

New for  
2024 – 2025



# Reading Olympiad

## Year 4

### 2024-2025

A guide for parents and children

# The Importance of Reading

At Beardall Fields, we 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 means 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. **This is why at Beardall Fields we expect children's reading diaries to be signed by parents AT LEAST once a week, regardless of age.**

We hope you enjoy the Olympiad. Happy reading!

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.

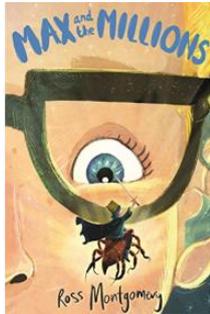
Reading diaries will be checked once a week by members of staff and we will contact parents where a child has not read at home to remind them of its importance.

We will continue to encourage reading and reward children through our school POWERS system for demonstrating a positive attitude to learning.



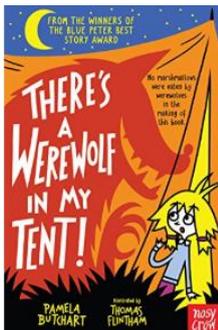
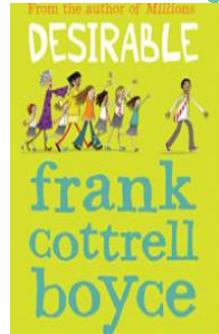


# Year Four Top 20



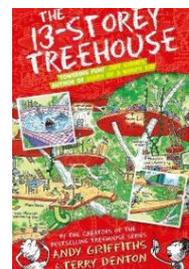
**Max and the Millions**  
Ross Montgomery

**Desirable**  
By Frank Cottrell Boyce



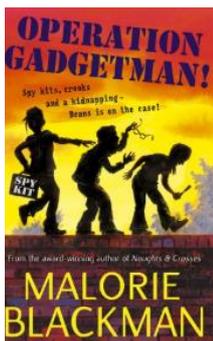
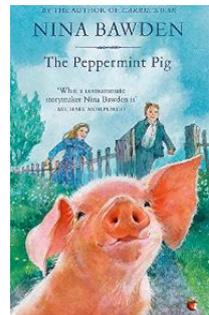
**There's a werewolf in my tent!**  
By Pamela Butchart

**The 13-storey Treehouse**  
By Andy Griffiths



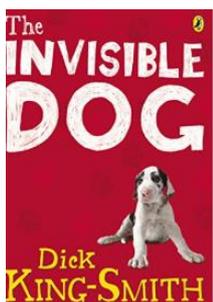
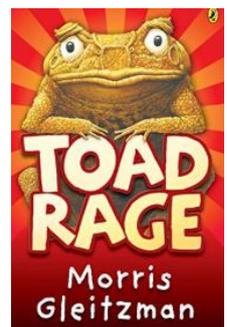
**An Edition of First News**  
Various Authors

**Peppermint Pig**  
By Nina Bawden



**Operation Gadgetman**  
By Malorie Blackman

**Toad Rage**  
By Morris Gleitzman

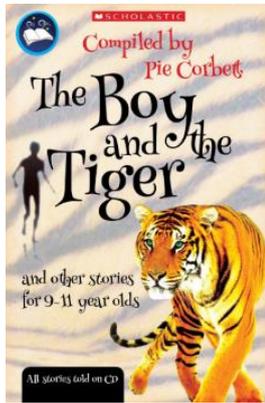


**The Invisible Dog**  
By Dick King Smith

**Any of the Curriculum Books in your class**

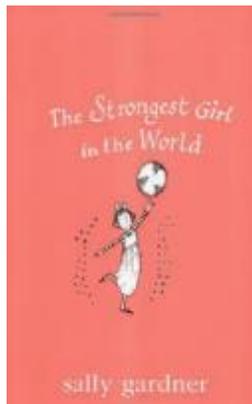
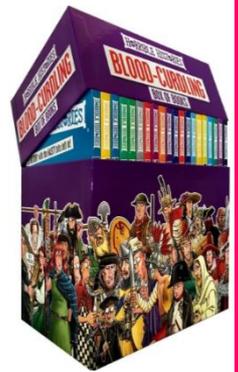
Various Authors





