

TERM 4 ISSUE 1

SUNNY BANK

NEWSLETTER



We love to read

**SIT WITH YOUR
CHILD IN CLASS
AND READ A
STORYTIME
ADVENTURE
TOGETHER!**



TURN THE PAGE WEDNESDAYS 8:30-8:50AM EVERY WEEK

**CAN YOU
HELP?**

**We are looking for
donations of old
adult t-shirts/shirts
that can be used as
painting aprons.**

**FREE
THIS ISSUE**



HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE



I'd like to begin with a huge well done to all the children who have attended school every day and to those who have been completing their homework consistently. You are meeting our school expectations brilliantly and we are incredibly proud of your commitment.

During the past few terms we have been placing a real focus on homework across the school. Children are expected to complete their homework regularly and your support with this is hugely appreciated. We know that pupils who complete homework routinely are more successful in school; it helps them consolidate their learning, build independence and develop the habits they will need as they move on to secondary school.

This term, we are also spotlighting our ROAR value of Resilience. We are encouraging children to challenge themselves, to keep trying even when something feels difficult and to pick themselves up when they need a little encouragement. Building resilience now helps them grow into confident, capable learners who believe in their ability to improve.

It has been an incredibly busy term already. We have enjoyed Reading Week, Maths Week, and Science Week, all of which have been hugely successful. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the wide range of activities and experiences that staff have put together for them. Thank you to all the families who came in to support their children during these events - your involvement makes such a difference. A reminder that we have more events planned for the final week of term, as well as our weekly Wednesday morning reading sessions for parents in school.



I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our staff, but in particular to Mrs Hales and Mrs Willing, who have worked exceptionally hard to organise and lead these themed weeks. Their creativity and dedication have provided our children with memorable and meaningful learning experiences.

At the end of this term, we will be sad to say goodbye to Mrs Kemp from Acorn class and Mrs Mahony from Juniper class, who are both leaving us to begin new adventures elsewhere. We are grateful for everything they have contributed to Sunny Bank and wish them every success in the future. We will also be extremely sad to say goodbye to Mrs Loughheed, who has been at Sunny Bank for just over 10 years and will be leaving us at the end of term. As well as being one of our valued Learning Mentors, she has also led our Forest School provision with passion, expertise and a deep commitment to outdoor learning. She is leaving to support her family in their nursery ventures and we know she will be greatly missed by the whole Sunny Bank community. We are certain that many of you will join us in sending her warm wishes as she begins this new chapter.

Looking ahead, we are excited for next term, when we will be introducing more OPAL play areas on the playground. These new zones will offer children even more opportunities for imaginative, active, and collaborative play - something we know they will embrace with enthusiasm.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Working together, we can help every child at Sunny Bank thrive.

Best wishes

Nicole Hyett





We love to read

SUNNY BANK NEWS EXTRA

BOOK WEEK!



FREE!

BOOK TOKENS and
NICKEL BOOKS

A WEEK OF READING CELEBRATIONS AND WORLD BOOK DAY!



Book Week Celebrates Reading at Sunny Bank

A Wonderful Week Celebrating Our Love for Reading!

Everyone enjoyed a fantastic week as we embraced our passion for reading. We kicked off the festivities with a storyteller who hosted a special assembly, followed by engaging sessions in each class. The children participated in a fun guessing game to identify the Masked Reader! On World Book Day, pupils arrived at school in their pyjamas and we concluded the week with a delightful dress-up day featuring beloved book characters. To top it off, Nickel Books visited us, allowing the children to use their free World Book Day vouchers!



Other notable highlights included the launch of our new bookmark design competition. Winners will be revealed in the upcoming weeks and we have some fantastic prizes to award!

A heartfelt thank you to Nickel Books for providing all the World Book Day titles, allowing children to spend their free World Book Day voucher.







We love to read



STORYTELLER VISIT

We were delighted to welcome storyteller Ed Finch into school during book week and what an extraordinary experience it was! From the moment he began, the children were completely captivated, hanging onto every word as he whisked them away on adventures from all corners of the globe. Ed's energy, humour and incredible ability to bring characters to life filled the hall and classrooms with excitement, leaving pupils inspired, wide-eyed and eager to tell their own stories. It was a truly memorable visit that sparked imaginations and reminded us all of the power of storytelling.



SCIENCE BOFFINS

Our children had an amazing time in assembly with Science Boffin Dave! They were completely engaged from start to finish, enjoying exciting demonstrations and hands-on science that sparked lots of curiosity and enthusiasm. It was a fantastic, memorable learning experience for everyone. Years 3-6 then completed workshops throughout the day with Dave based on space. All children had a space-tacular time.



After school, families had the opportunity to browse the collection and purchase some fantastic book titles.

A heartfelt thank you to Nickel Books, and we eagerly anticipate your return next year!





