

# READING FOR PLEASURE AT LEAVENING PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPRING 2025

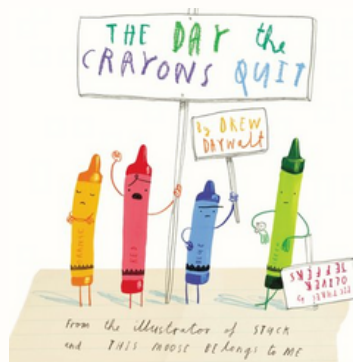
## WELCOME TO OUR READING FOR PLEASURE NEWSLETTER!

At Leavening Community Primary School, we are passionate about fostering a love of reading in all our pupils. Each term, we will share recommended books for different Key Stages, top reading tips, and exciting literary events.

### Recommended Reads-

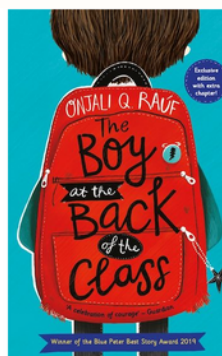
#### Early Years & Key Stage 1 (Ages 4-7)

- 📖 **The Day the Crayons Quit**  
— Drew Daywalt
- 📖 **Supertato** — Sue Hendra



#### Key Stage 2 (Ages 7-11)

- 📖 **The Boy at the Back of the Class**  
— Onjali Q. Raúf
- 📖 **The Explorer** — Katherine Rundell
- 📖 **When the Sky Falls** — Phil Earle



### Top Tips for Encouraging Reading at Home

- ♥️ **Read Together** — Even older children enjoy being read to.
- ♥️ **Create a Reading Space** — A cosy nook with books can encourage reading.
- ♥️ **Let Them Choose** — Allow children to select books that interest them.
- ♥️ **Lead by Example** — Show your child that reading is enjoyable by reading yourself.
- ♥️ **Talk About Books** — Discussing stories helps deepen comprehension and interest.

### Pop Up Library Dates

**27th March | 1st May | 22nd May | 12th June\* | 3rd July(collection only)**

\*Depending on the weather and therefore when Sports Day will take place - Pop-up will run on 12th June **or** 19th June - we will confirm nearer the time.

# WORLD BOOK DAY AT LEAVENING CP SCHOOL

On World Book Day Neil Clark, one of our parents, visited in his role as a published author and read his fabulous story book 'Crash, Bang, Wallop'. This is a delightful picture book that celebrates both noise and quiet. The story follows three boisterous characters—Crash, Bang, and Wallop—who love making lots of noise. As they crash through the story, they encounter three quieter characters who help them discover the joys of calm and quiet moments. With playful characters, bouncy rhyming text, and vibrant artwork, this book is a real treat to enjoy together. It also includes a bonus mindfulness activity at the back to encourage quieter moments in the day.



We also had a visit from our Governor Jan who read a delightful story to Conkers about 'A Buzzy Bee' (kindly modelled by Mrs Raines). Jan also read poetry to Oak Trees class and set them some challenges.

Our pupils came dressed in their comfy clothes or pyjamas and brought in one of their favourite books. They spent time in house teams sharing stories and reading together.

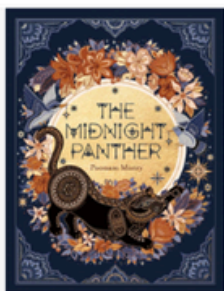
Happy Reading! 📖

Leavening Community Primary School Literacy Team



## Top Texts for March 25

Clare Hollis, an English lead in Nottingham, shares some wonderful, adventurous texts for this month



### The Midnight Panther

by Poonam Mistry

Panther yearns to be like the other big cats he admires (Leopard has beautiful spots, Tiger has stunning stripes and Lion has a magnificent mane) but he is plain, small and shy. Poonam Mistry's delightful fable transports us to the rain forest as the reader follows Panther's journey of self-discovery. Will he discover his own beauty, courage and strength or stay hidden in the shadows?

The story is beautifully complemented by the author's rich illustrations – each page is a work of art – a tropical feast for the eyes. A gorgeous picture book for all ages.



### The Song Walker

by Zillah Bethell

One girl – lost, alone and with no recollection of her name wanders in the vast Australian outback, wearing one shoe and carrying a heavy case. Tarni discovers and assists the lost girl, but she also has a secret. The companions encounter some hair-raising moments together as they travel over the uninhabitable terrain to reach safety, guided only by ancestral songs.

Gripping from the very first page, Zillah Bethell (author of *The Shark Caller*) keeps the tension and twists coming in this her second novel, perfect for UKS2.



### Epic Adventures

by Sam Sedgman and illustrated by Sam Brewster

As a huge fan of *The Adventure on Trains* series co-written by M.G. Leonard and Sam Sedgman, I could not wait to get my hands on this non-fiction book! It takes the reader on twelve of the most exciting train journeys in the world; some of which inspired the original fictional series.

Sam Sedgman takes each journey in turn and amazes the reader with geographical facts, landmarks and engineering feats. Colourful illustrations by Sam Brewster help map out the routes and supplement the written information. A real gem for those who love



# AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: TOLÁ OKOGWU



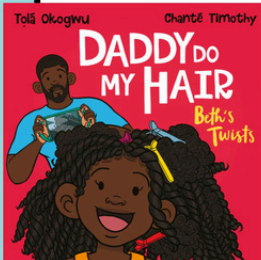
Tolá Okogwu is a British–Nigerian author, journalist and hair care educator. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, but raised in London, England, she holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism. Having spent several years exploring the world of blogging, hair care and freelance writing, she finally returned to her first love: fiction. She is the author of the Onyeka series for middle grade readers, the Daddy Do My Hair? picture book series, as well as Aziza's Secret Fairy Door under the pen name Lola Morayo. Tolá now lives in Kent with her husband and two daughters. An avid reader and lover of music, she's also a sucker for melted cheese.

## WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD BOOK AND WHY?



I loved the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. I read it at a particularly difficult point in my childhood. I had just moved to the UK from Nigeria and I felt very lost, scared and lonely. Reading about the Pevensies, a family going through a similar situation helped me feel seen and less alone. I still to this day cannot pass a wardrobe without checking to see if there's a way to Narnia inside.

## WHICH OF YOUR OWN BOOKS IS YOUR FAVOURITE AND WHY?



This is always a difficult question which I usually avoid answering as each book is special for different reasons. I will say that Daddy Do My Hair: Beth's Twists has an extra special place in my heart as it was the first book I wrote and published, whilst Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun means a lot because it stretched me as a writer and opened many doors and opportunities for me as an author.

## WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO READ?



Reading is my happy place. I think of books as a sort of passport that allows me to visit the most amazing places and meet the most fantastic characters. When I'm lost in a book, something magical happens and I love that I can be both entertained as well as educated at the same time.