



Malvern's Reading for Pleasure Newsletter – November 2024

**Hello !** And welcome back after our half-term holiday. I hope everybody found time to relax and disappear into a good story.

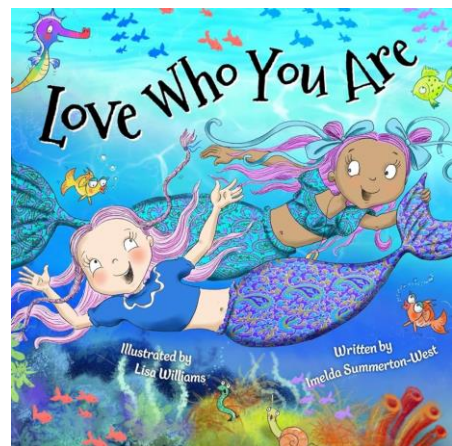
**The Lion, the Witch and the Wonder:**

In a series of original broadcast essays, award-winning writer Katherine Rundell recently explored the world of children's fiction. At once interesting and inspiring, the five essays highlight the fundamental importance of children's books and reading for pleasure.



The essays can be found on BBC Sounds. They are all excellent, but I highly recommend the final essay: *'The Looking Glass'*. As well as being a children's author, Katherine Rundell is also an academic and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. My favourite Rundell book is *'Rooftoppers'* – which won the 2014 Waterstone's Children's Book Prize. Her academic publication about the metaphysical poet John Donne – *'Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne'* – is also really interesting and entertaining. The second book in her brilliant *'Impossible Creatures'* sequence – *'The Poisoned King'* – will be published in September of 2025.

**'Love Who You Are':** Written by Imelda Summerton-West and illustrated by Lisa Williams, this book will help children understand the importance of love and acceptance.....to have compassion towards others and to see the beauty in themselves and the world around them.

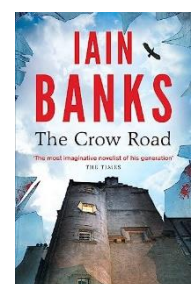


Mermaids are beautiful, mythical creatures with lots of amazing attributes. Yet Martha and Maisy aren't happy with their 'big flappy flipper'. They want to be more like the little girl and play football, dance, skip, cartwheel, pirouette, and do a backflip. But before asking the little girl for help, they mock her, saying, "She looked just like them from her head to her tummy, but her tail was in half and looked rather funny." Yet the little girl's act of kindness is to try and find shoes that will fit on the mermaids' tails. But tails are not feet....

**I'm hoping that Imelda Summerton-West will be visiting Malvern between now and Christmas.**

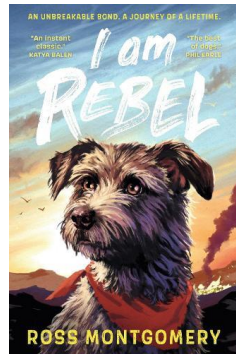


**Malvern Community Book Club:** Our monthly community book club met before half-term. We had recently read *'The Crow Road'* by Ian Banks. Our chosen book for November is Jacqueline Roy's *'The Fat Lady Sings'*. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in The Derby Lodge. All welcome.

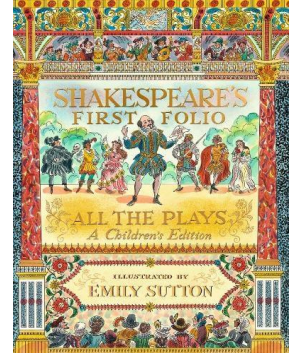




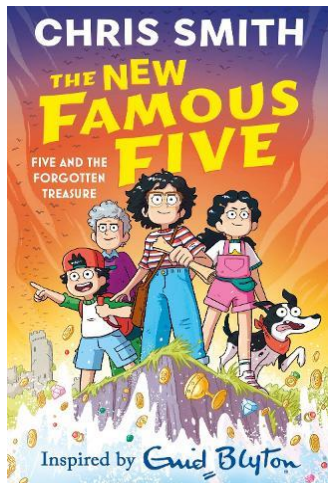
**Waterstones Book of the Year:** The shortlist was announced over half-term, with two children's books in the running: Ross Montgomery's *'I Am Rebel'* and *'Shakespeare's First Folio: All the Plays: A Children's Edition'* - illustrated by Emily Sutton.



In *'I Am Rebel'*, Ross Montgomery delivers a heartwarming, richly adventurous story as the titular canine hero embarks on a quest to rescue his master, Tom, who has gone to war.



And for the very first time, *'Shakespeare's First Folio'* is published in a fully illustrated volume for younger readers. It has abridged versions of the original plays which can be performed by a minimum of eight children in under twenty minutes. The winner of the Waterstones Book of the Year prize will be announced on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November.



**The New Famous Five:** When Fran, Tom, Maddy and Gilbert the dog stay with Professor George Kirrin for the holidays, they soon find themselves caught up in a robbery of a top-secret treasure map. Professor George will have to tell them about an old case of the Famous Five if they're ever going to catch the thief and rescue the forgotten treasure...

*The Famous Five* by Enid Blyton was one of Chris Smith's favourite series as a child. Now, this bestselling author weaves the action, adventure and danger of this thrilling and exciting world into a brand-new story - *'Five and the Forgotten Treasure'* - perfect for every generation of readers.

**David Farr:** Over half-term, I finished reading *'The Book of Stolen Dreams'* by playwright, screenwriter and stage director David Farr. It is one of the best children's books that I've read this year. It tells the story of siblings Rachel and Robert Klein - and their quest to find the missing page of an invaluable book and stop a calculating villain from claiming untrammelled power. It's fab....highly recommended! The follow-up - *'The Secret of the Blood-Red Key'* - was published last year. It's on my 'to read' pile! David's website is really cool and well worth a visit: [www.davidfarrbooks.com](http://www.davidfarrbooks.com) There's a poetry section, FAQs, quizzes and games. The homepage allows you to enter 'David Farr's Krasnian Book Shop'.



**'Books crowbar the world open for you.'** (From 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell)

Paul Kynaston : Assistant Head Teacher : Reading Advocate : Malvern Primary School : Liverpool : November 2024

I'm reading *Friends and Traitors* by Helen Peters.

The Malvern Community Book Club's current book is *The Fat Lady Sings* by Jacqueline Roy.