We love to read



TURN THE PAGE WEDNESDAY LAUNCHES

This term saw the launch of our **Turn the Page Wednesday**, where families can join us in class bright and early to read a book with their child.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the families who have participated so far and contributed to making this a wonderful success.

Join us every Wednesday morning from 8:30 to 8:50 - we look forward to seeing you!

NEW OPAL RESOURCES BUILT BY THE PARAMOUNT FOUNDATION LOCAL HEROES!



Over the past few weeks, **The Paramount Foundation** and their incredible team of **Local Heroes** have been hard at work creating brand new outdoor play resources for **OPAL**.

Working alongside the brilliant mentors from the **Octopus Foundation**, the Local Heroes developed new skills in carpentry, teamwork and project planning while building high-quality, hand-crafted play equipment that our children will enjoy for years to come. They built for us:

- **A brand-new Mud Kitchen** – perfect for messy play, creativity and imaginative cooking!
- **A large Outdoor Chalkboard** – encouraging drawing, writing, mark-making, and big ideas!
- **Handmade Wooden Games** – promoting teamwork, problem-solving and joyful play.

These fantastic new additions will make a huge difference to our OPAL playtimes, giving children rich opportunities to explore, create, collaborate and learn through play.

We are incredibly grateful to **The Paramount Foundation and their Local Heroes** for their generous support and **The Octopus Foundation** for guiding and supporting the team as they built these amazing resources

Their combined effort has truly strengthened our outdoor play offer and brought something special to our school community.

Thank you to everyone involved for helping us make play **bigger, better and more brilliant** for every child.

HAVING A BLAST

Children kicked off our Science Week with a high-energy assembly filled with pops, bangs and impressive mini-explosions. Even Mrs. Willing was caught by surprise during the dramatic exploding canister experiment!

Throughout the week, classes became bustling hubs of scientific exploration. Pupils carried out a range of hands-on investigations, from growing a rainbow to launching balloon rockets and sending flying mice soaring across the room. Children learned how to think like real scientists by exploring variables and developing their own investigative questions.

Our annual Science Fair was a standout highlight. The hall was filled with creative projects and enthusiastic young scientists who confidently explained their ideas and findings. Their curiosity and passion shone through every display.

To round off the week, all pupils joined a live online lesson with real scientists on Friday. Inspired by what they learned, children then returned to their classrooms to complete a final investigation of their own.

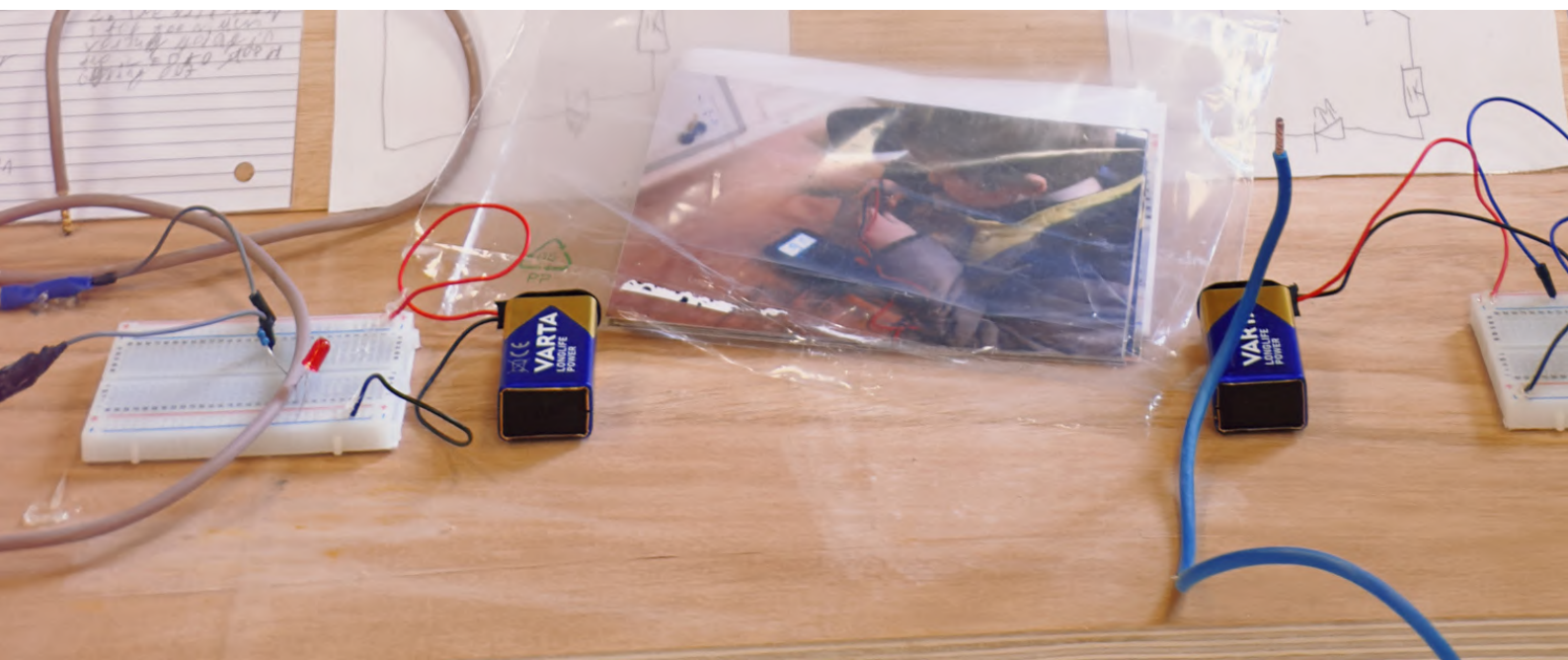
The buzz around school has been incredible all week - a true celebration of curiosity, discovery and the joy of science!







