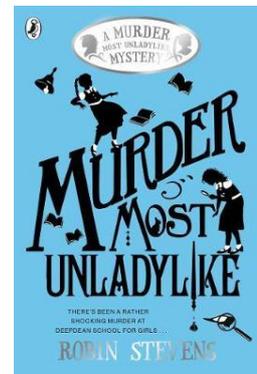


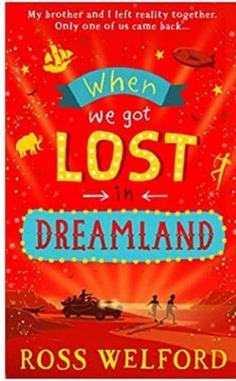
Happy New Year! Welcome to our first reading for pleasure newsletter of 2021. I hope everyone found time over the holiday to relax with a good book. I think my favourite read over the Christmas / New Year period was Maggie O'Farrell's 'Hamnet'. This is Waterstone's 2020 book of the year. Their website says: 'Hamnet is a novel inspired by the son of a famous playwright. It is the story of the bond between twins, and a marriage pushed to the brink by grief. It is also the story of a kestrel and its mistress; a flea that boards ship in Alexandria; and a glove-maker's son who flouts convention in pursuit of the woman he loves. Above all, it's a tender and unforgettable reimagining of a boy whose life has been all but forgotten, but whose name was given to one of the most celebrated plays ever written.' It's fantastic - beautifully written and almost poetic in places. I can't recommend it enough!



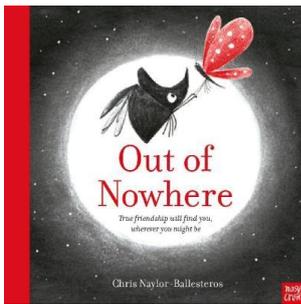
Lockdown Reading: Mr. Bulmer tells us that our Y6 children have been getting stuck into some fantastic books at home. Abigail tells us this about the first chapter of Piers Torday's 'The Dark Wild': 'Mr. Stone is a horrible man who is killing animals. He has also locked a young boy's dad away because he has found a



cure for the animals. The boy manages to free his dad. I really enjoyed this and I will be joining Piers each day to hear him read the book aloud.' (The link to 'The Dark Wild' readings can be found on the author's homepage: [www.pierstorday.co.uk](http://www.pierstorday.co.uk)) Jessica has been reading / listening to 'Murder Most Unladylike' by Robin Stevens. Jess says: 'I think 'Murder Most Unladylike' was very relaxing and Robin Stevens was very confident.' (Google: 'Puffin Storytime Robin Stevens' to find Robin reading from the first of her ten book Murder Most Unladylike series.)



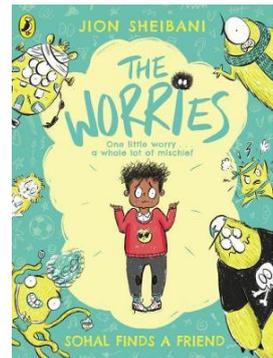
**More Lockdown Reading:** Abigail has been reading Ross Welford's new book 'When We Got Lost in Dreamland'. Here's what she says: *'This book takes me into a fantasy world of dreamland adventures where impossibilities can happen and imagination can run wild. The best things about the first two chapters are that Ross Welford uses very good adjectives to set the scenes. And the use of rhyming (every so often) makes it even more appealing to the reader. Ross uses a lot of brackets in his writing which extends the reader's understanding of the developing storyline. The story is humorous when the author has one of the characters (Sebastian) talking phonetically with his missing front teeth. I will enjoy this book right to the end because it makes my imagination run wild.'* 'When We Got Lost in Dreamland' is a January book of the month on the LoveReading4Kids website. Please visit [www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk) for a full review.



**'Out of Nowhere' by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros:** This is also a book of the month on [www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk). The website says that the book is: *'A touching story about friends and how true friendship can last and grow.'* The beetle and the caterpillar are friends – they eat, watch the moon rise and share time together. Then, one morning, beetle awakes and there's no sign of caterpillar. Can you guess what's happened to caterpillar?

This will be published on January 14<sup>th</sup> and is for age 3+.

**'The Worries: Sohal Finds a Friend' by Jion Sheibani:** This is another LoveReading4Kids January book of the month. The website says: *'The Truth Pixie meets Pixar's Inside Out in this hilarious, heartfelt and highly illustrated new series, perfect for helping children gently work through their worries and concentrate on having fun.'* Out on 14/1/21 and for age 5+.



Thanks to Jessica, Abigail and Mr. Bulmer for their contributions to this edition.

Please read aloud to the children each day. Happy Reading.....Paul (11/1/21)

Paul Kynaston : Assistant Head Teacher : Reading Advocate : Malvern Primary School : Liverpool

At home I'm reading 'Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath' by Heather Clark and 'A Theatre for Dreamers' by Polly Samson.

In class I'm reading 'The Day I Fell Into a Fairytale' by Ben Miller.  
I'm reading 'Demon Dentist' by David Walliams to 4PK.