

## **Thornbury Academy Reading Newsletter**

Welcome to Second Reading newsletter for parents!

At Thornbury we love reading and hope you do too. Each term we will be sharing with you all things reading!

### **School News**

What an exciting term it has been! We held reading cafes in the classroom where children sampled books and discussed books that they might enjoy / might not enjoy. There were different boxes of books including books related to our science topics, books recommended by the class teacher, authors who have written to us and STAR readers. Here are some of our children with their books!



### **Focus Author: Chris Callaghan**

Chris Callaghan is a Children's Author with a background as a mechanic in the Royal Air Force and as an Environmental Scientist. He has ALWAYS enjoyed writing stories, daring to dream that one day he might become a published author himself. After writing a story about the END of chocolate, his dream came true. His new books for guided and independent reading are an action-packed adventure series (of 48 books) called 'Shinoy and the Chaos Crew', including graphic novels and non-fiction. He hopes that these books will encourage children that reading and stories are for everyone.



We read 'The Great Chocoplot' and were lucky enough to have Chris write back to us and answer our questions, when we got in touch with him.

#### **What was your favourite childhood book and why?**

I didn't read much when I was very young (I found reading very hard work) but when I discovered 'The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, I was hooked. These are incredible stories with fantastic characters, but more importantly for me – they were mostly short stories. I remember feeling a huge sense of achievement finishing a story and I always wanted to read another (and I still do!)

#### **Which of your own books is your favourite and why?**

My first published book, 'The Great Chocoplot' will always be very special. I wrote it for my daughter to read with her at bedtime and make her giggle. My new 'Shinoy and the Chaos Crew' series includes a story called 'The Day of the Risky Rescue', which I think is my favourite of the set. Shinoy is transported into the futuristic world where his heroes are trapped and has to rescue them with his Dad. It was a lot of fun to write.

#### **Why do you choose to read?**

Even though I am a HUGE film and TV fan, I think nothing gets the imagination going like reading a book. Those wibbly wobbly lines on a page turn into the most amazing things inside your brain. Your own imagination is far bigger and better than any screen – all you need to do is download those wobbly words into it!

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## Reading Tips!

Is your child struggling to build fluency in their reading?  
Echo reading is a rereading strategy designed to help students develop expressive, fluent reading. Give echo reading a go!



*“Students must hear fluent readers begin modelling if they are to understand how they should sound when they read fluently”* (Miller and Veatch, 2011). Since echo reading uses modelling as a form of assisted reading, students are able to gain the support and guidance they need to develop fluent reading skills.

### What does echo reading look like?



- Adult/confident reader models fluent reading of a short segment, usually one sentence.
- Student / child repeats or ‘echo reads’ the segment they have just read.
- Adult/confident reader reads next sentence and has student echo... repeat until done.
- The adult/confident reader must track the reading with their finger so that the student can follow.

Here are some clips to see it in action! We will be discussing this in detail in our next edition!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-sb90r0e3M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gRXca5G-Ow>

## Books to share with your children during the festive season!

EYFS		Telling the story of Shelly the shark who creates her own Santa’s grotto, this wonderful story is sure to delight children. A hilarious tale with a lovely message about trusting people, this is a great way to experience Christmas
Key Stage 1 Year 1 and 2		This absolutely beautiful depiction of the famous Christmas carol is a great way to think more deeply about a key part of Christmas. Each double page spread is stunningly illustrated with all the Christmassy items you could wish for!
Lower Key stage 2 Year 3 and 4		A wonderful tale that explains how Father Christmas manages to visit every child in a single night. Heart-warming with a deep message, this interpretation of the story of Christmas will get children thinking.
Upper Key Stage 2 Year 5 and 6		Telling the story of Blanche, who has never had a real Christmas, this wonderful story explores what happens when a mysterious bauble appears. Blanche and her bauble-giver Rinki become firm friends, enjoying the Christmas of all Christmases together.

## Feedback!

Do you have some ideas for our reading Newsletter or would like some help with reading with your child? Speak to your child’s class teacher or come and have a chat with Mrs Aslam our English Lead, she would love to hear from you!