



We hope that you and your child had a lovely summer break. As the new academic year begins, we are so pleased to be able to start it off with a wonderful selection of books that touch on a wide range of topics. Reading benefits many areas of education and life. In addition to the obvious benefits on reading comprehension and attainment, it also impacts upon:

- Vocabulary
- Understanding of grammar
- Spelling skill
- Writing attainment
- Attitudes to reading and writing
- Knowledge and understanding of the world and other people
- Achievement in other subjects, including maths
- Empathy and understanding of emotions
- Mental well-being
- Development of our sense of 'self' and identity

To help you and your child select books they may enjoy, we have collated a range for you to consider here. This is obviously not an exhaustive list – there are so many books and other text types they could explore. Whatever they are curious about, or take interest in, consider looking at books around the topic, or encouraging them to research into the area further through non-fiction texts such as online articles.

Please note that unless otherwise stated, the texts are suitable from Year 7 and up, but please do research or read the books before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child.

In addition to exploring the books mentioned in this newsletter, you can encourage reading in other ways too, for example:

- Find out what your child is curious about, or takes an interest in, and look at books around these topics.
- Encourage them to research into an area further through non-fiction texts such as online articles.
- If your child struggles with reading and this poses an obstacle to their enjoyment, explore the blurbs of books and select a couple to try on audiobook. You can often borrow these for free from your local library too.
- Support your child with reading for purpose. You could read recipes, newspaper articles, blog posts and other forms of texts.

Whatever books you and your child choose to explore, we hope you enjoy them!

GETTING THE YEAR OFF TO A GOOD START

In case you've missed our previous newsletters, we wanted to share a few books which may be of use to you if you're nervous about the return to school, or you're looking to approach this year differently.



Dare to Be You

MATTHEW SYED

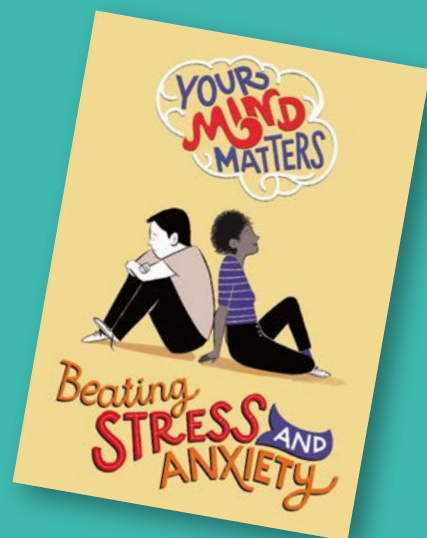
What would you dare to try if you stopped worrying about fitting in? Drawing examples from sport, science and even business, *Dare to Be You* empowers young readers to follow their own path, love what makes them different and question the world around them.

There is also an accompanying 'Dare to Be You' Journal which you could purchase as well, if you think this would be useful for your child.

Your Mind Matters: Beating Stress and Anxiety

HONOR HEAD

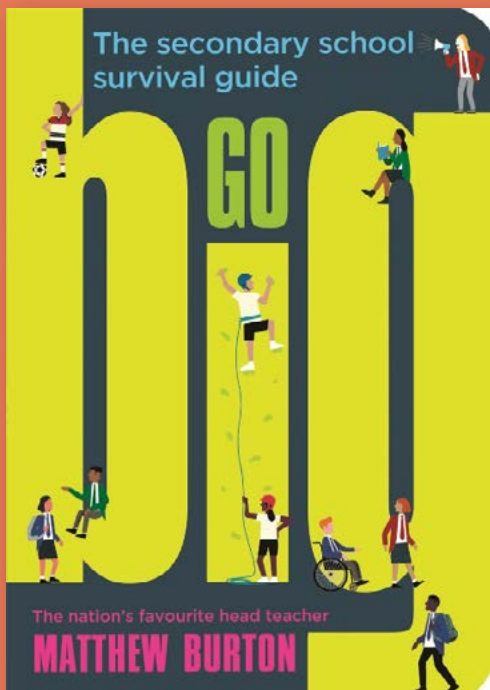
Everyone experiences stress and anxiety at times in their lives, but sometimes the feelings build up and can affect our physical and mental health. This book will help you to recognise the signs of feeling stressed and anxious and what you can do to feel better.



