

# Lockyer's Middle School

## Student Newsletter: Sixth Edition

Welcome to the final Student Newsletter of the academic year. This edition focuses on reading, one of the areas we have been developing as a school this year. With the summer holidays approaching and your Google Classroom lessons drawing to a close, we hope that you find some inspiration for holiday reading in this edition. We look forward to hearing about which of the books recommended you have read during the break.

An enormous congratulations to all of you for the resilience and responsibility that you have displayed during this challenging time.

All  
Lockyer's  
Students

### Rip-roaring Reads (pages 6 to 8)

With the summer holidays approaching, we thought you might like some reading recommendations to keep you busy; we asked the staff at Lockyer's to share their favourite books for young people. How many of these can you read and quiz on over the summer holidays?

#### Joke Corner

What do you call a cow that is eating the grass in your garden?

A lawn moo-er

Seth (Year 4)

What do you call a sleeping T-Rex?

A dino-snore

Honor (Year 6)

What is the best thing about Switzerland?

Well, the flag is a big plus.

Frank (Year 5)

My friend said he couldn't afford his water bill, so I sent him a get well card.

Miss Stowford

Why do all Norwegian military boats have barcodes?

To make it easier to Scan-de-navy-in.

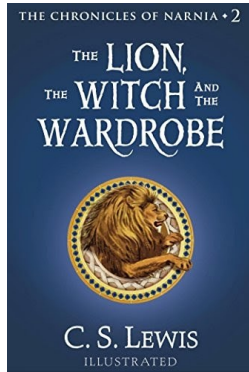
Mr Dyer



## *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis

My favourite book is *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. I loved this book because of the theme and characters. I liked how Lucy, Susan, Edmund and Peter found a whole world in a wardrobe!

Hannah (Year 6)



### Task

You are a farmer taking a fox, a chicken and a sack of grain to market and you come across a river. The only way across the river is by a small boat, which can only hold at most you (the farmer) and ONE of the three items. Left unsupervised, the chicken will eat the grain or the fox will eat the chicken. However, the fox won't try to eat the grain, nor will the fox or the chicken wander off. What's the quickest way to get everything across the river?

Riddle - Alfie (Year 6)

Solutions on the final page of the newsletter.

## Banana Pancakes

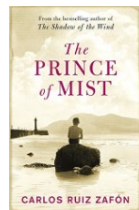
- 1) Mash a banana
- 2) Add a beaten egg to the banana
- 3) Stir in a level tablespoon of plain flour and a pinch of cinnamon (optional)
- 4) Heat a little oil in a frying pan on a medium heat
- 5) Add the mixture to the oil in 3 equal quantities (spaced apart) and leave for 2 minutes
- 6) Turn the pancakes over and leave for 1 minute
- 7) Serve with natural yogurt and berries and a sprinkle of cinnamon.

Mrs Shivas

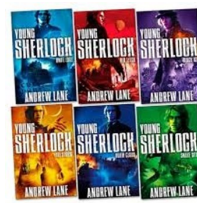
## *The Prince of the Mist* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (KS3 only!)

This is an atmospheric young adult novel, translated from the original Spanish version, set during the Second World War with a cracking narrative, genuinely creepy moments, and a sinister Prince of Mist (he sometimes appears as a clown!).

Mr Beattie



## Riddles, Reviews and Recipes



## Young Sherlock series, Andrew Lane

I am really enjoying these books because they are all about mysteries and I always wonder what's going to happen next. The main character is Sherlock Holmes when he was younger and it is based in Victorian times.

It's best to read the books in order because they follow on. The good news is they are in accelerated reader.

Thomas (Year 5)

### Riddles

Tom's mum had four children: April, May and June. What was the name of her final child?

Arthur (Year 5)

What is seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of each month?

Sophie (Year 5)

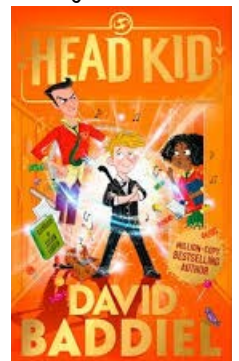
Mr. and Mrs. Mustard have six daughters and each daughter has one brother. How many people are in the Mustard family?

