

Author Visits!

This year we have been incredibly lucky to have two brilliant authors visit us here at Lockyer's and help to inspire our reading, writing and thoughts of what we want to do in the future! Our first visiting author was Maz Evans, author of the incredibly successful 'Who Let the Gods Out?' series that brings Greek myths to life in our modern world.

The second author to visit was Dan Freedman, creator and author of the Jamie Johnson books that are beloved by many of our football fan readers! Not only did Dan visit and give a workshop to our Year 5 and 6 pupils but he also gifted, together with the Premier League, a book for each of our pupils - each copy individually signed. This visit was made possible by the wonderful story crafting of one of our Year 5 pupils, George Von Bennigsen, who has been named the winner of the Premier League's 'Young Writer of the Year' 2025. Out of 1,200 entries from primary-aged children across the country, George's work truly stood out. We're sure you'll all join us in congratulating him on this outstanding achievement.

● What a fantastic way to end our year with such inspirational authors!



Dan Freedman Author Visit Review by Archie

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Maz Evans Author Visit Review by Mila

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We were lucky to have Dan Freedman visit our school and talk to us about his career and his journey to becoming an author by watching football and interviewing players. It was interesting to hear how his love for football has influenced his jobs and he has met some of the best footballers in the world. He wrote books that show you different ways of working in football even if you can't be a professional footballer.

+ We also met Farai Hallam, who is a professional referee, and he told us how hard it is to make those quick decisions in play. Everyone enjoyed it and it was an excellent morning.

In Year 5 this term, we have been enjoying the fantastic book 'Who Let the Gods Out?' written by Maz Evans.

On Friday 20th June, myself and my peers were delighted to welcome Maz to Lockyer's Middle School. Maz showed her wonderful presentation and I particularly found it inspiring to hear that she went from writing little stories when she was a child to now becoming a fabulous best-selling author. Maz Evans was especially funny and made the pupils and all the Year 5 teachers laugh a lot!

Summer Reading Plans?



Summer Reading Challenge

This year's Challenge theme, Story Garden, is an enchanting take on nature and the great outdoors. Through reading, children will uncover magical creatures, vibrant plants, and enchanting landscapes brought to life by award-winning illustrator Dapo Adeola. Libraries will be transformed into immersive gardens of adventure where children's imaginations can flourish, supported by free activities and resources.

Running in our local libraries.



Children can take part for FREE, either at the library OR online: You can sign up at your local library and take part in person. A librarian will give you a special collector folder and help you find books to read. You'll collect special stickers and rewards for your reading. OR

You can take part online by signing up on the official Challenge website. You'll set up a profile with a reading goal and log your books. When you reach your goal, you will unlock a virtual badge and certificate. We will also celebrate completed challenges in school when we return in the autumn!

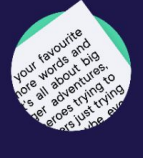



Sparx Reader in Key Stage 3

Sparx Reader

What we have achieved this year...



Lockyer's Middle School

 <p>16,735,895</p> <p>words read by our students</p>	 <p>2,577</p> <p>hours of careful reading completed by our students</p>	<p>858</p> <p>books completed by our students</p> 
		<p>218,535</p> <p>careful reading checks answered by our students</p> 

We are so proud of the reading that our Year 7 and 8 pupils have engaged with this year! Sparx Reader is available over the summer and even though there won't be any tasks set to be completed, pupils can carry on earning SRP and reading their books with the platform.

For pupils starting Year 7 in September, there will be an introduction to Sparx Reader in English lessons and a video guide available for support at home.



Year 8 Recommendations

A collection of recommendations from our leaving Year 8s - may their reading journeys continue to be so diverse!

The Recruit by Robert Muchamore Reviewed by Dan



The Recruit is an intense read about a secret undercover corporation that utilises children to complete difficult missions. A normal kid from a normal school gets taken into this agency, and has many difficulties along the way.

This book is an entertaining read, even if it is tense at times, and it doesn't get boring. The passages are good at keeping you on your toes, which brings a very extreme feel to each chapter. I definitely recommend this, a 10/10 for me.



The Wolf Trials by Kiran Millwood Hargrave Reviewed by Thomas

The author's inspiration behind the book is that it is based on the real-life case of Peter Stumpp. The Main Character (Eira, she is the daughter of the wolf queen) attempts to compete in the wolf trials to become a Ryder (A Ryder is someone who rides seawolves).

This is also an attempt for her to please her mother. But despite the fact her lineage has been permanently forbidden from partaking in the trials. She attempts to disguise herself to enter. Even if she is successfully entered in, the real question is will she ultimately survive the trials?

The Positives (My likes):

Eira's personality and the engagement in doing and "getting" a chance in participating in the trials.

