

New Marston Primary Reading Spines

"Early reading, whether it is in a parent's lap, on the carpet of a classroom, or in a snug reading corner, gently but indelibly imprints upon us the mould from which will cast a lifetime of communication in the world. "

Alex Quigley - *Closing the Reading Gap 2020*.

This spine is designed to do two things: one, let you know what books each year group will read as part of their English lessons; the second is to share some of the recommended reads that experts have made (The Book Trust, The National Literacy Trust, educational researchers - such as Pie Corbett or Doug Lemov - and recognised award nominees like the Carnegie Award). It is important to stress that the recommended books for each phase (EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2) are ideas to help guide the children towards age-appropriate books. As an aside, there is conscious thought given to the children and their lives. These books have been selected to reflect the cultural capital of the children as well as who they are. We hope that children will recognise themselves in the books that they read.

In the recommended reads and the class books, there is at least one picture book included in each year group. As your child becomes a more competent reader, their decoding and fluency skills improve. In KS2, picture books can be judged as often carrying complex themes which help develop children's inference and prediction skills. They are invaluable for discussion both within and out of the classroom setting. We have also tried to recommend short chapter books in KS1 and some poetry and non-fiction texts for each phase.

Research has time and again shown a clear link between a child who reads for pleasure and success in life, 'Readers are more engaged politically, and more likely to become involved in their communities.'

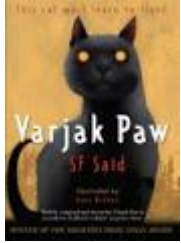
- Cherry Gand Vignoles A 2020

We also hope that, as time goes on, there will be a way of having parents recommend books as well. Watch this space for how that may be done.

Year 5 Reading Spine
Class Books

Autumn one

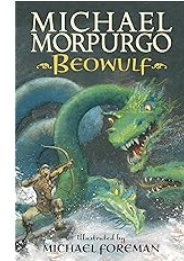
Varjak Paw (SF Said and Dave McKean)



Mesopotamian Blue cat, Varjak Paw, has never been outside before; he and his family have always lived in the isolated house at the top of the hill. But Varjak is forced out into the city when the sinister gentleman and his two menacing cats take over his home.

Autumn Two

Beowulf (Michael Morpurgo and Michael Foreman)



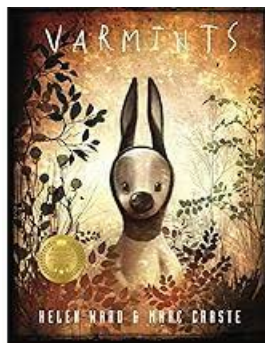
night,

In fifth-century Denmark, a murderous monster stalks the land and only the great prince of the Geats has the strength and courage to defeat him. Beowulf's terrifying quest to destroy Grendel, the foul fiend, a hideous sea-hag and a monstrous fire-dragon is the oldest surviving epic in British literature.

Spring One

Varmints (Helen Ward and Marc Craste)

Partnering gorgeous, surreal illustrations with haunting text, this mysterious story reveals a natural world in need of protection and the souls who love it enough to ensure its regeneration. Original.



Spring Two

Wonderstruck (Brian Selznick)



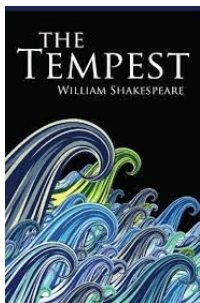
Ever since his mother died, Ben feels lost. At home with her father, Rose feels alone. Ben and Rose secretly wish their lives were different. Ben longs for the father he has never known. Rose dreams of a mysterious actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook.

When Ben discovers a puzzling clue in his mother's room and Rose reads an enticing headline in the newspaper, both children set out alone on desperate quests to find what they are missing.

Summer one

The Tempest (William Shakespeare)

Prospero uses magic to conjure a storm and torment the survivors of a shipwreck, including the King of Naples and Prospero's treacherous brother, Antonio.