Winners from our Science Fair with their prizes!



MOTHER'S DAY MUD KITCHEN BAKE OFF!

A huge thank you to all the families that attended our Mother's Day Mud kitchen bake off & nature crafting session this Friday morning.

The children loved sharing their forest school experience with their adults and it was lovely to see the wonderful creations of heart shaped mud pies, salt dough nature cookies and nature heart wands.

*It was wonderful to welcome so many of you into **Base Camp!***







**We would like to thank
Morrisons for their generous
donation of
Easter eggs to the school**



make me work harder
than any of your
other crayons."



We love to read



The Island Learning Trust



ADMISSIONS STILL OPEN
FOR 2026

It is not too late to visit one of our 3 schools - **call today to arrange a tour!**



MINSTER
PRIMARY

01795
872138



SUNNY BANK
PRIMARY

01795
473891



HALFWAY
HOUSES

01795
662875



www.tiltrust.org

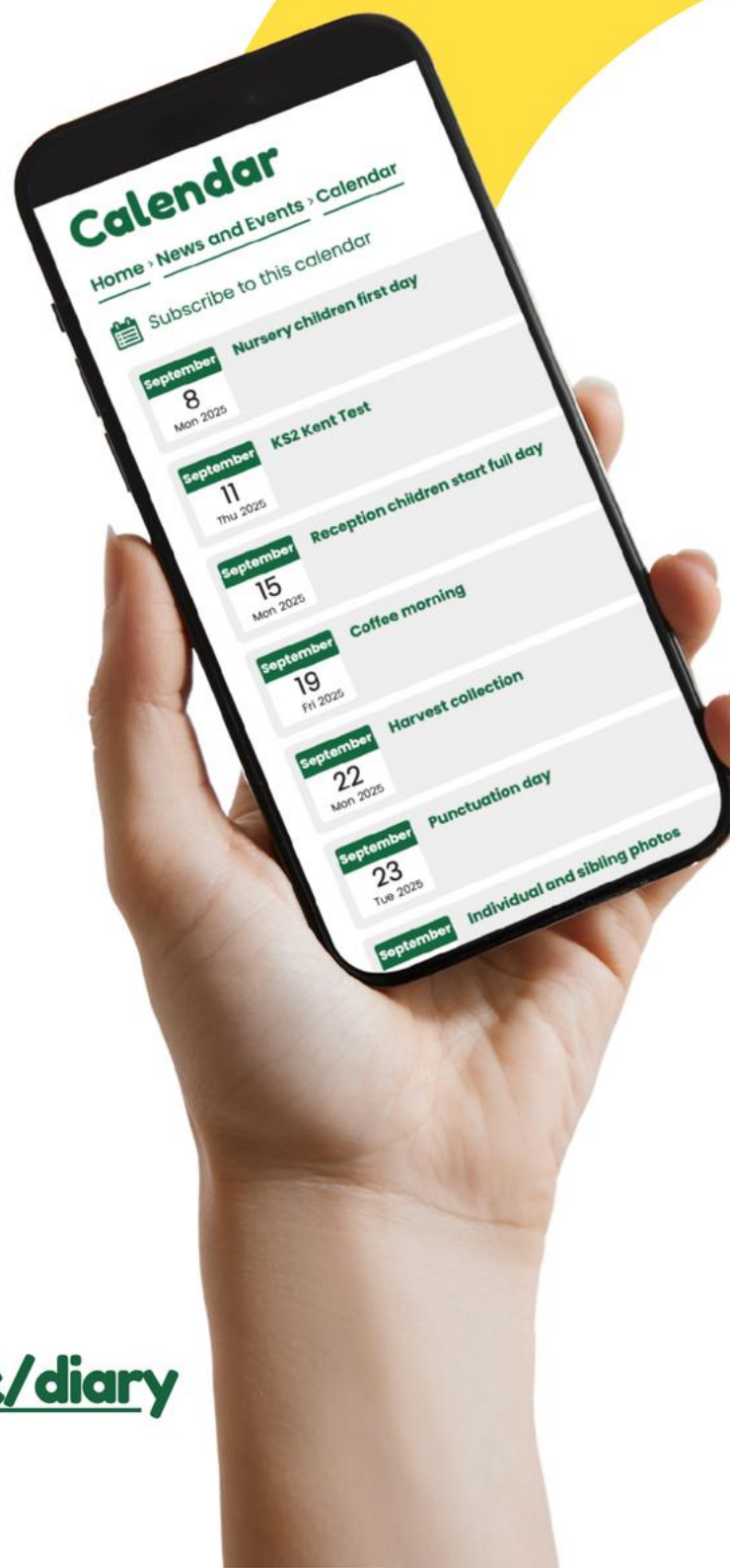
Subscribe to our **Online Calendar**

And have our dates
and events
automatically appear
on your phone!



www.sunnybank.kent.sch.uk/diary

Press 'subscribe to this calendar'





We love to read

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



March

25

Wed 2026

Parents Evening

March

26

Thu 2026