Jacob (Year 6)

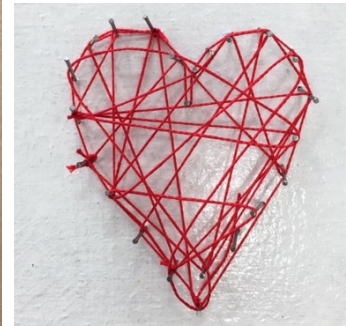
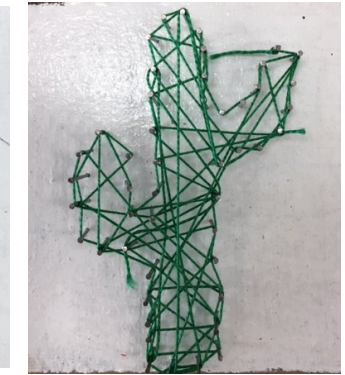
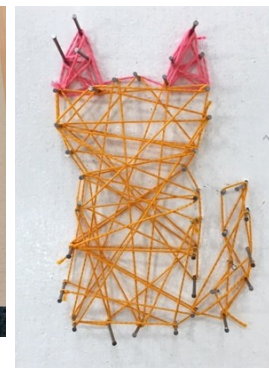
## Head Kid

David Baddiel is one of my favourite authors. In my opinion his best book is 'Head Kid'. It's about a boy and a head teacher who swap bodies and it becomes total chaos. Ryan Ward, the 'worst child' in the school, turns out to be a crazy head teacher. Whereas Mr Carter, the smart brainy head teacher, finds himself stuck in the body of Ryan Ward and has to battle his reputation. Head Kid is both hilarious and emotional at times. I personally rate this a 10/10.

Jacob (Year 6)



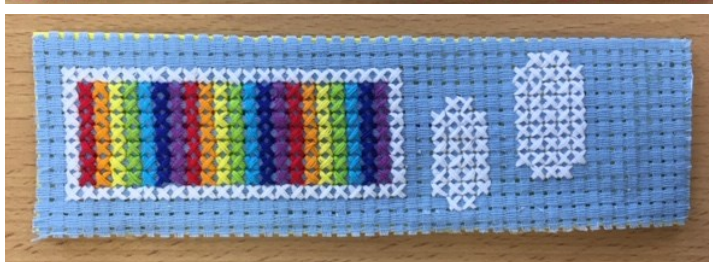
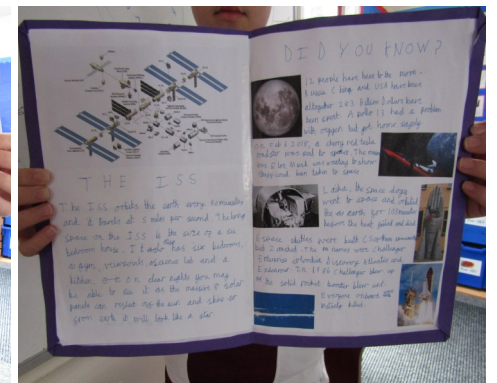
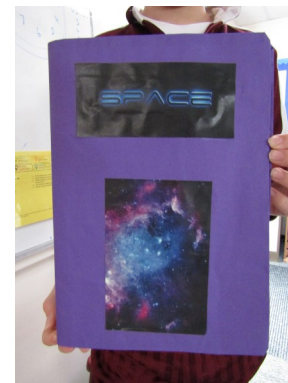




Key Worker Bubble String and Nail Art

Letter crafting  
Key Worker  
Bubble

Sam (Year 6) produced  
an excellent booklet on  
Space Travel



Key Worker Bubble  
Bookmarks and Bubble-makers



What we have been getting up to at school!



# Remote Interview with Mr West

Everyone's favourite computing teacher and Head of Year 8, Mr West answers your questions this week after being selected in the final staff interview vote. Read on to find out what he has been getting up to.

