

New for  
2024 - 2025



# Reading Olympiad

## Year 2

### 2024 – 2025

# A guide for parents and children

## The Importance of Reading

At Beardall Fields, want our children to love reading, to read widely and read often. The impact of reading on your child's education cannot be overstated. All research indicates that reading has a **powerful effect on their achievement, across all areas of the curriculum** and into other areas of life (including self-esteem, better sleep, combatting loneliness and general life satisfaction)! Here are some key research findings:

“Reading for pleasure is crucial for a child's cognitive development and is a **more powerful factor in their life than socio-economic background.**”

“Reading aloud is **essential** for developing fluent reading ability.”

“Regular reading (just 20 minutes a day) can be worth **two whole GCSE grades!**”

“Regular readers outperform their non-regular reading peers in **every curriculum subject** by the end of year six”.

19% of regular readers say it helps to prevent loneliness.

Children and adults, who read for just 30 minutes a week, are 20% more likely to report greater life satisfaction.

Readers have better self-esteem and regular sleeping patterns (which comes with attached physical health benefits).

The Reading Olympiad is our way of encouraging children to engage with reading through a range of high-quality texts: both fiction and non-fiction. The books you will find on the next few pages are by no mean an exhaustive list but have been proven to be loved by huge numbers of avid readers recently or through the ages.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of reading – listening to others read, reading aloud, and reading to yourself - it all helps to build a foundation for academic success.

So let's become Reading Olympiad Champions!

See the following for the research that has been quoted above:

Billington, J. (2015) [Reading between the Lines: the Benefits of Reading for Pleasure](#). Quick Reads, University of Liverpool  
Sullivan and Brown (2013) [Social inequalities in cognitive scores at age 16: The role of reading](#).

# CLASSICS



## Scoring System

The Reading Olympiad is scored in the same way as last year. There are different ways we are now encouraging children to read and be rewarded:

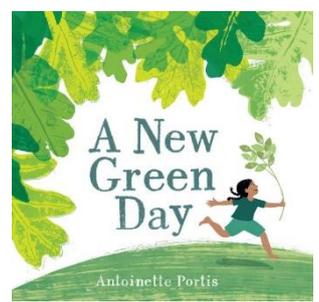
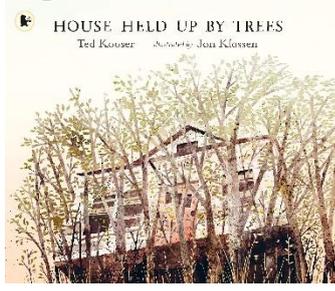
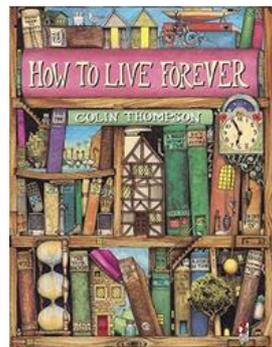
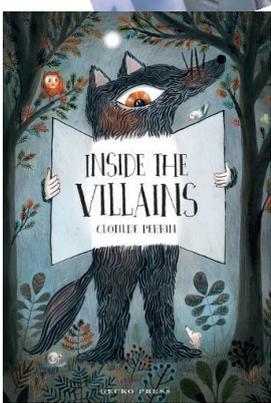
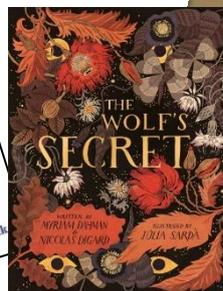
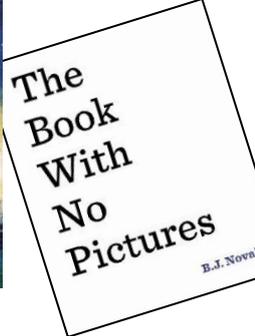
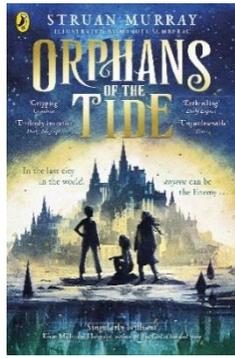
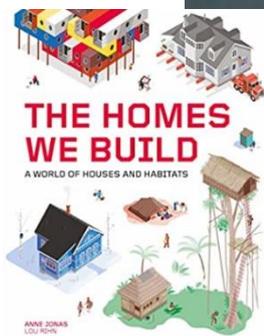
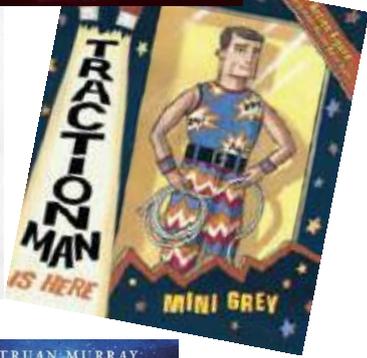
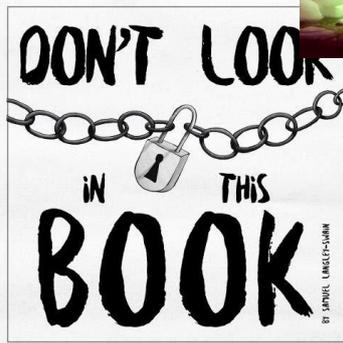
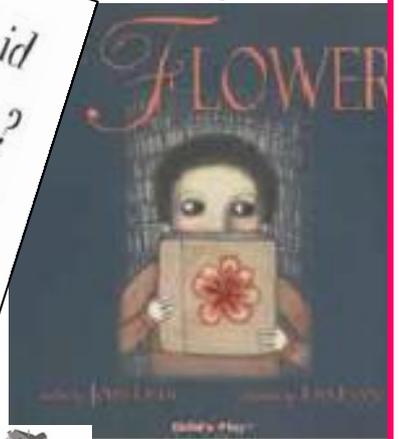
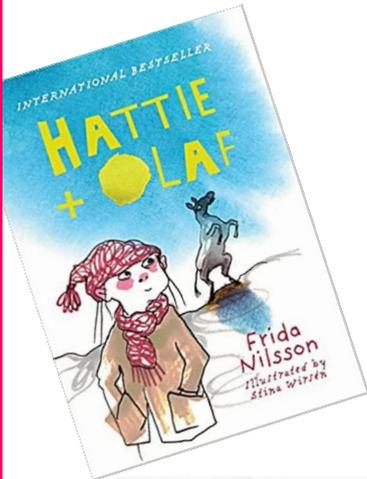
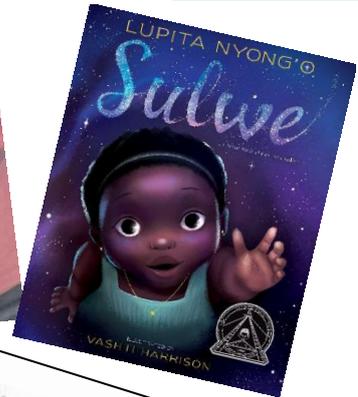
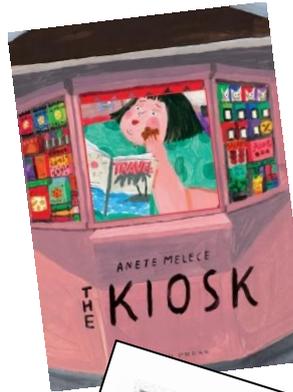
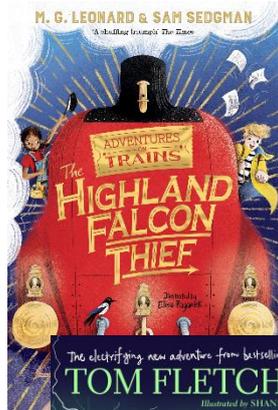
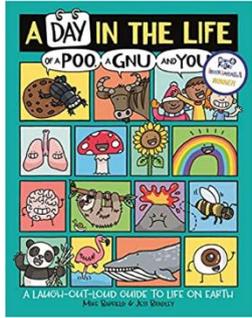
- Reading at home
  - Each child will have a race track to complete over the course of the year – they will fill in ONE square of the race track for every day that they read at home. Every time a child completes a lap they will be able to collect a different reward. See how many laps you can do over the course of the year and collect all the different rewards!
  - Reading THREE times a week at home will be rewarded with an extra playtime.
- Reading at school
  - Incentives and rewards for reading will still continue at school, led by staff working in your child's class. This could be a whole class reward (e.g. choosing time) or individualised (e.g. extra playtime, certificate). Staff will adapt this from class to class to meet the needs of the children.

Reading diaries will be checked once a week by members of staff and we will contact parents where a child has not read at home to remind them of its importance.