Parents Evening

April

1

Wed 2026

Easter Bonnet Parade/Easter egg hunt

April

2

Thu 2026

End of Term

April

2

Thu 2026

Afternoon Read

14:00 to 14:30

www.sunnybank.kent.sch.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVOD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2025.

ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching come a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some tv shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government, comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website

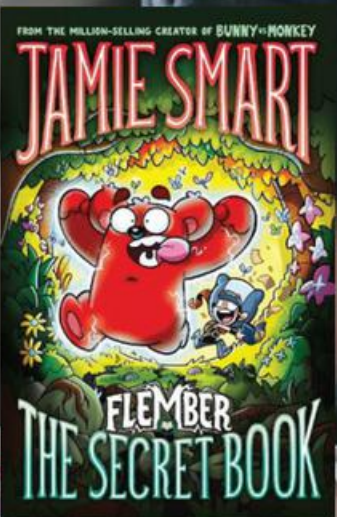
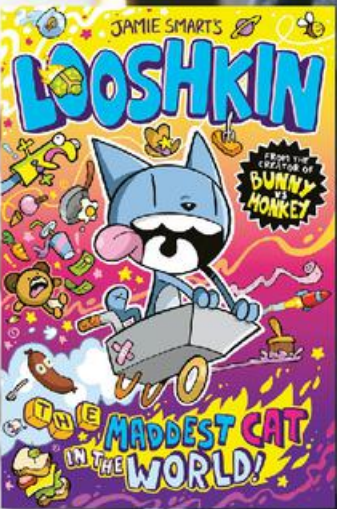
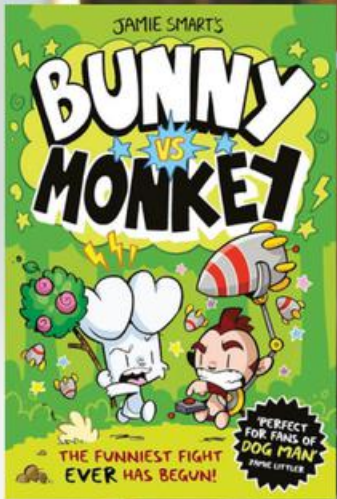
A free children's book newsletter by **authorfy.**

BOOKDROP

Featuring

JAMIE SMART

Creator of **Bunny vs Monkey**



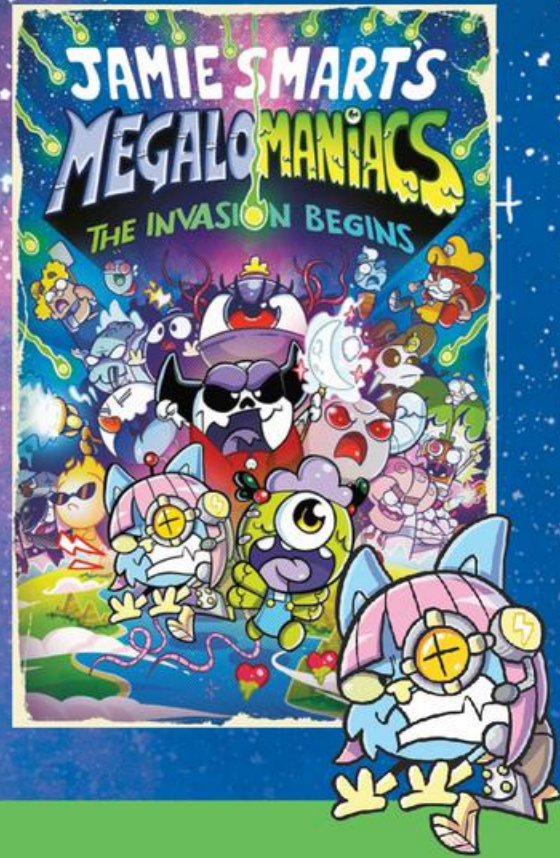
**Jamie's
new book!**

PHOTOGRAPH © CHARLOTTE KNEE PHOTOGRAPHY

Also featuring: **Sophy Henn** **Jack Noel** **Ash Bond** **David Solomons** **Sam Sedgman** and more

Q&A

WITH JAMIE SMART



Bobbetown is under attack - from the cutest, silliest and zaniest alien invasion EVER! The super-powered Megalomaniacs have crash-landed, and they're going to do their very best to take over planet Earth! That is, if they don't get in each other's way first...

