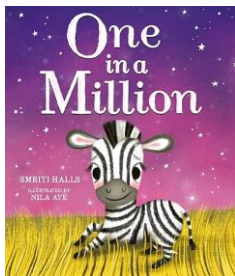




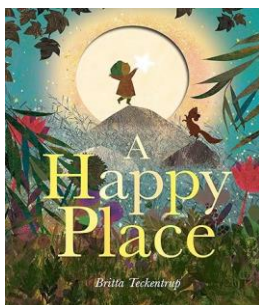
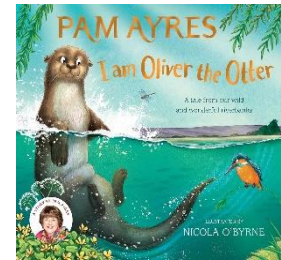
Malvern's Reading for Pleasure Newsletter – January 2025

Happy New Year! Welcome to our first reading for pleasure newsletter of 2025. I hope Santa brought you lots of interesting and exciting books – and that you've found the time to dive into them. **All the books featured on the first two pages are available in Malvern classrooms.....**



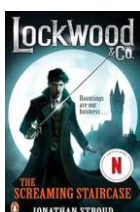
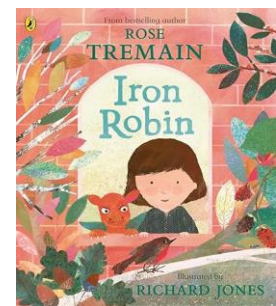
'One in a Million' by Smriti Halls & Nila Aye: Published on January 2nd, this book combines counting with rhyming and tells the story of Debra the zebra - who is delighted to find she can count anything and everything. But disaster strikes when Debra realises how big the world is – and just how small she is in it. Luckily, her wise Mama is there to remind Debra that in a world of hundreds, thousands – and even millions – sometimes it's just ONE little zebra that counts most of all.

'I Am Oliver the Otter' by Pam Ayres & Nicola O'Byrne: Come on down to the riverbank, and discover a wild and wonderful world . . . Oliver the otter is happy enough living alone, swimming or scampering along the twisty-rooted waterways. Until one day, among the green rushes, he meets an otter called Otilie – and his life changes forever. Written in rhyme and beautifully illustrated by the award-winning Nicola O'Byrne, Pam Ayres's charming tale brings the natural world to life. With nature facts interwoven throughout, and an information page at the end - including tips on how to spot and look after otters.



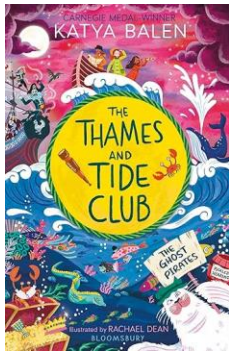
'A Happy Place' by Britta Teckentrup: This beautifully illustrated, calming picture book takes readers on a peaceful exploration of a night-time landscape. Snuggle down for a magical, moonlit adventure, follow a tiny star and dance with a whole host of animals. But is it all a dream? With stunning artwork and a lyrical text, this is a story to treasure. Die-cuts let you peep through the pages to discover what's going to happen next.

'Iron Robin' by Rose Tremain: The Guardian said: "Iron Robin combines everyday childhood themes with a pinch of fantasy - all brilliantly visualised by Richard Jones's expressive artwork." **From an acclaimed voice in literature comes a children's story steeped in magic.** Oliver loves birds - watching them soar into the sky and wishing that just sometimes they would stay close. So, when he discovers a robin made of iron, he thinks he's found the perfect friend - even if his pet dragon isn't quite so certain! When the robin begins to glimmer and hop, Oliver is overjoyed.



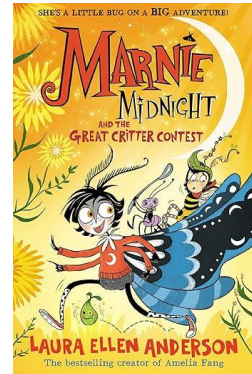
But in a terrible turn of events, this new friend is lost. However, the magic of Iron Robin and the joy of friendship means that there is wonder and excitement ahead.

