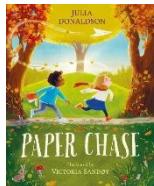
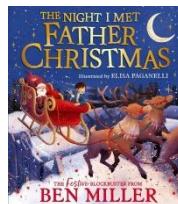


**New releases!**
***The Night I Met Father Christmas* Ben Miller (author), Elisa Paganelli (illustrator)**

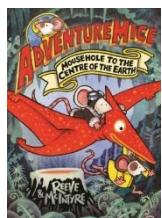
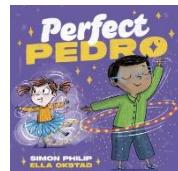
The Night I Met Father Christmas by Ben Miller is a magical Christmas Eve adventure adapted from his bestselling novel. Determined to stay awake, Jackson gets the surprise of his life when Father Christmas whooshes down the chimney and invites him on a sleigh ride across the world. Beautifully illustrated by Elisa Paganelli, this enchanting picture book is full of festive wonder—a perfect story to share and treasure on Christmas Eve for those who celebrate Christmas. Suitable for all.


***Paper Chase* Julia Donaldson (author), Victoria Sandøy (illustrator)**

A captivating paper chase, and an unforgettable adventure . . . Two children meet under a tall tree. James has a book. Ginger has a paper plane. They become friends . . . but then they're parted. Will they ever meet again? Much-loved storyteller Julia Donaldson weaves the children's tale of friendship into the amazing story of how paper is made. With perfect, read-aloud rhymes and glowing illustrations by Victoria Sandøy, this is a story of friendship and adventure like no other. Suitable for all.

***Perfect Pedro* Simon Philip (author), Ella Okstad (illustrator)**

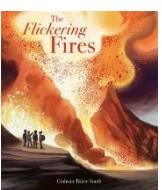
From the award-winning Simon Philip comes a hilarious new picture book about perfectionism, friendship, and hula-hooping! Pedro likes everything to be perfect—especially his friends. When he teams up with Poppy for the school talent show, things seem just right... until they don't. Poppy doesn't mind mistakes, but Pedro isn't so sure. This lively story, illustrated by Ella Okstad, explores why life doesn't have to be flawless and how friendship can thrive when we embrace imperfections.


***Adventuremice: Mousehole to the Centre of the Earth* By Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre**

Adventuremice: The Mechanical Mole by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre is another brilliant tale in this much-loved series that bridges the gap between picture books and chapter books. When Uncle Bernie's latest invention—a giant digging machine—appears in Bosun's vegetable patch, Pedro and the team set off on an underground adventure. They discover a hidden world, meet cave mice, and face a very unusual challenge: a Hamstersaurus Rex! It's packed with full-colour illustrations, clever ideas, and laugh-out-loud moments – suitable for Years 3 and 4. Fun fact: both Philip and Sarah visited Newfield around ten years ago, so this one feels extra special!

***Tina* Niall Harbison (author)**

Tina by Niall Harbison is the true story of a very special rescue dog and the amazing friendship that changed everything. Tina is a golden retriever who loves tennis balls, motorbike rides, and making people smile. When Niall meets her in Thailand, he starts Happy Doggo Land to help street dogs who need care and kindness. Along the way you'll meet Buster with his missing ear, Jumbo who loves sausages, and tiny Alba enjoying her sunsets. Packed with real photos and incredible doggy adventures, this heartwarming book shows how one dog inspired a mission to save hundreds more. Perfect for animal lovers! Suitable for children in Years 4 and up.


***The Flickering Fires* Grahame Baker-Smith (author)**

The Flickering Fires by Jackie Morris is the final book in the award-winning Elements series—a stunning journey through the story of fire. From the first sparks born from dead stars to its role in cooking, warmth, and protection, this book explores how fire shaped human history, powering the Copper, Bronze and Iron Ages, and driving inventions from steam engines to rockets. A beautiful, thought-provoking read with breathtaking illustrations. Suitable for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 with a passion for history, geography and science.

***Swanfall* Sophie Kirtley (author)**

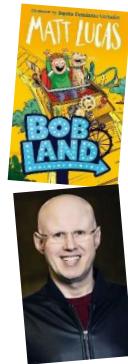
Swanfall by Sophie Kirtley is a thrilling winter adventure inspired by Irish folklore. Pip feels most at home in the wetlands, waiting for the annual swanfall when Arctic swans return from Siberia. But this year, his favourite swans are missing—and strange footprints, whispers on the wind, and an ancient curse lead Pip into a mystery he never imagined. Perfect for fans of magical, atmospheric stories like *The House with Chicken Legs* and *A Girl Called Owl*, this tale blends nature, friendship, and folklore into an unforgettable read. Sophie Kirtley's brilliant *The Way to Impossible Island* is already in our KS2 library and this is another super adventure. Perfect for children in Years 5 and 6.