This BRAND-NEW series from Bunny vs Monkey creator Jamie Smart is jam packed with exuberant humour and artwork. You've never read ANYTHING like this before!

'But what are Megalomaniacs?' we hear you cry. Well, there are three things you need to know about Megalomaniacs. They are TERRORS from outer space! There are LOADS of them! And they are absolutely TINY!

Q What is Megalomaniacs about?

Megalomaniacs is about a whole host of tiny cute aliens who crash land in a town called Bobbetown, and all start trying to take over! But each of the Megalomaniacs has their own special powers, and they usually end up fighting each other instead. It's funny, exciting, and very very silly!

Q Have you always enjoyed reading and creating comics?

Ever since I can remember! My dad used to drive me to the newsagent at 7am on a Sunday morning and I'd buy all the weekly comics on the shelves, then spend the day reading them. They inspired me to start making my own comics too, and now it's my full time job!

Q What's the best thing about being a comic book creator?

I love telling stories, particularly funny ones, and comics were the perfect way for me to do that as it's such a visual and expressive medium. I also get to meet lots and lots of my readers, and see the comics they've made, and I even get to travel to other countries to do that too! It's the best job in the world!

HI! I'M **JAMIE SMART**, CREATOR OF **MEGALOMANIACS**! I'M **SO EXCITED** TO SHARE HOW I MAKE COMICS WITH YOU, SO WELCOME TO...



THE PHOENIX COMIC CLUB



FIRST, I CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO DRAW...

LORD SKULL

①



LET'S START WITH A CIRCLE FOR THEIR HEAD...

②



...THEN DRAW THE COLLAR AND CLOAK IN A TENT-LIKE SHAPE.

③



ADD IN THE ARMS OF THE CLOAK FANNING UPWARDS.

④



TWO CLENCHED HANDS.

THE PHOENIX COMIC CLUB

LET'S GIVE LORD SKULL A FACE AND STAFF!



⑤



NOW LET'S GIVE HIM HIS SIGNATURE DEVILISH HORNS!

⑥



ADD HIS CHEEKY TAIL AND SKULL PIN ON HIS CLOAK.

⑦



GIVE HIM A HUMONGOUS, EVIL LAUGH, WITH A LONG, SNAKE-LIKE TONGUE!

⑧



DRAW HIS UNIQUE BIG EYES, A BEAN-SHAPED NOSE, AND TEARDROP EYEBROWS...

⑨



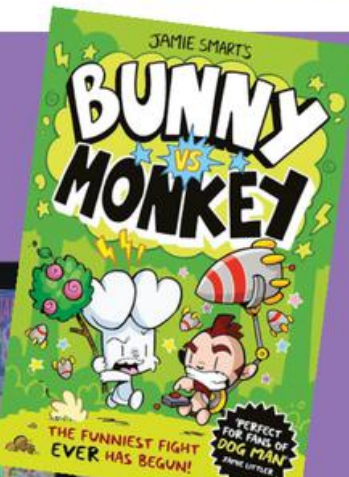
GIVE HIM HIS MAGICAL, CRESCENT-MOON STAFF.

⑩



FINISH WITH SOME COLOUR AND YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN VILLAINOUS LORD SKULL!

Watch Jamie's videos at authorfy.com



Click here for comic-creating tips with The Phoenix Comic Club

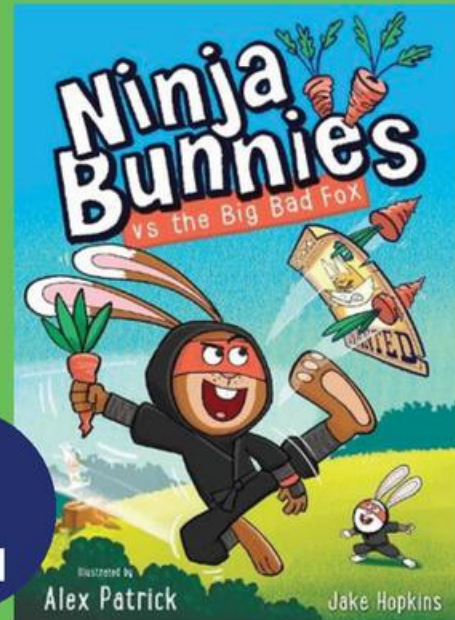
JOIN THE PHOENIX COMIC CLUB

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Picture Books & Early Readers



A celebration of the imagination, Kid Rex brings adventure and magic to the mundane, making everyday tasks exciting and fun.