## How are you coping during these strange times?

I'm doing ok, thanks for asking. Hopefully, you are all well too. My 'normal' life has been affected by some negative things as a result of the pandemic, such as: the cancellation of summer holiday to France, not being able to go to the gym and a much more restricted social life. However, I've chosen to focus on the positives: I get to spend even more time with my family than usual, I still have a job and I'm lucky to live in a relatively safe part of the country.

## How did life change for you during lockdown?

Like most, I spent a lot more time at home during the first few weeks. As a staff, we quickly learned how to use Google Classroom and began planning appropriate activities for children to learn at home and responding to 80+ student questions every day. During this time, I also spent my mornings supporting my own children with their learning and doing chores around the house and I did a lot of painting!

Since returning to school, life has been relatively normal for me: working full time, seeing family in the evening and trying to relax at the weekends. However, I'm not able to do 'proper' teaching of lessons as I have a class of mixed year groups.

## Have you been able to do much skating during lockdown?

Oh yes, loads! Once the skateparks were re-opened, I took advantage of extra free time to have a roll as often as I could. I'm still very much addicted to the learning process that skateboarding involves - though I'm progressing at a very, very slow rate - it's scary when you are 'old' and your bones don't bend as much as they used to!

## How did you get into Computing?

During the 1980s, home computers became popular as they were finally cheap enough for people to buy. I was lucky and received a computer when I was about 12. Though I only did a little bit of programming on it, I remained interested in the opportunities that computers brought with them: to communicate, to calculate and to entertain.

As I got older, I worked with computers a great deal in various jobs and I also worked alongside programmers, digital artists and network managers (the people who make sure your connected computers keep working).

When I became a teacher, it seemed obvious that I would try to specialise in computing, as it is easier to teach about something you are enthusiastic about. Thankfully, it has worked out and I get to try to create that enthusiasm in 500 children, every year.

## What have you been doing for your daily exercise?

Other than skateboarding, I have been filling up 4 litre milk containers to use as weights, riding on an exercise bike and walking an average of 11,000 steps per day.

## What do you miss most about normal life?

Going out for meals with my family and friends, going to the gym/swimming pool and teaching proper lessons! What will be the first thing you do when life goes back to normal?

Re-book our holiday to France. I was disappointed when we were forced to cancel, as I wanted to visit the French Alps (mountains) again this summer. We had been hoping to do some paddle-boarding and walk under a glacier. Oh...and I may have found some amazing skateparks to visit too! I'll just have to be patient and keep fingers crossed for next summer.



## How to make Blackcurrant Jam

We have been picking blackcurrants from our garden and made jam with them. It's delicious!

### Ingredients

600g blackcurrants, stripped of the stalks.  
400g white caster sugar or granulated sugar  
Juice of 1/2 a lemon



### Method

1. If you don't have a cooking thermometer, put a saucer in the freezer. Sterilize the jars you want to use.

Tip the blackcurrants into a heavy-based saucepan with 100ml of water. Bring to the boil and simmer for 5 minutes until the fruit has broken down into a chunky pulp. Leave to cool slightly.

2. Sieve the fruit into the bowl, if you prefer your jam chunky leave the pulp as it is, weigh the fruit and then add 400g of sugar to every 500g of pulp, then tip back into the saucepan.

3. Pour in the lemon juice then heat gently, stir in to dissolve the sugar. Turn up the heat, then boil hard for about 10 minutes or until it reaches 105°C (setting point on a cooking thermometer).

If you don't own a thermometer, test for setting point by spooning a little jam onto a cold saucer.

After a couple of minutes gently push your finger through the jam - if the surface wrinkles, it is ready.

If not, return to the boil for 2 minutes, then retest.

4. Take off the heat and skim off any froth with a slotted spoon. Cool for 10-15 minutes.

Stir gently to distribute the fruit, then ladle into sterilized jars.

Keeps for 6 months in a cool dry space.