### What's happening at Newfield?

#### Year 6 meet Matt Lucas!

In late-November, Year 6 pupils headed to The Earls High School for an inspiring author event with **Matt Lucas**! He introduced his latest children's book – **BobLand** – and shared how ideas become stories. He also answered brilliant questions from pupils across Halesowen including from Newfield! Many even grabbed a signed copy. It was a fantastic celebration of reading for pleasure and creativity—what an experience for our budding writers!



#### An author you might not know....



#### Sharna Jackson

Born in London, Sharna Jackson grew up with a passion for storytelling and a love for engaging young minds. Her debut children's novel, the gripping "High-Rise Mystery," was published in 2019 and was followed by "Mic Drop" in 2020. In 2022, Jackson introduced readers to "The Good Turn," which focuses on a group of children who form a scout troop and embark on various adventures while learning about friendship and community. Brilliantly crafted and featuring Jackson's unique voice, the book became a bestseller! Jackson's books are normally suitable for children in Years 5 and 6. Our Year 5 pupils read High-Rise Mystery!

#### Staff recommendation (for Children)

##### Aliens Love Panta Claus by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort (illus.)

Aliens Love Panta Claus is a festive twist on the much-loved series. The aliens are back, and this time they're helping Father Christmas prepare for the big day—with plenty of pants involved! Bright, bold illustrations and playful rhymes make this a fun, light-hearted read. Suitable for all.



*"My son really enjoys the Aliens Love Underpants series so this was a sure fire hit with him! He found the Christmas twist funny and laughed a long as we read. Silly, but brilliant!"*  
(Mr. T. Roddison)

### Recommend a book!

Have you or your child read a book which you'd like to recommend? Scan the QR code (or click the link below) and your book recommendation may appear next month in the Reading Newsletter!

Children's book recommendation	Grown-up book recommendation
 <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/TmHxPx756v">https://forms.office.com/e/TmHxPx756v</a>	 <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/sanb04eP05">https://forms.office.com/e/sanb04eP05</a>

#### Book Brag!

##### The Good Thieves by Katherine Rundell

From daring rooftop escapes to cunning plans and hidden treasures, join Katherine Rundell's fearless crew determined to outwit the odds and reclaim what's rightfully theirs. Packed with twists, danger, and heart, this thrilling adventure will keep you guessing—and cheering—until the very last page!



First published in 2019, the book has become very popular in libraries and is suitable for children in Years 5 and 6.

*"I thoroughly enjoyed The Good Thieves because it has a really interesting storyline from start to finish. It's an adventure where a young girl called Vita visits her grandad in New York and tries to steal something back that belongs to him... It's great for children who love adventure!"* (Phoebe, Year 6)

#### Staff recommendation (for Parents/Carers)

##### The Hotel Avocado by Bob Mortimer

Hotel Avocado by Bob Mortimer is another hilarious novel from the bestselling author. Gary faces a life-changing choice: stay in London with his pies and loyal neighbour Grace or move to Brighton where his girlfriend Emily is opening The Hotel Avocado. But Gary's future plans soon spiral into a world of difficulties...

Packed with Mortimer's trademark humour, quirky characters, and unexpected twists, this is another classic if you are a fan! *"This book really made me chuckle. Bob's unique sense of humour shines through in the story throughout. Brilliant!"* (Mrs. Sharratt)

#### Turn on the subtitles!

We mention it a lot at Newfield but turning on the subtitles while children are watching television can **'double the chances' of a child becoming good at reading!** It's so brilliantly simple and can help children's literacy so much that we want to shout it from the rooftops! There's extensive global research that shows just how effective this is. For more information on the research [click here](#). Most apps such as Netflix, Prime Video, Disney+, Apple TV and iPlayer allow subtitles on almost every show. "Live" programs, such as those on CBBC, are normally also available with subtitles on. Finally, click the "CC" button on YouTube to activate the subtitles on any videos/shows your child might be watching!



*"Just turn on the subtitles. Extraordinary. Evidence has shown they can double the chances of a child becoming good at reading."* (Lenny Henry, author and comedian, pictured right)