Go Big

MATTHEW BURTON

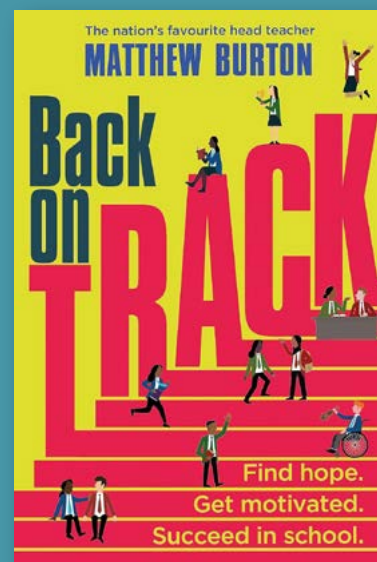
The bestselling back-to-school handbook, from the nation's favourite headteacher, Mr. Burton. Secondary school can seem scary. Corridors are wide, older students look terrifying and there's homework, messy friendships and stressful exams to deal with. But, whether you're about to land at secondary school or you're still settling in, Mr. Burton is here to guide you through your journey – worry-free.



Back on Track

MATTHEW BURTON

From ways to manage the tough times and solve even the biggest problems or anxieties, to skills for beating school stress and tapping into your potential, this is the one-stop guide for students who are in need of a bit of hope, some soothing words of advice and a good old pep-talk to get them going in school again. Whether facing assessments, a big change or having to make up for lost time, this book is crammed with advice so that though things at school might seem hard, readers will soon be back on track and raring to go.



SHORTER-LENGTH READS



Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess

NANCY SPRINGER

When her mother disappears on her fourteenth birthday, Enola Holmes – the much younger sister of the famous detective Sherlock – suddenly finds herself in the care of her brothers. Deciding to track her mother down, the trail leads to another missing person and the deadly dangerous streets of Victorian London.

Resist

TOM PALMER

As WWII stretches on, life for ordinary Dutch people in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands is fraught with hardship. After the murder of her uncle and the capture of her brother, Edda is determined to do anything she can to fight back. But what can a teenage girl do and how much risk is she willing to take? Resist shines a light on the work of the WWII Dutch resistance, in a story inspired by the childhood of Hollywood legend Audrey Hepburn.



Leila and the Blue Fox

KIRAN MILLWOOD HARGRAVE

Based on the true story of an Arctic fox who walked from Norway to Canada in 76 days, a distance of 2,000 miles. Leila embarks upon a journey to find her mother who left her, with help from a determined little fox.



Keeper

ALAN GIBBONS

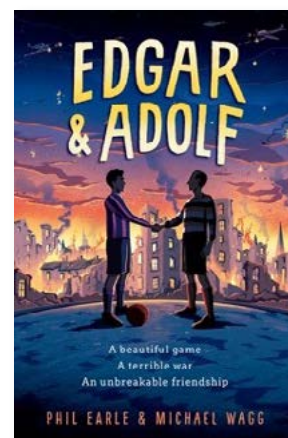
New boy, Shane Logan, has a temper, but he's also a talented goalie. When Peter and his friends invite him to join their football team, he delivers a star performance, but Shane's not the only one who makes an impression. His dad, Mick, yells orders and insults from the sidelines. What is his problem? And why does Shane seem afraid of him?



Edgar and Adolf

PHIL EARLE AND MICHAEL WAGG

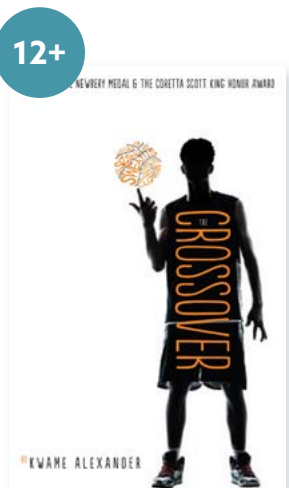
Summer 1888 and Eliza is angry. Angry that conditions at the factory where she works are so harsh. Angry that no one seems to care. When Eliza speaks out, her words spark fury among the other workers and the flame of rebellion is lit. Can one girl inspire an uprising that will change her world?