### Ingredients:

4tbs of honey  
2 eggs  
150g of almonds  
100g of flour  
1tbs of baking powder  
4 nectarines  
2 sticks of rhubarb

### Upside-down nectarine and rhubarb cake!

Remember to ask for adult help when using an oven



Step 1: Preheat the oven to 180 degrees

Step 2: Cut 4 nectarines and spread honey on a tray.

Step 3: Slice 2 sticks of rhubarb and boil them with hot water and 1 drizzle of honey.

Step 4: Arrange fruit on tray.

Step 5: blend 150g of almonds.

Step 6: Mix 2 eggs, 100g of flour, 150g of almonds, 4tbs of honey and 1tbs of baking powder.

Step 7: Place in oven for 20 minutes

Step 8: Enjoy!

Edward (Year 5)



What you have been getting up to at home!



Emily (Year 8) Pancakes



Molly and Olivia (Year 6)  
Jenga



Bethany (Year 6) Arthur (Year 5), Lucy (Year 6)



### Ms Locke

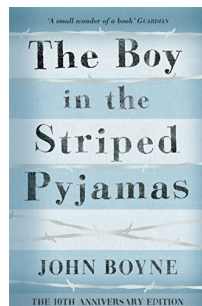
Neil Gaiman, one of my many favourite authors, once said that "Picking five favorite books is like picking the five body parts you'd most like not to lose." I have a similar problem. When I was little, I loved the **Famous Five** books - I would laugh at the obviously old-fashioned ideas about race, class and gender roles, but loved the adventures, the fact that it was locally, and I really, really (really!) wanted a dog just like Timmy. I also enjoyed the classics like **Bambi**, **The Hobbit**, **Black Beauty**, **Anne of Green Gables** (and any other book the library was prepared to loan me). Great children's books I have read recently have been **The Malamander**, **Trash** (for slightly older children), **The Nowhere Emporium**, **Fizzlebert Stump**, **The Orphans of the Tide**, **The Boy in the Back of the Class**, **The Monster Who Wasn't**, **Cogheart and Nevermoor** - I strongly recommend the last two! My children loved to read **The Worst Witch**, **Jack Stalwart**, **Percy Jackson**, **Harry Potter**, **The Emerald Atlas**, and **Alex Rider**.

Always check with your parents/carers before reading a new book.

### Mrs Adams

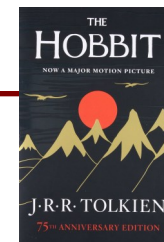
#### **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas** by John Boyne

A really gripping book that makes you think about what it must have been like to be a child growing up during WWII both as a Jew or a Nazi. This is a book about forbidden friendship; it takes you on an emotional roller coaster and has a shocking twist at the end.



### Mr Dyer

I love so many books; it's almost impossible to choose just one. Philip Pullman's **His Dark Materials** Trilogy is incredible on so many levels, I love Terry Pratchett and his **Discworld** Novels, I've recently reread the **Harry Potter** series and enjoyed it (although I think Hermione is a far better hero than Harry) and then there's **The Hobbit**, **Time Riders**, **The Mysterious Benedict Society**, **Pax**, and for older children **The Hunger Games**, **I am Number Four** and **Noughts and Crosses**.

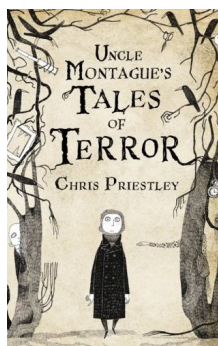


### Mr West

#### **Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror**

I never tire of reading this compilation of short - but terrifying - tales. The author, **Chris Priestley**, is also able to wind a continuous narrative around the stories, involving a boy who visits the aforementioned uncle and his realisation that all is not what it seems at the uncle's house!

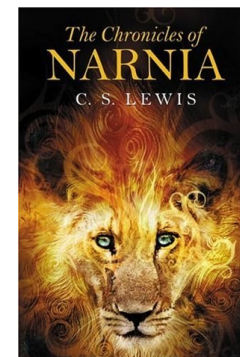
The tales often involve children who get a harsh 'life-lesson' due to their poor moral choices: greed, selfishness or bullying. The story that is most memorable involves a boy who is teasing a blind, old lady by taking apples from her garden. He soon finds out that he should have 'tree-ted' her better!