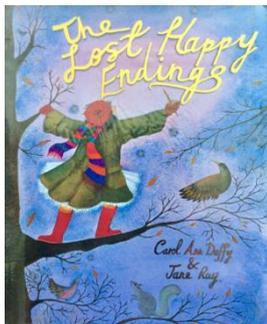
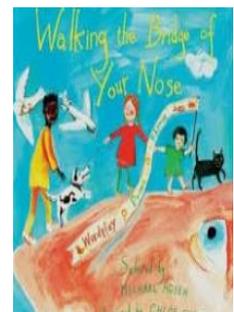
**The Boy and the Tiger**  
*Compiled by Pie Corbett*

**Any of the Horrible  
Histories/Science/Geography Series**  
*Various Authors*



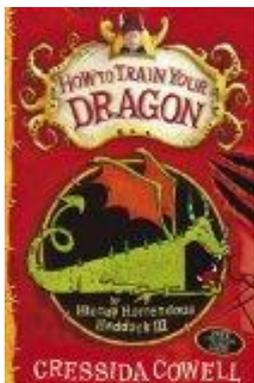
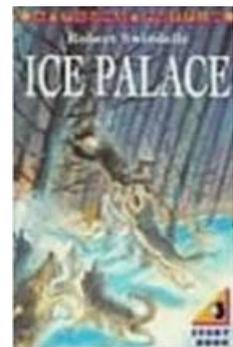
**The Strongest Girl  
in the World**  
*By Sally Gardner*

**Walking the  
Bridge of your  
nose**  
*By Michael Rosen*



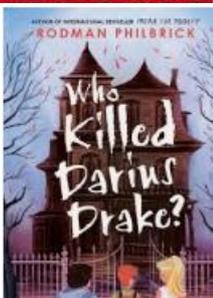
**The Last  
Happy Endings**  
*By Carol Ann  
Duffy and Jane  
Ray*

**Ice Palace**  
*By Robert Swindells*



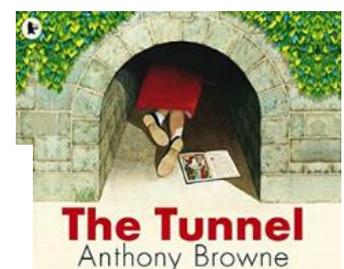
**How to Train Your  
Dragon**  
*By Cressida Cowell*

**Beaver Towers: The  
Witches Revenge**  
*By Nigel Hinton*



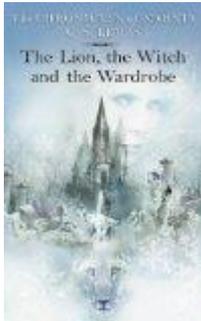
**Who Killed  
Darius Drake?**  
*By Rodman Philbrick*

**The Tunnel**  
*By Anthony Browne*



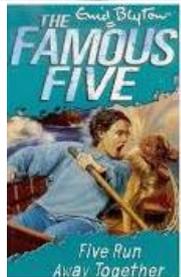
# CLASSICS

## Year 4 Classics



### **The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe**

By C. S. Lewis



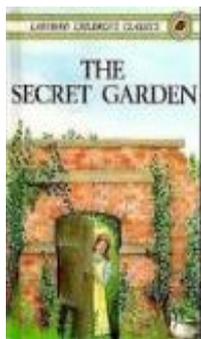
### **The Famous Five**

By Enid Blyton



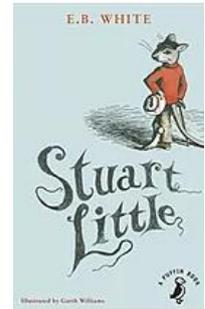
### **Out of India**

By Jamila Gavin



### **The Secret Garden**

By Frances Hodgson Burnett



### **Stuart Little**

By E. B. White



### **The Secret Seven**

By Enid Blyton



### **Charlotte's Web**

By E. B. White



### **Swallows and Amazons**

By Arthur Ransome

**Any of the Oxford Reading Tree 'Greatest Stories' Series**



**Any of the Oxford Reading Tree 'Myths and Legends' Series**

