

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

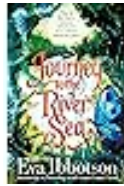
We also hope that, as time goes on, there will be a way of having parents recommend books as well. Watch this space for how that may be done.

Year 6 Reading Spine
Class Books

Autumn one

Journey to the River Sea (Eva Ibbotson)

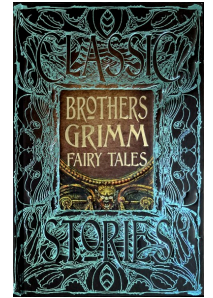
It is 1910 and Maia, tragically orphaned at thirteen, has been sent from England to start a new life with distant relatives in Manaus, hundreds of miles up the Amazon. She is accompanied by an eccentric and mysterious governess who has secret reasons of her own for making the journey. Both soon discover an exotic world bursting with new experiences in Journey to the River Sea, Eva Ibbotson's highly colourful, joyous adventure.



Autumn Two

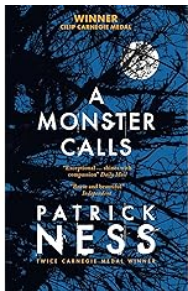
Grimm's Fairy Tales (The Grimm Brothers)

Malevolent and dark, the fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm are not for the faint-hearted. The stories were originally published in 1812 and form a vivid and fascinating body of work that is rich in folkloric significance.



Spring One

A Monster Calls (Patrick Ness and Siobhan Dowd)



Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature and it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.

Spring Two

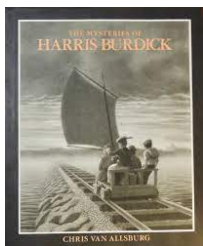
Holes (Louis Sachar)

Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck going back generations, so he is not too surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre. Nor is he very surprised when he is told that his daily labour at the camp is to dig a hole, five feet wide by five feet deep, and report anything that he finds in that hole. The warden claims that it is character-building but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth.



Summer one

The Mysteries of Harris Burdick (Chris van Allsburg)



'I first saw the drawings in this book a year ago, in the house of a man named Peter Wenders. Though Mr. Wenders is retired now, he once worked for a children's book publisher, choosing the stories and pictures that would be turned into books.'

Summer Two

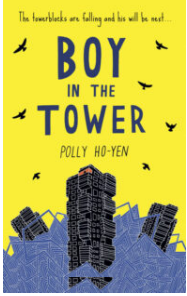
Life can be tough in your last year of primary school. Tests to take, preparing for the change to high school. Nate is ready for it all, knowing his best friend PS is at his side - they've been inseparable since Nursery.



But when they are put in two different classes and PS finds a new friend in Turner, the school bully, Nate's world turns upside-down. As he struggles to make sense of this and forge new friendships, he's dealt another blow - one that could be catastrophic.

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

Boy in the Tower - Polly Ho-Yen



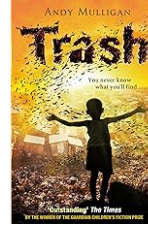
A deeply thought-provoking and thrilling story, dealing with the themes of mental health issues, isolation and a young boy being a carer for his mother.

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

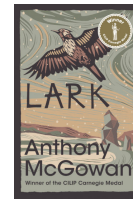


The Final Year - Matt Goodfellow



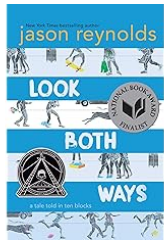
This is an extraordinary verse novel about the final year of primary school, told through poetry. The verse captures the character of Year 6 pupil Nate as he navigates issues of school, family illness, emotions, change and friendships. Year 6 is a difficult year for many children and the book captures 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.



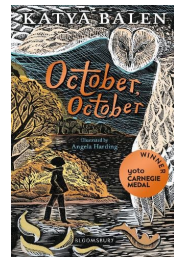
Timelines of Science - Leo Ball & Patricia Fara

The Arrival - Shaun Tan

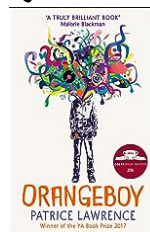
When a man leaves his family to search for a better life for them far away, he finds himself in a strange city and owning only a suitcase and a little bit of money, the immigrant must navigate his way through his sense of deep



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



Orangeboy - Patrice Lawrence



The Blue Book of Nebo - Manon Steffan Ros



Northern Lights - Philip Pullman