### Mrs Gould

#### **The Chronicles of Narnia** by C S Lewis

During Lock Down, I re-read all 5 books. I haven't read them since I was at Primary School. I couldn't believe how many links I found to the Harry Potter stories! In the end, I couldn't read them quickly enough and then I was disappointed when I had finished. I will definitely read them all again but a little slower, next time!



### Madam Crocombe

**Stranger with my Face** - Lois Duncan is a young adult horror novel. This is a very atmospheric and tense story about a girl who develops strange powers which leave her in danger. A gripping book.



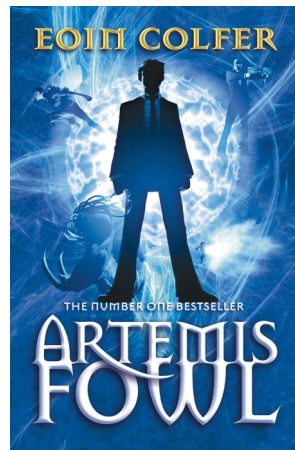
Mr Legge

*Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer

A tale of a 12-year-old prodigy who has dedicated his life to criminal activities.

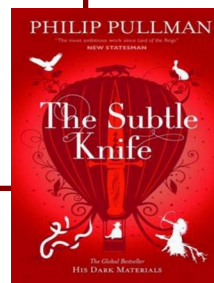
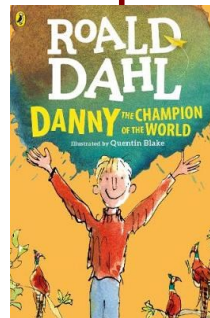
I enjoyed sharing them with my children at home.

Favourite Characters: Butler and Mulch Diggums



Mr Crocombe

Mine has to be *Danny Champion Of The World*. I have particularly fond memories of reading this with my mum, and marvelling at how Danny took the little Austin 7 to find his dad (who had gone out poaching in the night but had not returned). I can't remember the exact quote, but it was something like "Danny sped up, now reaching 15 mph". Which seemed fantastic to me, a young lad driving the car by himself.



Mr Pressling

*The Subtle Knife* - Philip Pullman

I liked *The Northern Lights* as it was set in Oxford which I know really well and hinted at string theory. However, the second book starts with one of the best descriptions I have ever read and as Lyra slips between universes, the book explores the idea of string theory and parallel universes really neatly. A true ripping yarn and adventure described beautifully in Pullman's poetic style.

Mrs Shivas

My all time favourite book is *Danny the Champion of the World* by Roald Dahl. As a little girl, I loved the build up to the big poaching event described in the early stages of the book and the idea that Danny could drive a car at such a young age to rescue his dad from an earlier, failed attempt to poach pheasants. In traditional Dahl style, there were heroes (Danny, his dad, the doctor) and villains (the land owner), collusion and intrigue. I wanted to live in a gypsy caravan and have a story-telling dad after reading this!

Mrs Seddon

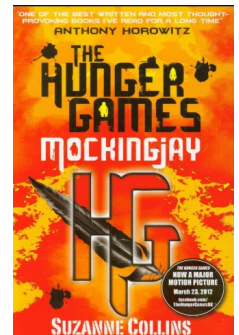
My favourite set of books is *The Wind on Fire Trilogy* by William Nicholson. The three books (*The Wind Singer*, *Slaves of the Mastery* and *Firesong*) follow the story of Bowman and Kestrel Hath, twins who are desperate to escape their home in the walled city of Aramanth, an extreme meritocracy where endless exams and ratings are the only way to move forward to improved life stations. When the voice of the Wind Singer disappears, Kestrel and Bowman set off on an adventure that changes their lives. A very exciting and addictive story, one that I can't recommend enough!