Malvern Community Book Club: Our current book is Jonathan Stroud's '*Lockwood & Co: The Screaming Staircase*'. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 16th January at 7.30pm in The Derby Lodge. All welcome.

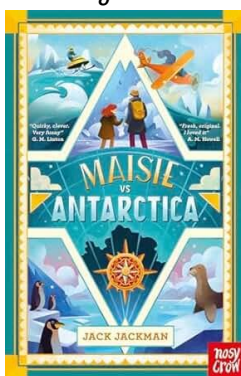
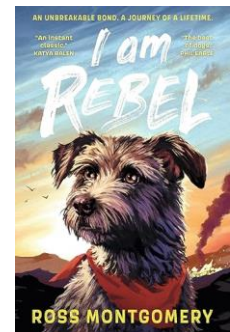


'The Thames and Tide Club: The Ghost Pirates' by Katya Balen: When the mudlarking gang (the Thames and Tide Club) find a mysterious cutlass on the banks of the Thames, they immediately know that something fishy is afoot. When the cutlass vanishes, and Mrs Drummonds disappears too, it's down to Clem and the gang to find them. The mystery leads them to a band of ghost pirates, who will stop at nothing to find their long-lost treasure. With help from their friends in the Undercity, the gang must set sail on the seven seas, solve riddles and save the day!

'Marnie Midnight and the Great Critter Contest': Marnie Midnight is a little moth with BIG dreams! Marnie is having so much fun at Minibeast Academy, a school for bugs tucked into a giant tree at the bottom of the museum gardens. And this term it's time for something really exciting – the Great Critter Contest! The contest sees minibug students set off to explore the school in teams, searching for clues. The winners get an incredible prize and Marnie and her team – best friends Floyd the bee (who is really an A) and Star, the super-strong princess ant – are determined to be first to cross the finish line. But when Veronica gets into trouble and needs rescuing, Marnie and her team have to decide whether winning really is the most important thing



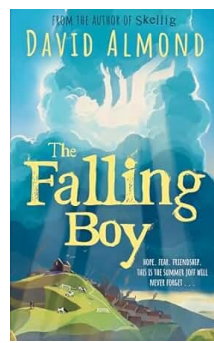
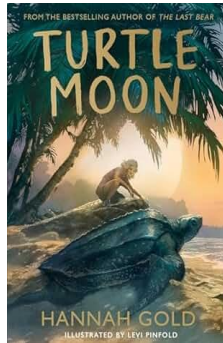
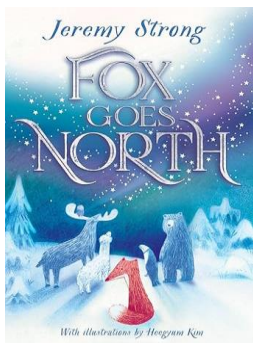
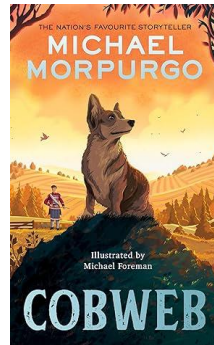
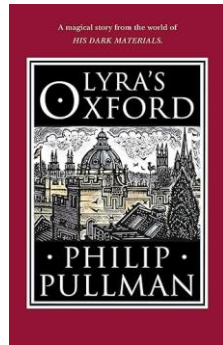
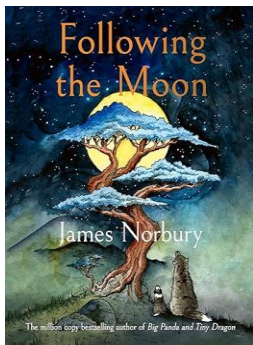
'I Am Rebel' by Ross Montgomery: This is the Watersones Children's Book of the Year 2024 - a heart-warming adventure about the unbreakable bond between a dog and his human - from a beloved and twice Costa-shortlisted author. "I'm Tom's dog, and he's my human. We belong to each other." Rebel is a good dog, and he loves his simple, perfect life on the farm with his owner Tom – until one day the war comes too close. Now Tom is determined to join the rebellion to defeat the king's men. But Rebel knows war is dangerous - he will stop at nothing to save the human he loves. Rebel *must* bring Tom home before it's too late....