Super cute, super deadly and SUPER FUN! This hilarious, action-packed series - full of high kicks and hijinks - is perfect for newly independent readers.



Bear has woken up to find a storm cloud above his head and he just can't get rid of it. Can his friends help him to find his way through the storm to discover the brightest of rainbows?



NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Middle Grade: ages 7+



Welcome to HAPPY HILLS, where you'll find epic LOLS, dramatic ACTION scenes, a scattering of MILD PERIL, and MUCH MORE!

'You won't be able to contain your giggles!'

Harriet Muncaster,
author and illustrator
of Isadora Moon

Hilariously funny

**A full-colour graphic
novel series**

[CLICK HERE TO
READ EXTRACT](#)



Full of robots, puns and dastardly dad-napping, this hilarious series is perfect for fans of BUNNY VS MONKEY and DOG MAN!

**A brand-new graphic
novel series in a riot
of colour**

**Dadbot isn't your
average robot!**

**Sit your bot down
and read it!**

[CLICK HERE TO
READ EXTRACT](#)



A page-turning story of two children whose lives collide when they find an ancient treasure with the power to return to them the most precious thing they have ever lost.

**A rip-roaring plot,
spine-tingling twists
and an unforgettable
cast of characters**

Full of magic & wonder

**Perfect for readers
aged 8+**

[CLICK HERE TO
READ EXTRACT](#)

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Middle Grade: ages 9+



Enter the portal to the incredible cosmic realm in this epic fantasy adventure, perfect for fans of 'Skandar' and 'Percy Jackson'.

Book 3 in a fast-paced, funny adventure trilogy

An edge-of-your-seat race between worlds

'Mythology with a modern makeover'
- Maz Evans, author of *Who Let The Gods Out?*

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)



When Adam and his friends accidentally reveal the secret location of ex-MI6 quartermaster, Professor Goodspeed, they don't expect supervillains to turn up on their doorstep!

Like James Bond with a dash of Johnny English

A laugh-out-loud new series

Action-packed spy adventures

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)



Isaac's summer in Italy goes horribly wrong when he becomes embroiled in a heist to clear his grandfather's name. Can Isaac shine a light on the truth in time?

Chase scenes, codes & mindbending science

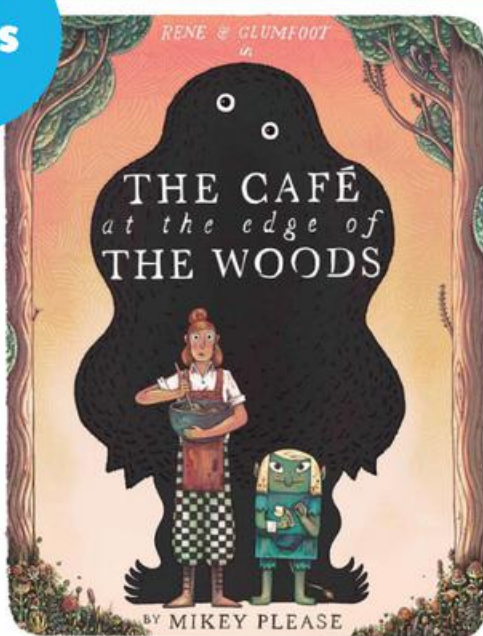
A daring heist during a solar eclipse

The third adventure in the thrilling 'Isaac Turner Investigates' series

[WATCH AUTHOR VIDEO & READ EXTRACT](#)

BOOK REVIEWS & RECOMMENDATIONS

For
ages
5+

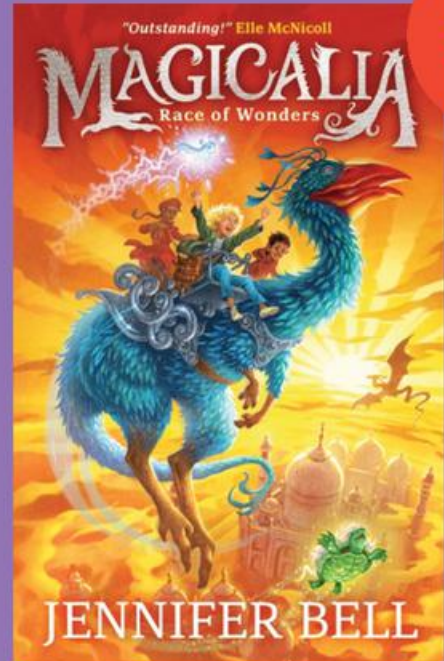


We are always looking for gorgeous new picture books and when this one arrived, we were immediately in love. Written by Mikey Please, this story follows Renee who dreams of opening a café. When she does, things don't go to plan. Let's just say her customers are very interesting! This is a favourite at home with my two year old but it was also a real hit at school – especially in assembly where children of all ages sat absolutely captured by the gorgeous rhymes and stunning illustrations.