The Crossover

KWAME ALEXANDER

Josh and his twin brother have basketball in their blood. They're kings of the court, star players for their school. But when Jordan meets a girl, the twins' tight-knit bond is tested – are the rules of the game about to be broken?

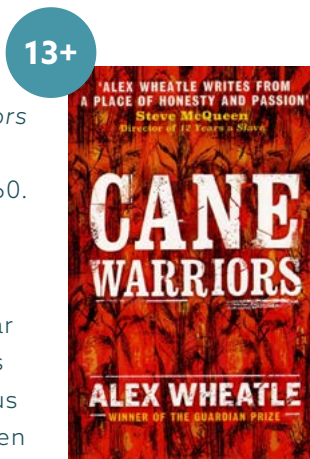


Cane Warriors

ALEX WHEATLE

Irresistible, gripping and unforgettable, *Cane Warriors* follows the true story of Tacky's War in Jamaica, 1760.

Moa is fourteen. The only life he has ever known is toiling on the Frontier sugar cane plantation for endless hot days, fearing the vicious whips of the overseers. Then one night he learns of an uprising...



LONGER-LENGTH READS



Kòkù Àkànbí and the Heart of Midnight

MARIA MONTÚNRÁYO ADÉBÍ SÍ

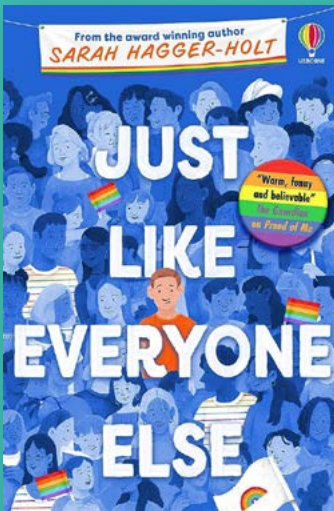
Koku has always felt like he was cursed with a weird name and an illness to match. He thinks life can't get any worse – until he unleashes a demon on a school trip. He expects detention, but instead he's hurled into an impossible quest filled with magical tribes, man-eating monsters and vengeful mermaids. Can Koku discover his own power before it's too late?

The Lovely Dark

MATTHEW FOX

When 12-year-old Eleanor Newton dies in an accident, she finds herself journeying down a mysterious river that takes her to The Underworld. The Underworld is captivating: always sunny and warm but also fractured; Ellie knows something isn't right, and she doesn't want to be there. She desperately wants to get back to the world of The Living to meet her new baby brother, even if it means being a ghost. Can Ellie find a way out of the Underworld? And who – or what – will she be if she does?





Just Like Everyone Else

SARAH HAGGER-HOLT

13-year-old Aidan can't breathe in his crowded family home. Running is his only respite from four loud sisters and involved, touchy-feely parents. Then his mum makes an announcement: she's having another baby. Only, this time it's not for her; she will be a surrogate for gay couple, Justin and Atif. Aidan is incensed. As if his family wasn't embarrassing - or big - enough already. But he's also scared. Aidan thinks he might be gay, and he's really struggling to accept this possibility. He's definitely not ready to come out, but what if being around Justin and Atif exposes him as gay?

In the Shadow of the Wolf Queen

KIRAN MILLWOOD HARGRAVE

The earth is stirring...

Ysolda has lived her life in the shadow of the wolf queen's tyrannical rule but, safe in her forest haven, she has never truly felt its threat. Until one day, a mysterious earthquake shakes the land and her older sister Hari vanishes in its wake.



The Haunting of Aveline Jones

PHIL HICKES

Aveline Jones loves reading ghost stories, so a dreary half-term becomes much more exciting when she discovers a spooky old book. Not only are the stories spine-tingling, but it once belonged to Primrose Penberthy, who vanished mysteriously, never to be seen again. Intrigued, Aveline decides to investigate Primrose's disappearance. Now someone... or something, is stirring. And it is looking for Aveline...