Mrs Lynch

*Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins

It's the final instalment in the futuristic *Hunger Games* trilogy. Katniss declares to the Capitol 'If we burn, you burn with us' I think she's the ultimate female action hero. In this book she's not as strong and as impulsive as before, but she's still a fantastic leader. The book deals with the themes of war, rebellion and loyalty and explains what has happened to most of the earlier characters. Be warned - there are some unexpected plot twists too!





Mrs Spittle

**Katie Morag Books** by Mairi Hedderwick.  
This book is for younger readers (6-8), or a nice short story to read to younger brothers or sisters.

Katie Morag is a little girl who lives on a Scottish island. The stories are about her day-to-day life and events, and are set on the fictional Isle of Struay. Katie Morag lives close to the jetty, where she can see visitors to the island come and go. Her parents run the island's only shop, where her mother is the postmistress and her father runs the general store. The books take us over a time when her mother is expecting a baby and onwards as the baby becomes a toddler. The books have some lovely humour and a strong sense of place, which I can relate to. My family have roots on The Isle of Sky, and I spent many of my summer holidays with younger Aunts and cousins playing and exploring heather covered landscapes. Katie is a feisty and independent little girl who loves to discover new things and help others. , but often finds herself in bit of scrape.



Mrs Evans

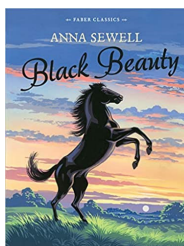
My favourite children's book is **Wonder** by RJ Palacio. It is a book about Auggie, a 10 year old boy with facial disfigurements and how he copes with starting school for the first time. I chose it as a class reader for my Key Worker Bubble and they have all loved it too! I love it because it really gets you to think about how your actions can make other people feel - it is also full

of inspirational quotes such as: "when given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind" and, "strong people don't put others down. They lift them up."



Mrs Gilbert

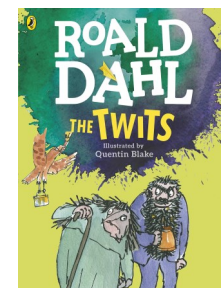
I've recently read **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak (maybe ok for KS3) which is an historical fiction novel. My favourite character was Liesel Meminger (the book thief) and I loved how her relationship with another character Max Vandenberg (a secret Jewish lodger) developed.



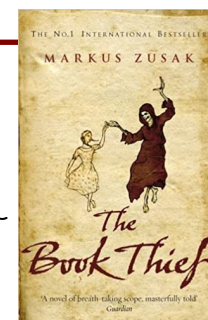
My favourite read from my childhood is **'Black Beauty'** by Anna Sewell. I loved this because it was the first book that I read written from the perspective of an animal (other than Winnie the Pooh et al or Paddington) where the animal's feelings were explored in the same way that a human's would be.

Miss Stark

One of my favourite books is **The Twits** by Roald Dahl. I remember my Dad reading this to me when I was younger so it's also slightly sentimental. However, I find the story line funny and I love reading about all the pranks they get up to. For me, it's a classic!



One for the older children, then I absolutely love **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak. I find anything to do with World War 2 fascinating (though horrible) so I really enjoyed this. It covers a range of topics and themes from that time, and is written in a very clever and unique way. It does cover some quite adult themes though so I would recommend this for Year 7 and 8 only, and even then with parental permission.