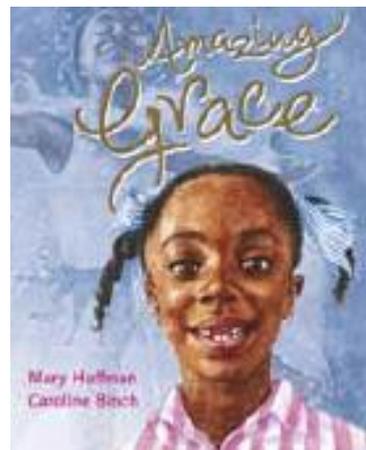
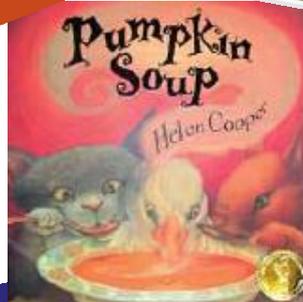
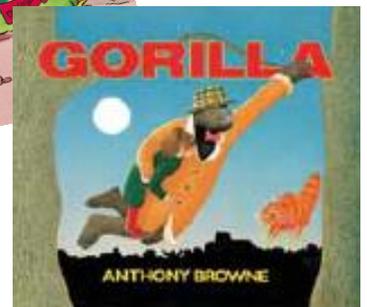
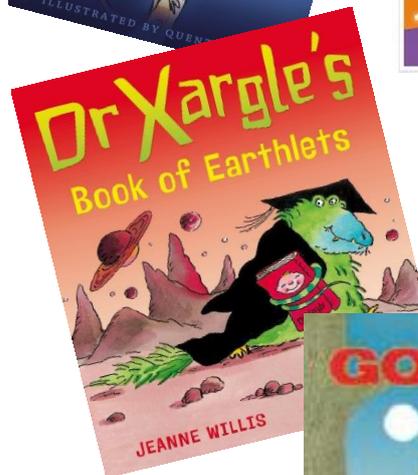
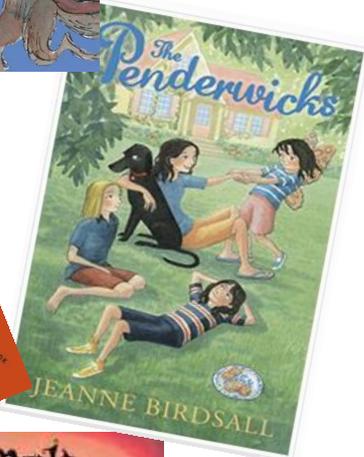
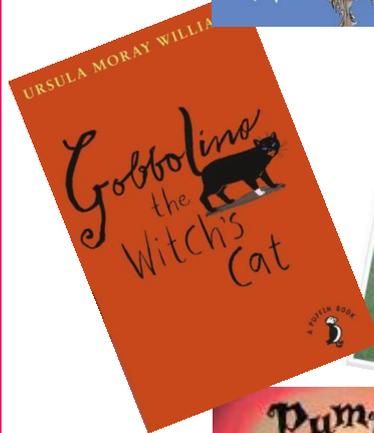
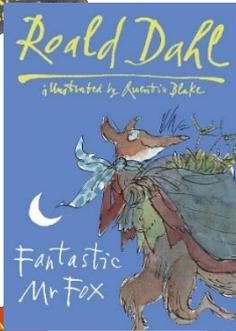
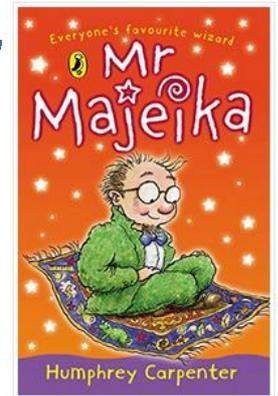
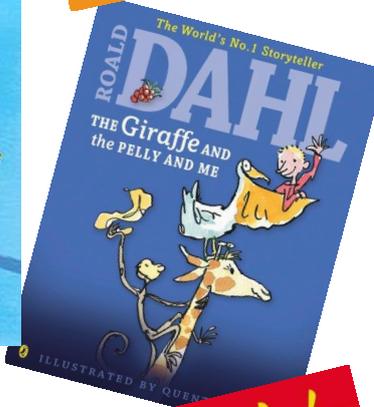
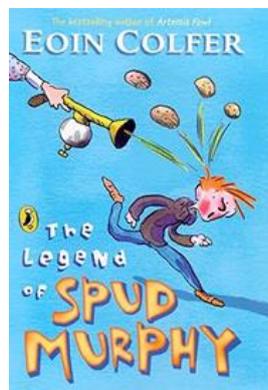
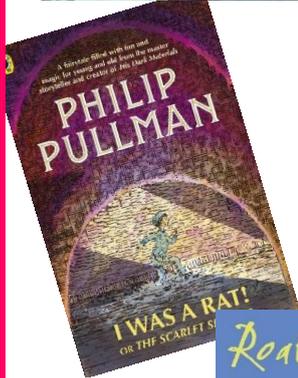
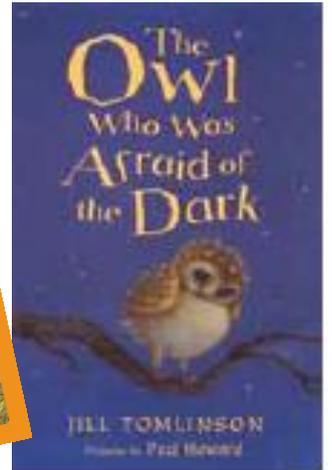
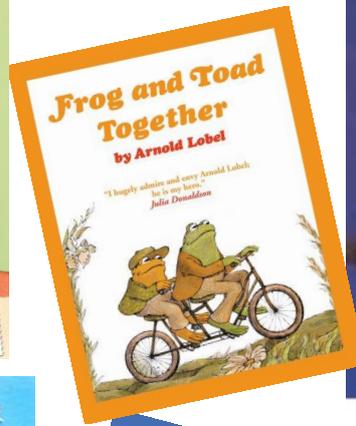
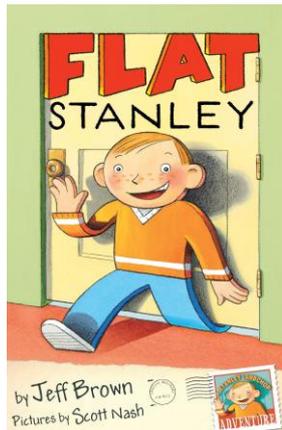
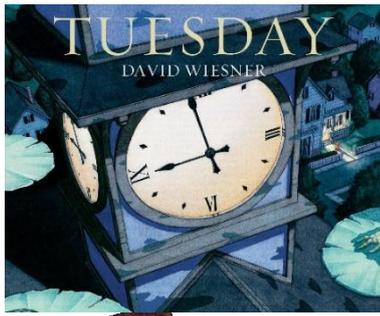


