

Reading  
Newsletter  
December  
2023



*A book is a gift you can  
open again and again.  
—Garrison Keillor*

## Reading at St Georges

Welcome to the second edition of the reading Newsletter.

We are very proud of our reading curriculum at St Georges, we understand how important reading is for the educational development of each and every child.

Not only this, research by the National Literacy Trust (2019) has found that reading helps to improve the mental and emotional wellbeing of children and said “Children and young people who enjoy reading very much and who think positively about reading have, on average, higher mental wellbeing scores than their peers who don’t enjoy reading at all and who hold negative attitudes towards reading.”



## Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"  
reads **20 minutes**  
each day

3600 minutes in  
a school year

**1,800,000 words**



*90<sup>th</sup> percentile*

Student "B"  
reads **5 minutes**  
each day

900 minutes in  
a school year

**282,000 words**



*50<sup>th</sup> percentile*

Student "C"  
reads **1 minute**  
each day

180 minutes in  
a school year

**8,000 words**



*10<sup>th</sup> percentile*

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

# Blue Peter Badges

We already have several children who have earned themselves a Blue Peter badge for reading.

To earn this badge, you must:

Be aged between 5-15 years old.

Tell Blue Peter about a book you have read and what you think about it. Maybe you liked the characters, or perhaps you enjoyed going on exciting adventures in faraway places.

Upload your illustration of a character or a scene from the story. This could be a drawing, painting or even digital artwork.

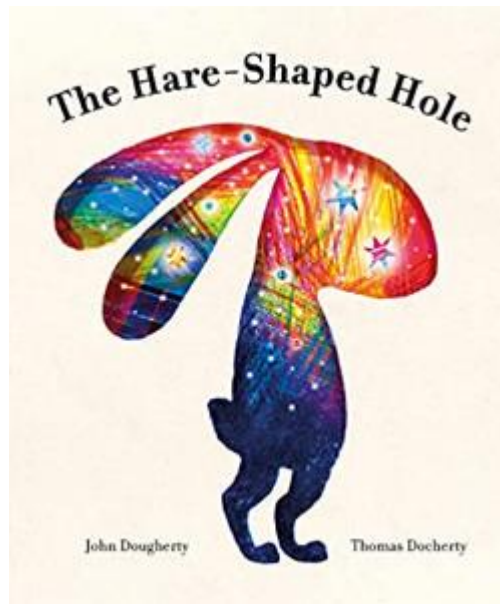
Let them know what other books and authors you have enjoyed reading and why.

Get your parent or guardian to help you fill out your form and personal details.

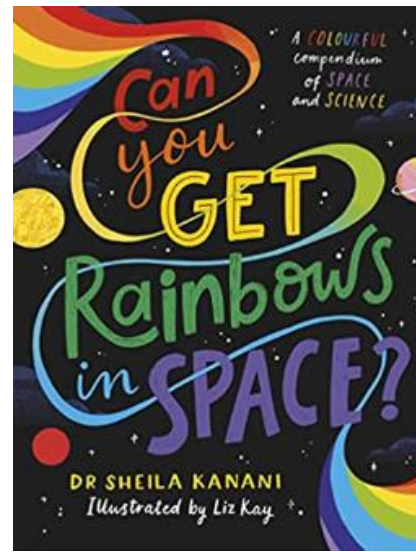
Go to the Blue Peter website for more information on how to apply. We would love to see this beautiful badge on the jumper of every child in school!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>

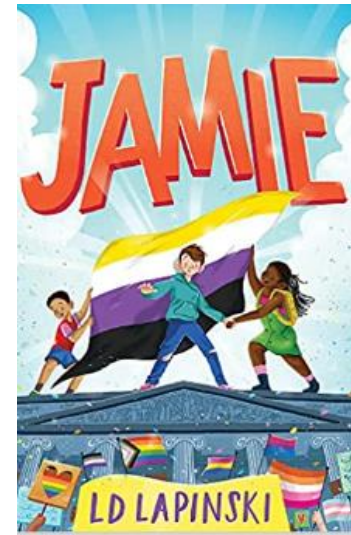




*The Hare-Shaped Hole* is a beautiful, touching, and poignant picture book which gently explores themes of grief and loss.



*Why is blood red? Why are carrots orange? Who invented the lightbulb? Why is the world 'going green'? Is the sky really blue? And what is ultraviolet light?*



A beautiful and uplifting story from L.D. Lapinski,, about how to make your own place when the world doesn't think you fit anywhere.

# Mrs McCall's Book Recommendations:

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# Author of the month!

- Peter's books have been translated into 16 languages and sold nearly half-a-million copies worldwide. He's been nominated for numerous awards, including: the Carnegie, the Waterstones Book Prize, the Branford Boase and the Books are My Bag Readers Award.
- Peter grew up in London in a rambling Victorian house with 3 cats, 2 dogs, 1 little sister, an antique dealer dad and an artist mum. He always wanted to tell stories, and as a child found inspiration visiting film and TV sets where his mum worked as a costume designer.
- Before becoming an author, Peter studied animation at the National Film & Television School. He worked on 2 BAFTA-winning TV shows and wrote and directed several successful short films. He lives in London with his partner and their cat and dog.
- Cogheart is one of Mrs McCall's favourite books!

## Peter Bunzl