Also the fact she's doing it for her mother's attention (not that the mom didn't love her to begin with, just to clarify).

As I read on the story got more and more immersive to the point I literally couldn't put the book down.



Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

Reviewed by Lily

I enjoyed **Private Peaceful** because at the start Tommo, Charlie and Molly are young children playing in the river and trespassing on the Colonel's land.

Whilst Tommo and Charlie head off to fight in Belgium during World War One, their older brother (Big Joe) is left behind with Mother and Molly. The Peaceful brothers face trauma and brotherhood in the face of horrific conditions outside of their control. We are left with a cliffhanger that has been haunting us since we read the book in Year 7!

Staff Recommendation by Miss Nash

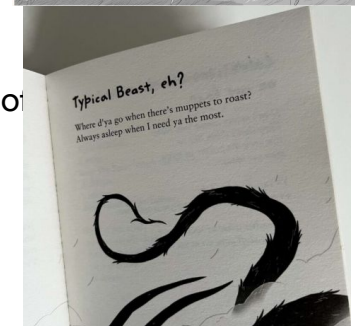


The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow (Especially poignant for those finishing Year 6!)

A beautifully heart-warming and equally heart-wrenching tale of friendship, love, grief and turmoil that encompasses the final year of primary school brilliantly.

Goodfellow's portrayal of the hardships and the everyday joys of finishing primary school, through the eyes of 10-year-old Nate, is a wonderful expression in verse and delightfully entwined with the illustrations of Joe Todd-Stanton. With references to David Almond's *Skellig*, Goodfellow has created a tale that is accessible and engaging for children and adults alike.

Warning: tears and laughter equally likely!



What do our young people want to read?

It has been announced by the Secretary of State for Education that 2026 will be the National Year of Reading. We welcome this initiative to address concerns about reading amongst children as well as young people and adults. But what do our pupils want to read? How do we encourage them to expand their reading diet and therefore increase their knowledge and experience of the world around them?

Here at Lockyer's we are continually reviewing our provision of high quality reading materials in our lessons, teacher-led reading sessions and library. It has been wonderful to see the engagement of our Year 7 pupils with our new unit reading and studying Katherine Rundell's 'Impossible Creatures' which has captured their imaginations as well as encouraged debate on real world issues. Year 8 pupils have been revelling in sharing the experience of reading 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins.

We recognise the importance of reading recommendations to our pupils and provide opportunities for pupils to make recommendations to each other. We look forward to seeing what recommendations pupils come back with in September!

Research from the National Literacy Trust on the key motivators of Reading for Pleasure:



Books tied to films or TV series.



Books with visually appealing covers.



The freedom to choose what they could read.



Hearing recommendations from friends, family or teachers.



Encouraging reading through a variety of formats.

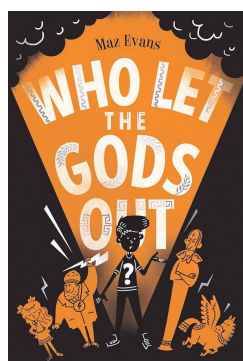


Consider using digital formats.

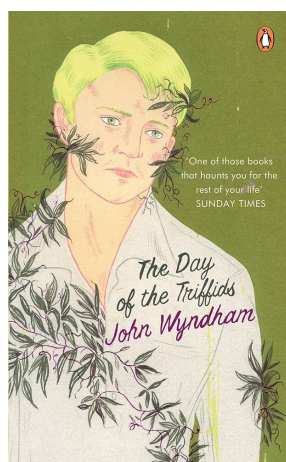
Want to hear more from the National Literacy Trust? Follow this link to see book lists, tips for reading together and more covering all age groups:

[Words For Life](#)

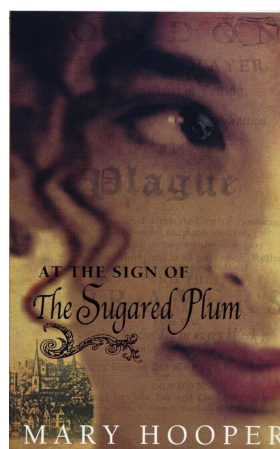
What our classes are currently reading



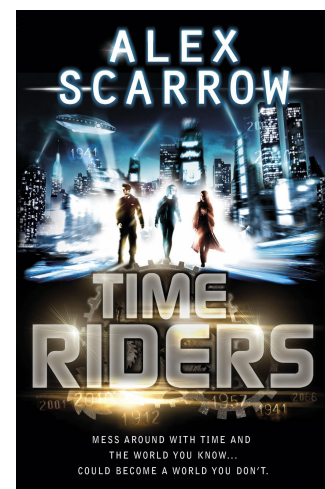
8GW are currently reading:



5JG are currently reading:



6NB are currently reading:



7GS are currently reading:

