



26th January, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Bedtime Stories

We are always thinking of ways that we can enhance and supplement our current remote learning provision. Some of our members of staff have recorded themselves reading a book that they think the children at EJS would love to listen to. Each staff member has chosen a different book, and will record a chapter each week. These 'Jackanory' style videos are available on Teams in your child's Year Group area, in a folder called 'Bedtime Stories'. We hope your children enjoy them as much as we did recording them!

Mr. Fisher will be reading: Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Half **boy**. Half **God**. ALL **Hero**. I was just a normal kid, I went to school (got expelled a lot, but that wasn't my fault), played sports and hung out with my best friend. Until I accidentally vaporized my maths teacher. Now, I spend my time at Camp Half Blood, battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive. And now that Zeus thinks I've stolen his lightning bolt, staying alive is going to be even harder...

Miss Scales will be reading: Agents of the Wild – Operation Honeyhunt by Jennifer Bell

When 8-year-old Agnes is signed up for SPEARS (the Society for the Protection of Endangered and Awesomely Rare Species), she has no idea of the adventures that lie ahead with her elephant-shrew mentor Attie (short for "Attenborough"). *Operation Honeyhunt* sends them to the Brazilian rainforest, on a mission to save an endangered, dance-loving bee named Elton. Will Agnes pass the test and become a full SPEARS agent? *Species in danger? Girl and shrew to the rescue!*

Mrs. Edwards will be reading: The Icabog by J K Rowling

The kingdom of Cornucopia was once the happiest in the world. It had plenty of gold, a king with the finest moustaches you could possibly imagine, and butchers, bakers and cheesemongers whose exquisite foods made a person dance with delight when they ate them. Everything was perfect – except for the misty Marshlands to the north which, according to legend, were home to the monstrous Icabog. Anyone sensible knew that the Icabog was just a myth, to scare children into behaving. But the funny thing about myths is that sometimes they take on a life of their own. Could a myth unseat a beloved king? Could a myth bring a once happy country to its knees? Could a myth thrust two children into an adventure they didn't ask for and never expected?

Mrs. Knight will be reading: The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse by Charlie Mackesy

Enter the world of Charlie's four unlikely friends, discover their story and their most important life lessons. The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse have been shared millions of times online - perhaps you've seen them? They've also been recreated by children in schools and hung on hospital walls. They sometimes even appear on lamp posts and on cafe and bookshop windows. You will find them together in this book of Charlie's most-loved drawings, adventuring into the wild and exploring the thoughts and feelings that unite us all.

Mrs. Kozma will be reading: Fish Boy by Chloe Daykin

People call me Fish Boy. My skin goes up and down like the waves. My mind goes in and out like the sea. They say I've always got my mouth open, that I ask too many questions. But what's wrong with that? Billy's got a lot on his mind - that he'd rather not think or talk about. So he watches David Attenborough, because Sir David's asked all the questions and got all the answers, and swims in the sea, just letting his mind drift . . . So when new boy and nature fan Patrick Green starts at school with 'fingers like steel, strength of a bear' and a mackerel swims up to Billy's face, blows bubbles into his Vista Clear mask goggles and says: 'Fish Boy', Billy knows he can't

keep it secret, because . . . **a crazy talking mackerel changes EVERYTHING.** Shimmering with almost-magic and adventure, this is an exceptional read.

Mrs. McAllister will be reading: Roof-Toppers by Katherine Rundell

Everyone tells Sophie that she was orphaned in a shipwreck - found floating in a cello case on the English Channel on her first birthday. But Sophie is convinced her mother also survived. When the Welfare Agency threatens to separate her from her guardian and send her to an orphanage, Sophie takes matters into her own hands, starting with the only clue she has - the address of a cello-maker in Paris. On the run from the authorities, Sophie finds Matteo and his network of rooftoppers - urchins who walk tightropes and live in the sky. In a race across the rooftops of Paris, will they be able to find her mother before it's too late?

More members of staff will be adding to our bedtime story collection each week, so keep an eye out for further titles!

Access to a virtual library

We actively encourage all children to keep reading throughout lockdown. Just ten minutes a day will have such a positive impact! We are considering whether to invest in a school 'virtual library' which would give our children access to over 5000 e-books and audio books from home or from in school with recommendations automatically pitched to their individual reading level. The children would also be able to take short quizzes on the books that they have read so that we can monitor their engagement and progress. (Clever, hey?!) This will cost a considerable amount of money as well as increase children's amount of screen time each day. Therefore, we would like to find out from you if this is a resource you would want your child to access regularly.

A good way for us to trial this provision is to signpost you to Wokingham's virtual library! You and your child will be able to access a range of e-books and audio books for free. The library also runs a series of seasonal reading challenges which are motivating to take part in.

If you are not already a member of your local library, head to:

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries>

You can join the library if you live, work or study in Wokingham borough, or are a member of any other library. **There is no charge for joining a library** and it is a very quick process to apply online. Once you have your library membership number:

- Download the RB Digital mobile app **for free**
- Read books or listen to audio books on your home computer, smartphone or tablet
- Borrow 6 books at a time for up to 21 days
- Choose from over 2000 books, with new titles added every month
- Select books for adults and children!

We will send out a survey just before half term to find out how many of you have accessed the free virtual library, and if you think we should invest in an online library for our school to extend our current provision in school and to enhance remote learning.

Kind regards,

Miss Scales

Deputy Head Teacher