beautifully illustrates how difficult it is to try to fit into another culture.



### **The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid**

This short gripping novel is a one-sided conversation between a Pakistani professor named Changez, and an unnamed American, taking place mostly in a street café in Lahore. Changez describes an education at Princeton, a subsequent short career at one of New York's top business consultancies, a love affair with a beautiful American girl, and his eventual disillusion with the United States. I read it in one sitting and the tension was built up by the author so well that by the time I got to the last few pages, I realised that my heart was racing.



# Reading Format Focus

## Where to source them:

- **Libby App:** One app that works with your library card to provide you with free audiobooks! As with the library, you may have to wait for the audiobook to be returned before you can listen to it.
- **Librivox:** A great site that offers literally thousands of free audiobooks that have been recorded by volunteers from around the world. We love the community feel of this site and the passion for sharing these wonderful books far and wide!
- **YouTube:** An array of free audiobooks are available on YouTube that you can then listen to when relaxing or out and about. It's always worth checking YouTube first, just in case!
- **Audible:** A membership site, which offers 30 days for free. Membership starts at £7.99 and you get one free credit a month to spend on whichever book you would like.

# Audiobooks

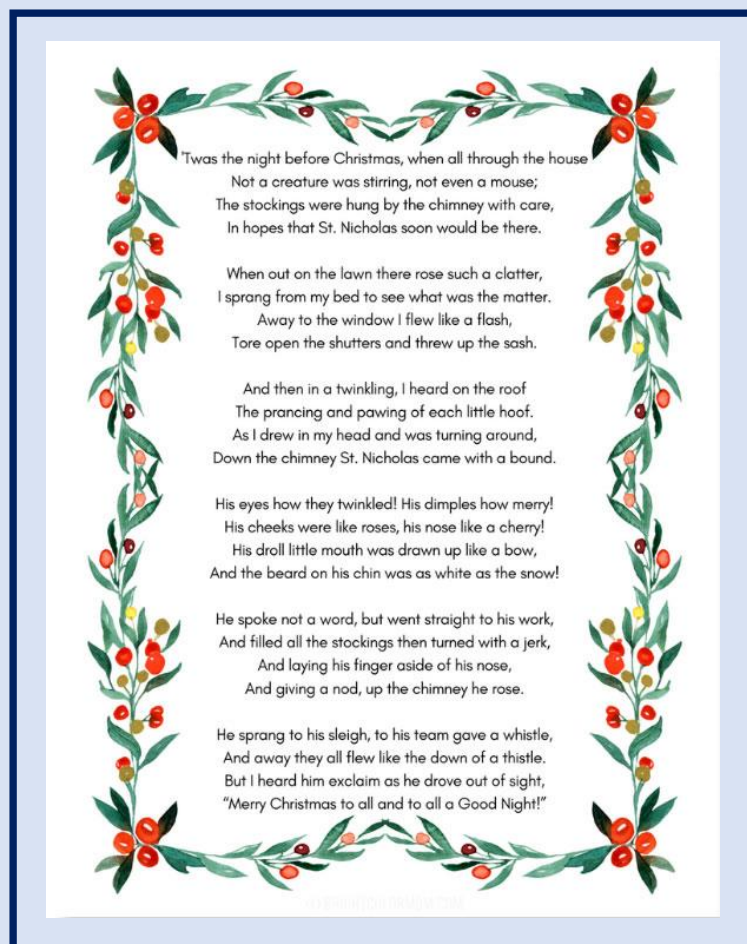
## Benefits of audiobooks:

- Improve pronunciation and fluency
- Improve time-management
- Promotes multitasking
- Builds critical listening skills
- Improves memory
- Increases comprehension skills
- Develops vocabulary!



## Why we love them:

- Listen to a book, as a family, whilst travelling in the car
- Make chores more fun by listening to an audiobook at the same time
- Bring characters to life by hearing their words!



# Information

## Matt Dickinson

Matt Dickinson is joining us for the academic year as our Writer in Residence. As part of the project, he is working with two groups of Year 8 students to support their literacy skill development. In addition, throughout the year, he will present to each year group in the school.

If you have a book you would like to be signed by Matt, he will be in school on the following days:

9<sup>th</sup> January

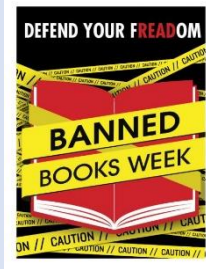
29<sup>th</sup> January

7<sup>th</sup> March

7<sup>th</sup> May

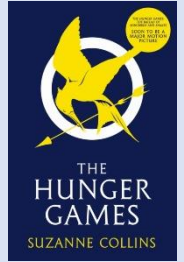
9<sup>th</sup> July

Feel free to pop along to the library during lunch time to meet him and get a copy of one of his books signed.



## Banned Books Week

Our related reading recommendation to celebrate Banned Books Week is **The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins**





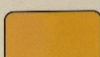
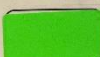


In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games. But Katniss has been close to dead before - and survival, for her, is second nature. Without really meaning to, she becomes a contender. But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weight survival against humanity and life against love.

**For lists of more banned books, and the reasons for the bans, see the displays in the small hall and the library.**

## AR LEVEL GUIDE

	0.0-1.9
	2.0-2.9
	3.0-3.9
	4.0-4.9
	5.0-5.9
	6.0 +

## Accelerated Reader

All students in Y7-10 undertake three to four reading assessments across the year. We use this data to provide reading levels for students to encourage them to read books most appropriate to their reading ability, as well as providing data for teachers to ensure they are offering the necessary support for the students within the classroom setting.

Any student whose reading age is lower than average below their chronological age is provided with some additional intervention via Accelerated Reader. This support is something we feel passionately about as research shows that one of the most significant indicators of success later in life is reading behaviour.

Students who use the AR programme in school can quiz at home and increase their chance of becoming a word millionaire via

<https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/1958855>

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