**Miss Cotton,
Carter & Ella**
Russell Scott
Primary School

For
ages
9+



This book follows Bitsy and Kosh on a magical adventure which starts when Bitsy's dad gets kidnapped and magical creatures start to appear out of thin air. The illustrations of the weird and wonderful creatures are real treats at the start of each chapter (we had a lot of fun thinking about which 'Magicores' we would like to conjure). The book reminds us a little bit of Pokémon and Harry Potter only with lots more twists and turns. Some of us have already nearly finished the sequel!



**Book Council at
Russell Scott
Primary School**

Reading for Pleasure

Tips from the Open University team

Book chat made easy

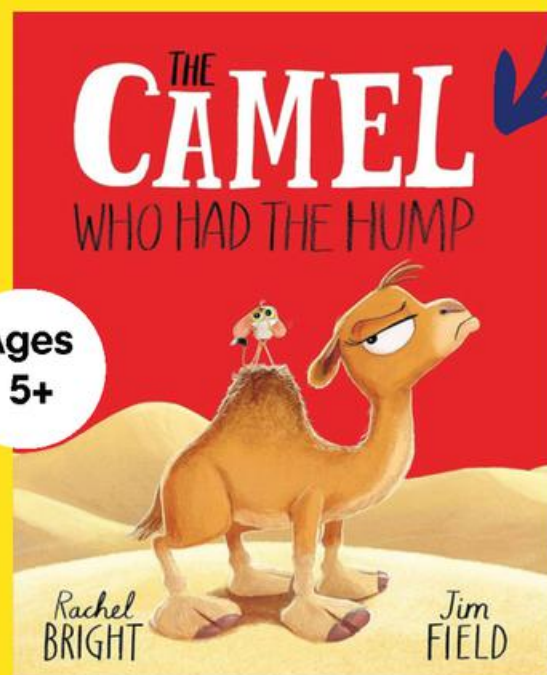
Sharing thoughts together, reader to reader, can be simple and enjoyable. You and your child might start with:

- I noticed...
- I wonder why...
- That made me feel...
- I keep thinking about...
- This reminds me of...

A few relaxed minutes of book chat can help build confidence, connection and enjoyment. For more ideas, visit [Book Chat: Reading with your child - Videos and guide - Reading for Pleasure](#)



The Reading for Pleasure team recommend...



Bold & funny

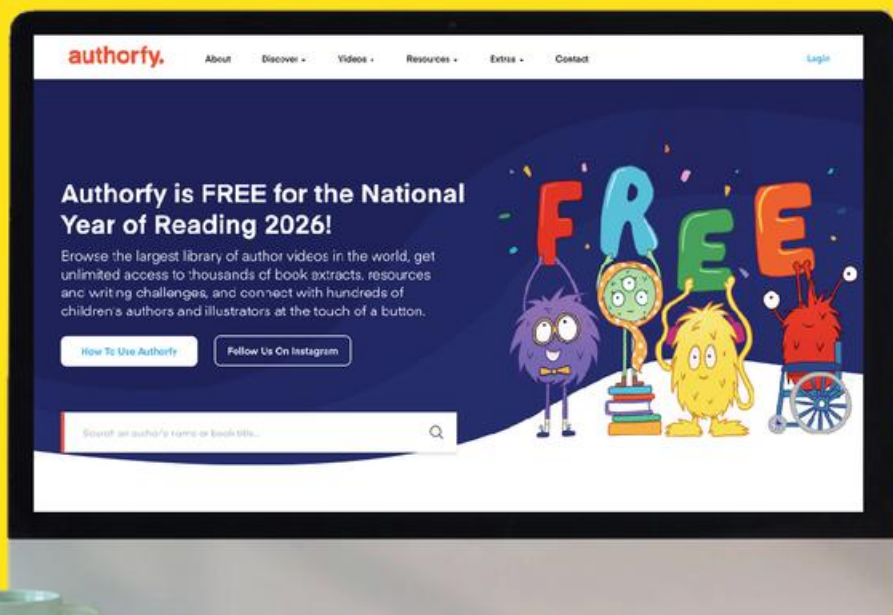
Relates to children's feelings

Perfect for pausing & chatting together

BOOKDROP is brought to you by **authorfy.**

a world of author videos & book resources

The world's largest online
library of author videos,
resources & book extracts



Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

**GO
ALL
IN.**

**CLICK TO BROWSE
AUTHORFY.COM**

Authorfy Books of the Month: March



Watch all of these authors introduce their books and read excerpts at
**authorfy.com: Michael Rosen, Nat Harrison, Love Ssega, Harriet
Muncaster, Amelia Giudici, Elissa Elwick, Luke Palmer**