Until the Road Ends

PHIL EARLE

When Peggy saves a stray dog from near-death, a beautiful friendship begins. Peggy and Beau are inseparable: the only thing that can ever come between them is war. Peggy is evacuated to the safety of the coast, but Beau is left behind in the city, where he becomes the most extraordinary and unlikely of war heroes.

Night after night, as bombs rain down and communities are destroyed, Beau searches the streets, saving countless families. But then disaster strikes, changing Peggy's life forever. With her parents killed, both she and Beau are left alone, hundreds of miles apart. But Beau has a plan to reunite them at long last...



12+

Yours from the Tower

SALLY NICHOLLS

1896. Tirzah, Sophia and Polly are best friends who've left boarding school and gone back to very different lives. Polly is teaching in an orphanage. Sophia is looking for a rich husband at the London Season. And Tirzah is stuck acting as an unpaid companion to her grandmother. In a series of letters, they share their hopes, their frustrations, their dramas... and their romances. Can these three very different young women find happiness?

The Extinction Trials

S. M. WILSON

In Stormchaser and Lincoln's ruined world, the only way to survive is to risk everything. To face a conquest more dangerous than anyone can imagine. And they will do anything to win. But in a land full of monsters – human and reptilian – they can't afford to trust anyone. Perhaps not even each other...

12+



Wise Creatures

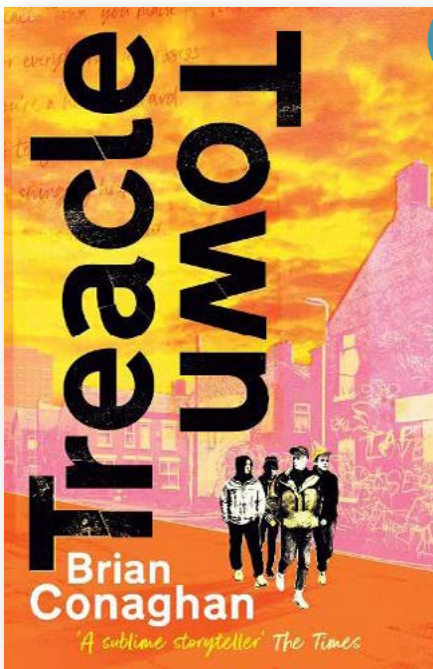
DEIRDRE SULLIVAN

I always thought that hauntings began with houses. They don't, of course. It's people, isn't it? They begin with people.

If anyone knows what it is to be haunted, it's Daisy. The ghosts of her troubled past are ever present. Daisy has always done her best to shut the ghosts away. To shut away the wise creatures who used to whisper to her from the walls of the house. To live a normal life. But now, something is humming in the house. Something dark, and unknown. And it's targeting Nina, her beloved sister. Daisy knows that something is up. And that the wise creatures, locked away for so long, are back. And this time, who knows what they want?

14+





14+

Treacle Town

BRIAN CONAGHAN

Con O'Neill is stuck in a world of brutal gang violence, sectarian vendettas and personal tragedy. The lack of opportunities for him and the rest of his gang is all too apparent. No money. No prospects. A social design that entraps inhabitants of Treacle Towns up and down the country.

Connor is desperate to get away, to find another life where he can experience happiness and fulfilment. But it won't be easy...

Black Heat

BEX HOGAN

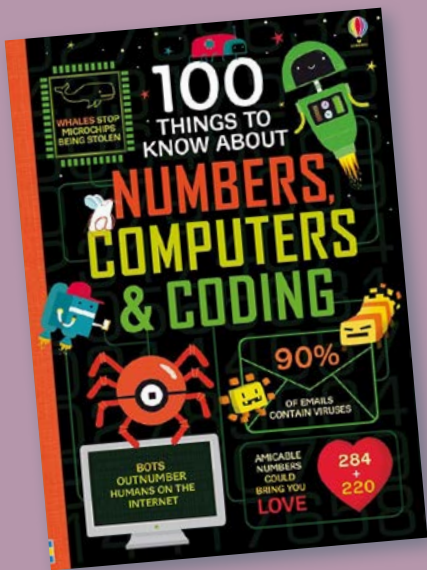
Marzal – an exiled daughter with a plan for her return.
Rayn – a rebel blacksmith with a blade of blood.
Elena – a gentle midwife with a fiercely protected secret.