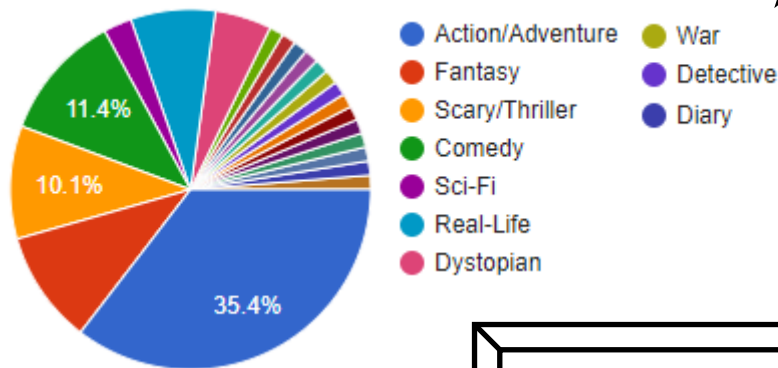




# What Lockyer's Loves Reading!

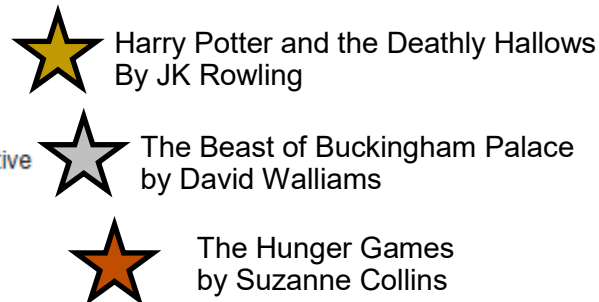
We asked you to vote for your favourite author, favourite book and favourite genre. Here are the results!

What is your favourite genre of story?



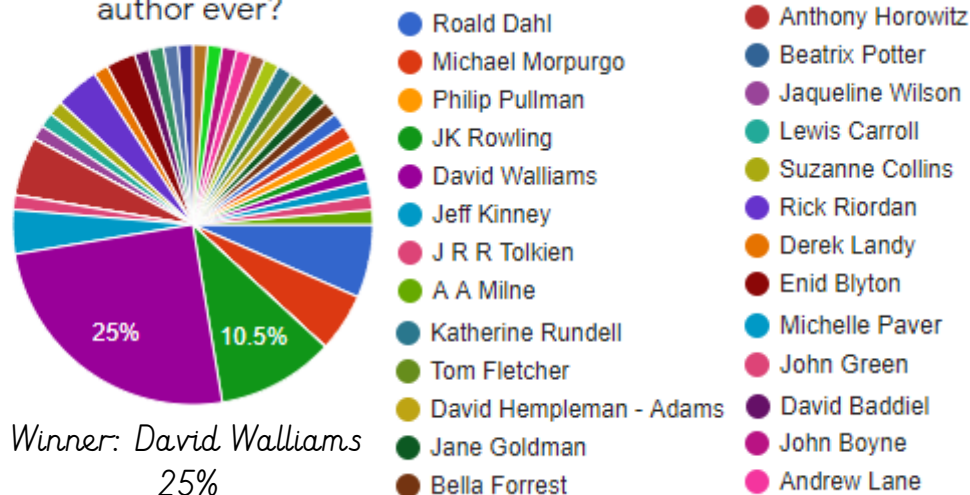
Winner: Action/Adventure 35.4%

What is your favourite book ever?



Thank you for taking part in our reading survey!

Who is your favourite author ever?



Winner: David Walliams 25%

## Summer Reading Challenge

This summer's reading challenge has been launched by the library service.

Want to find out what it's all about? Visit the website at [www.sillysquad.org.uk](http://www.sillysquad.org.uk)

Or the Lockyer's website, where Ms Locke will explain everything you need to know.

It is even easier to find books for the Summer Reading Challenge: Corfe Mullen Library is now proving an Order and Collect Service for customers to request library books.

We can offer families books on school topics, homework subjects - and reading for fun! Simply go to <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries-history-culture/libraries/library-services-during-covid-19/dorset-libraries-order-and-collect.aspx> to get started



## Solutions

The final child is called Tom.

The letter 'i'

There are 9 people in the Mus-tard Family: 2 parents, 6 girls and 1 boy.

| Solution                          |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Take the chicken across        | 1. Take the chicken across        |
| 2. Come back with the boat empty  | 2. Come back with the boat empty  |
| 3. Take the grain across          | 3. Take the grain across          |
| 4. Take the chicken back          | 4. Take the chicken back          |
| 5. Take the fox across            | 5. Take the fox across            |
| 6. Come back with the empty boat. | 6. Come back with the empty boat. |
| 7. Take the Chicken across.       | 7. Take the Chicken across.       |