# Year Two Top 20

THE TOP  
20



# Year Two Classics CLASSICS



Tip: You can always ask your class teacher or librarian for more recommendations!

## **Other Books to Explore**

### **Animals**

The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant – Jean De Brunhoff  
Mog Time Treasury: Six Stories about Mog the Forgetful Cat – Judith Kerr  
The Cat Who Lost its Purr – Michelle Coxon  
Choosing Crumble – Michael Rosen

### **Spooky/Mystery**

Gobolino the Witch's Cat – Ursula Williams  
The Dunderheads – Paul Fleischman  
The Jolly -Rogers and the Ghostly Galleon – Jonny Duddle

### **Humour**

The Day the Crayons Quit – Drew Daywatt  
Clarice Bean, That's Me – Lauren Child  
The Diary of a Killer Cat – Anne Fine  
Fungus the Bogeyman – Raymond Briggs  
Pirate School: Just a Bit of Wind – Jeremy Strong  
Uncle Gobb and the Dread Shed – Michael Rosen  
Fluff the Farting Fish – Michael Rosen  
Clever Polly and the Stupid Wolf – Catherine Storr

### **History**

The Great Fire of London  
Gun Powder Plot  
Battle of Hastings  
Coronation of Elizabeth II

### **Fantasy**

Beaver Towers – Nigel Hinton  
I Was a Rat! Or, the Scarlet Slippers – Philip Pullman  
Nim's Island – Wendy Orr  
The Dragonsitter series – Josh Lacey

### **Adventure/Action**

The Adventures of Captain Underpants – Dav Pilkey  
The Man Whose Mother was a Pirate – Margaret Mahy  
Mr Wolf's Pancakes – Jan Fearnley  
Press Here – Herve Tullet  
Frightened Fred – Peta Coplans  
The Heart and the Bottle – Oliver Jeffers

### **Well-loved Authors**

Emily's Legs – Dick King-Smith  
The Guard Dog – Dick King-Smith  
The Magic Finger – Roald Dahl  
The Enchanted Wood – Enid Blyton  
The Snow Lady – Shirley Hughes