'Maisie vs Antarctica' by Jack Jackman: Filled with humour, heart and a touch of the supernatural, this first book in a brilliant new series takes you on a non-stop adventure in Antarctica. Maisie thinks her dad is the most boring person in the world. For fun he likes to do origami (but only basic triangles) or jigsaw puzzles of a cloudless sky (yep, every piece is blue). He writes cool-sounding books like *How To Wrestle A Crocodile* and *How To Defuse A Bomb*, but he's never actually done any of the awesome things he writes about. But Maisie has to admit that weird things happen around Dad.

Unexplainable things. When childcare falls through and Dad has to take Maisie to Antarctica to research his next book, *How To Survive In Antarctica*, Maisie realises there is definitely something unusual about Dad. Maisie is determined to find out the truth about her dad. What she doesn't realise is that she'll discover some things about herself and what it really means to be a hero along the way. One thing is for sure - it's going to be the adventure of a lifetime!

Christmas Holiday Reading: The Christmas holiday is always the perfect time for getting stuck into a good book or three. Loved all of these.....highly recommended.....



'Following the Moon': This was written by James Norbury. It is a beautifully illustrated, heartfelt tale of a wise and aged wolf who takes a young, lost pup on an unforgettable journey.

'Lyra's Oxford': This is set two years after the conclusion of Philip Pullman's 'The Amber Spyglass'. Lyra and her daemon Pantaliamon are visited, from the north, by a witch's daemon. The book contains a beautiful fold-out map of Lyra's Oxford.

'Cobweb': Michael Morpurgo's latest novel was inspired by the story of the French drummer boy who survived the fight for the

fortified house at Hougomont during the Battle of Waterloo. **'Fox Goes North':** Published after his death, this is Jeremy Strong's last book. An extraordinary house on wheels is being towed along a forest track by doleful Moose. On board the house are philosophical Fox; distinguished Bear; theatrical Toucan (with his magnetic beak that always points north); argumentative Little Owl, and loving, excitable Young Llama. All are headed to the Snowlands to see the Northern Lights. **'Turtle Moon':** Written by Hannah Gold and beautifully illustrated by Levi Pinfold, this fab book follows Silver Trevelon's journey to a turtle rescue centre in Costa Rica and her quest to find the stolen eggs of an endangered leatherback turtle. **'The Falling Boy':** Anything written by Skellig author David Almond is worth checking out – and this is no exception. The publicity sums it up perfectly: Praise for **The Falling Boy** from Michael Morpurgo: 'No one writes as wonderfully as David Almond about community, and family, friendship and hope ... Intensely engaging. Surpassing even Skellig.' Nothing is the same for Joff this summer. His dad is ill, his mam is working, there's a new kid in town. He can't wait to escape each day and explore with his dog Jet. But there's one place he's not allowed to explore. Above the town sits the Chapel of Doom, ancient and crumbling, with its warning signs and the legend of the Falling Boy. And when Joff's adventures take him beyond the boundaries he discovers something unexpected, something truly magical ...

! Happy Reading !

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

Paul Kynaston : Reading Advocate : Malvern Primary School : Liverpool : January 2025

I'm reading **The Bletchley Riddle** by Ruta Sepetys & Steve Sheinkin.

The Malvern Community Book Club's current book is **Lockwood & Co: The Screaming Staircase** by Jonathan Stroud.