The Children's Book Award 2026

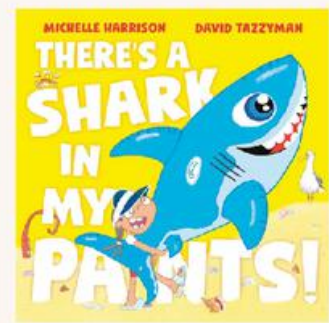
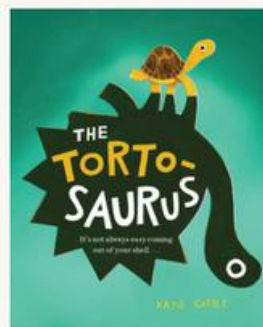


**Children's
Book Award**

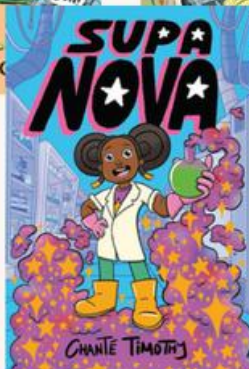
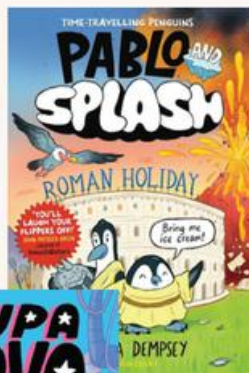
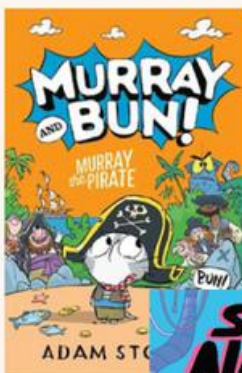
The Federation of Children's Book Groups
Registered Charity 268289

The 2026 shortlist for the Children's Book Award was announced on 2nd March. Run by the Federation of Children's Book Groups, this award is the only national award voted for entirely by children. Votes from around 500 books submitted by publishers each year are counted up and the most popular make up the Top Ten. This year's titles are:

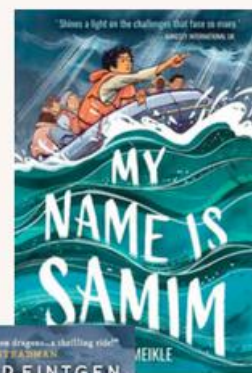
Books for Younger Children



Books for Younger Readers



Books for Older Readers



**CAST
YOUR
VOTE!**

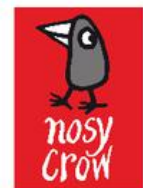
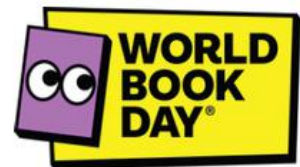
Any child can vote at the shortlist stage. You need to read all the books in any of the categories and then rank them in order of your favourites. Online voting opens on Monday 23rd March and the form can be found at <https://fcbg.org.uk/childrens-book-award-2026> where you will also find resources to make more of the books and background information about the award.

BOOKDROP!

In partnership with the UK's publishing industry...



Change your story





**The Island
Learning Trust**



ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTERS

Advertising is a powerful communication tool used to inform, persuade, and influence potential customers. It plays a critical role in shaping consumer behavior and building awareness for products, services, or ideas. In today's fast-paced world, effective advertising goes beyond just exposure - it creates emotional connections and drives action

We design visually captivating newsletters for schools and our trust, which have become quite popular among parents, children, staff and visitors alike. Now, we're offering local businesses the chance to advertise in these newsletters at an affordable rate, allowing them to reach a broad audience



SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

- Sunny Bank Primary School
- Halfway Houses Primary School
- Minster in Sheppey Primary School



TRUST PARENT NEWSLETTER

News Highlighting All Three of Our Schools and Trust



SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook and Instagram

SCHOOL WEBSITES

For each school and the trust

CLASS DOJO

Communication tool for all parents

EMAIL

An email is sent to parents with a direct link

HOW WE PROMOTE OUR NEWSLETTERS



A WIDE AUDIENCE

WEBSITES FOR THE SCHOOLS AND TRUST

in a typical 4-week period, our websites have received a total of 7,312 visits

SOCIAL MEDIA FACEBOOK

in a typical 4-week period, our Facebook pages have garnered a total of 86,000 views

CLASS DOJO FOR PARENTS

All parents at our schools are engaged and actively participate in viewing the School Story



The Island Learning Trust

**FOR
MORE
INFORMATION
AND
PRICING**



**The Island
Learning Trust**

CONTACT

PHIL REYNOLDS

The Island Learning Trust, Brecon Chase,
Minster, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2HX

PHONE

01795 606458

EMAIL

finance@TILTrust.org

**This is a preview edition of our complete advertising brochure.
The full version can be obtained upon request.*