Each young woman wants peace for their country, but in times of war, not everyone fights by the same rules. As their countries burn around them, and the stakes of victory rise, each woman will have to decide how far she is willing to go for peace. But the desire for revenge also burns deep...

14+



NON-FICTION



100 Things to Know About Numbers, Computing and Coding

Did you know there's a single spot on your brain that recognizes numbers? Or that the first computer bugs were actual insects and that most of the internet is under water? This fascinating book is filled with 100 fascinating facts, bright, infographic illustrations, a glossary and index, and links to specially selected websites to find out more.

100 Things to Know About Saving the Planet

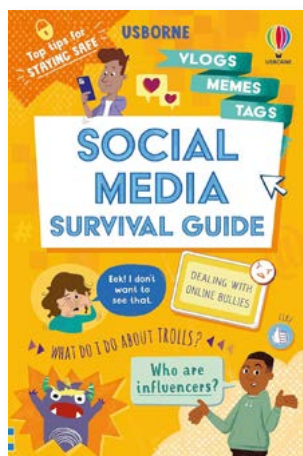
How could plastic-eating bacteria help reduce waste? Can a river be given human rights? Could we generate all the power we need from the sun and the wind? How do woolly sweaters help penguins in peril? Would building a giant sunshade in space stop the world from overheating? Find the answers to these questions and more in this bold, graphic and exciting book, full of big, small and unexpected ways to save the planet.



Social Media Survival Guide

HOLLIE BATHIE

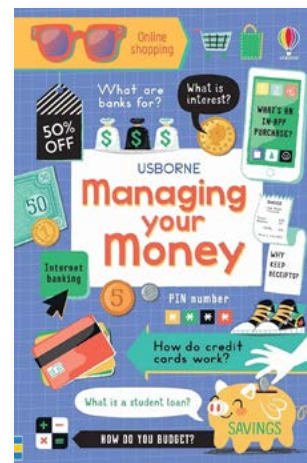
Packed with entertaining illustrations alongside practical information, the Social Media Survival Guide answers questions about all aspects of social media – the good AND the bad – making it a must-have tool for young people (and parents) to help navigate the online world safely and confidently and learn the best approaches to taking care of themselves.



Managing Your Money

JANE BINGHAM AND HOLLY BATHIE

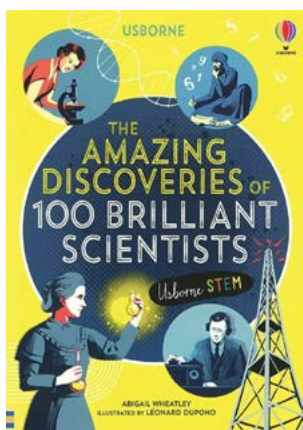
This down-to-earth guide is filled with practical advice on everything from how to budget and be a smart shopper to student loans, mortgages and insurance. An essential book for equipping young people with the skills they need to manage their money now and in the future. Includes links to websites with more tips and advice.



The Amazing Discoveries of 100 Brilliant Scientists

ABIGAIL WHEATLEY

From atoms and X-rays to the Big Bang and the Internet, brilliant breakthroughs by successful scientists have changed the world. Dip inside this intriguing book to read the stories of 100 scientists and their amazing discoveries, including Marie Curie and Albert Einstein. With Usborne Quicklinks to specially selected websites where you can meet amazing scientists and try online activities.



The Only Study Guide You'll Ever Need: Simple tips, tricks and techniques to help you ace your studies

JADE BOWLER

In this book, YouTuber Jade Bowler covers a range of different topics including how to get started and pick up that pen, learning techniques, the dos and don'ts of timetabling and combating fear of failure, perfectionism and stress. As a university student herself, this is the guide that Jade wished she'd had.