Summer Two

The Unforgotten Coat (Frank Cottrell Boyce)

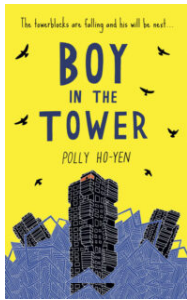
Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates, but bring so much of Mongolia to Bootle that their new friend and guide, Julie, is hard-pressed to know truth from fantasy as she recollects a wonderful friendship that was abruptly ended when Chingis and his family were forced to return to Mongolia.



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**Upper Key Stage Two Reading Spine
Recommended Reads**

Boy in the Tower - Polly Ho-Yen



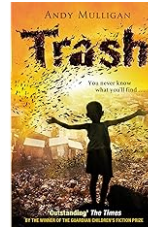
A deeply thought-provoking and thrilling story, dealing with the themes of mental health issues, isolation and a young boy being a carer for his mother.

When the tower block where the family live is under attack by mysterious plants, Ade's mother's anxieties mean that the family is not able to flee.

Trash Paperback - Andy Mulligan

Raphael lives on a dumpsite, eking out a living sifting through rubbish. One unlucky-lucky day he makes an extraordinary and deadly discovery. Now he and his two friends, Gardo and Rat, are wanted by the corrupt forces that run the city and will stop at nothing to get back what they've lost.

From the slums to the mansions of the elite, it's going to take all of their quick-thinking and fast-talking to stay ahead. And to stay alive.



Tom's Midnight Garden - Philippa Pearce

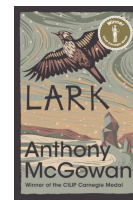


The Final Year - Matt Goodfellow



This is an extraordinary verse novel about the final year of primary school, told through poetry. The verse captures the character of Year 6 pupil Nate as he navigates issues of school, family illness, emotions, change and friendships. Year 6 is a difficult year for many children and the book captures some of that flavour, including the run-up to SATs, friendship issues and anxiety during a time when a sense of big changes is in the air.

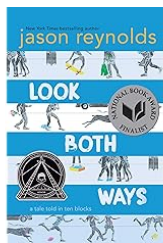
Lark - Anthony McGowan



Things are tense at home for Nicky and Kenny. Their mum's coming to visit and it will be the first time they've seen her

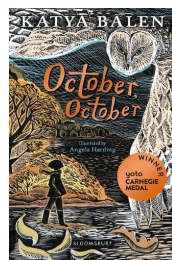
in years. A lot has changed since they were little and Nicky's not so sure he's ready to see her again. When they head for a trek across the moors to take their minds off everything, a series of unforeseen circumstances leave the brothers in a vulnerable and very dangerous position. There might even be a chance that this time, not everyone will make it home alive.

Look Both ways - Jason Reynolds



October, October - Katya Balen

October and her dad live in the woods. They know the trees and the rocks and the lake and stars like best friends. They live in the woods and they are wild. And that's the way it is. Until the year October turns eleven. That's the year October rescues a baby owl. It's the year Dad falls out of the biggest tree in their woods. The year the woman who calls herself October's mother comes back. The year everything changes.



A timeless tale of wild nature and family secrets boasting a cast of unforgettable characters, it is an enthralling read from a distinctive voice in children's fiction.



Timelines of Science - Leo Ball & Patricia Fara

The Arrival - Shaun Tan

When a man leaves his family to search for a better life for them far away, he finds himself in a strange city and owning only a suitcase and a little bit of money, the



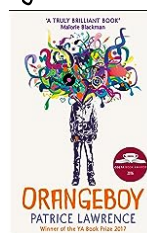
immigrant must navigate his way through his sense of deep

displacement and find a way of connecting with the people he meets.

The Blue Book of Nebo - Manon Steffan Ros



Orangeboy - Patrice Lawrence



Northern Lights - Philip Pullman

