

Bredon Hill Academy Reading Newsletter Autumn Term 1

Welcome to a new school year at BHA!

English Learning Groups: The names of our English learning groups have been updated to reflect current, relevant and popular authors. Each of the authors has been Children's Laureate in recent years (an author/illustrator with the responsibility of inspiring and empowering children through all forms of children's literature). Our new English groups are: **Cowell** (Cressida Cowell) **Blackman** (Malorie Blackman) and **Morpurgo** (Michael Morpurgo). Over the coming year, this reading newsletter will tell you a bit more about each of these authors.

The Library: The school library is open every day from 12 – 12.30pm and is run by members of staff with the support of Year 8 student librarians. Pupils can take out two books for up to one month. Books can be renewed if pupils need a little longer. We have a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction available that is regularly updated. Most of our books come from fundraising through book fairs and donations of good quality second-hand books from our school community. If you have books of a suitable age range, please consider donating them to us!

Restaurant Reads: Last year we introduced this idea so that children could read magazine articles at lunchtime. It proved extremely popular so this year we are expanding our range of magazines to include Britannica Magazine (see this page) for more details.

Reading for Pleasure - Tips for Parents:

- Children are very busy these days and encouraging them to read can be a struggle! If this is the case for your child, why not get them a magazine subscription instead? Britannica magazine is aimed at 7–14-year-olds and covers a wide range of topics that might encourage them on to further reading in that subject. Additionally, you could help the school library as each new subscription that mentions BHA earns us a voucher to spend on non-fiction books for the library! On this page you will find links to this magazine and others that are suitable for children.
- Join your local library! If you haven't been into a public library for a while, you may be surprised at how they've changed. There's so much more to them than books: many stock DVDs, audio CDs and some even stock computer games! Added to this, many libraries put on special events for pupils during the school holidays.

A Little Reminder

Reading is at the heart of our school curriculum – it's not just something that is done in English lessons! As part of this, we ask that children have a reading book on them at all times. This book can come from home, the library or can be a Kindle (the pupil's responsibility). Please encourage your child to bring a book that is suitable to their reading ability but that will also help them to learn new vocabulary.

Recommended Websites

(Focus on magazines)

Britannica Magazine

<https://britannicamagazine.co.uk/about-us>

First News: a weekly newspaper for 7–14-year-olds

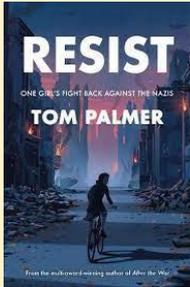
https://www.magazine.co.uk/magazines/first-news-magazine?utm_medium=affiliate&utm_source=tt&aff=tradetracker

Film Stories Junior: discusses new films along with tips on how to make your own film.

https://www.magazine.co.uk/kids-magazines/film-stories-junior-magazine?utm_medium=affiliate&utm_source=tt&aff=tradetracker

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Book Reviews



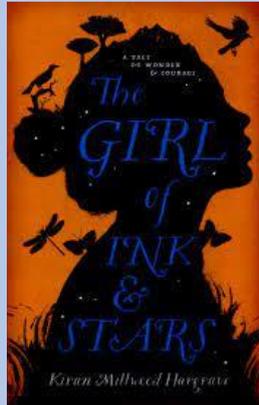
Resist by Tom Palmer

This recently released novel by Tom Palmer is set in The Netherlands during World War Two. It focuses on the story of Edda – a teenage girl living just outside the town of Arnhem. The Nazis have occupied her country and after the brutal execution of her uncle and the abduction of her brother, Edda resolves to fight back. She becomes part of the local resistance, helping those she can and taking terrible risks.

Whilst this book is a work of fiction, it is based on the true-life childhood story of Audrey Hepburn, a Hollywood film legend, and explains the terrible hardship that the Dutch people suffered under the Nazi occupiers.

The story is simply told and is accessible to readers aged 8+ but will also appeal to more able readers because of the spotlight it shines on what it was like to live under occupation. I found it a fascinating read as I had relatives who lived in The Netherlands during this terrible time – they never talk about what it was like.

Mrs Oakley



The Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Milwood Hargrave

This story is about a girl called Isa who lives on an island that she is forbidden to leave because of all the “monsters” outside her island. But then her friend goes missing after they had an argument so she joins the search party to look for her. She uses her knowledge of the stars and ancient maps to guide the searchers and to navigate them around the island.

I am enjoying the adventurous side of the story and the fact that at the end of every chapter it tells you where on the island they are. My favourite characters are Isa and Lupe because Lupe can be both funny and serious.

I would recommend this to Year 6 and 7 as the plot and vocabulary are appropriate for this age group.

Lia Year 6