

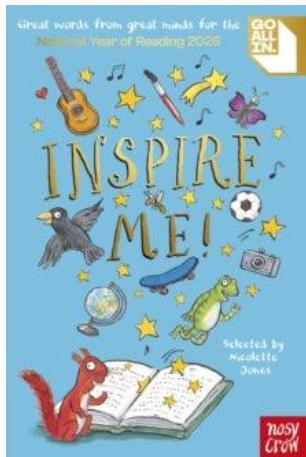
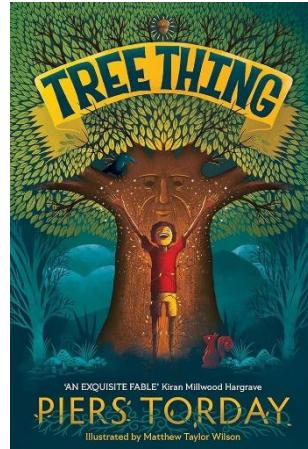


## Malvern's Reading for Pleasure Newsletter – February 2026

### The National Year of Reading 2026

**Welcome!** We are now a month into **The National Year of Reading 2026**. This campaign aims to address the steep decline in reading amongst children, young people and adults. The National Year of Reading wants to help teachers use pupils' passions – football, music, gaming, nature, fashion, anything – as the spark that brings reading to life. When children see that reading connects to who they are and what they care about, motivation will follow naturally. And reading doesn't just mean books: it includes stories, ideas and information – from graphic novels and lyrics to comics, articles, podcasts, games and newspapers. All reading should feel valid and valued, so that everyone – children and adults – can find their own way in.

**Tree Thing by Piers Torday:** Gorgeously illustrated by Matthew Taylor Wilson - and with a classic feel, this story celebrates bravery, hope and the marvels of the natural world. When the dark Rider on a horse arrives, Marlo's bravery is the only thing standing between Tree Thing and certain destruction. *Once, in a faraway land, a green thing squeezed out of the earth - the mysterious Tree Thing - which changes Marlo's life forever.* Nothing grows in Marlo's valley, and it's a struggle to survive. But then his squirrel – Rinti - finds a glowing emerald acorn that grows into a miraculous Tree Thing. Tree Thing changes everything, bringing life and hope. And when the shadowy Rider arrives with an axe, Marlo needs all his bravery and ingenuity to stand between triumph and disaster. I discovered this beautiful hardback (published on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>) during a recent trip to Waterstone's. Well worth checking out.

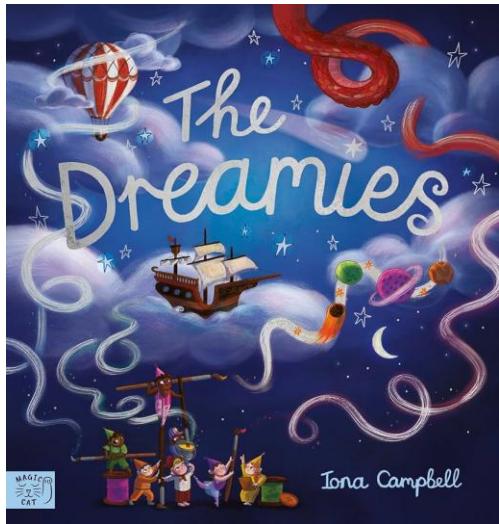
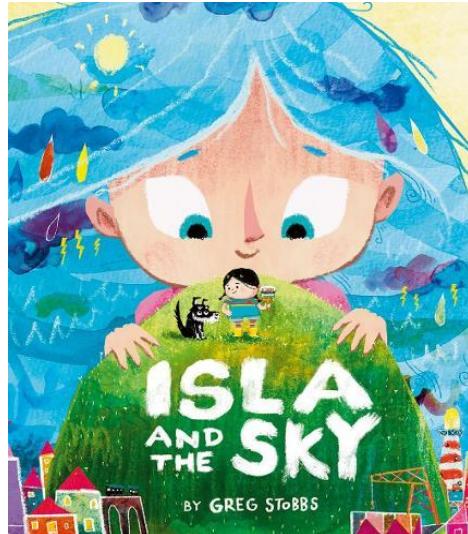


**Inspire Me!** This is an inspiring, accessible and powerful collection of words that matter. Featuring a cover illustration by Axel Scheffler, the words are expertly selected by Nicolette Jones, children's book critic for The Sunday Times. It is a thought-provoking collection of over 100 pieces of writing: poetry, prose, letters, song lyrics, speeches, quotations, and more - from Shakespeare to Stephen Hawking; from Greta Thunberg to Galileo; from Malala to Martin Luther King; and from Lin-Manuel Miranda to Lord Tennyson. This book was previously published as *Writes of Passage* in 2022. I like these inspiring words from science fiction and fantasy author Ursula K. Le Guin: *We read books to find out who we are. What other people, real or imaginary, do and think and feel.....is an essential guide to our understanding of what we ourselves are and may become.*



**Contributions Welcome:** Our monthly reading for pleasure newsletter aims to inspire both children and adults to pick up a book and read – just for the sheer joy and pleasure that doing so brings. If you have any reading recommendations – or would like to contribute a review of a book that you have recently read – please email it to [malvern@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:malvern@knowsley.gov.uk) or send it to me directly. Previous editions of this newsletter can be found on the school website: [www.malvernprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.malvernprimaryschool.co.uk)

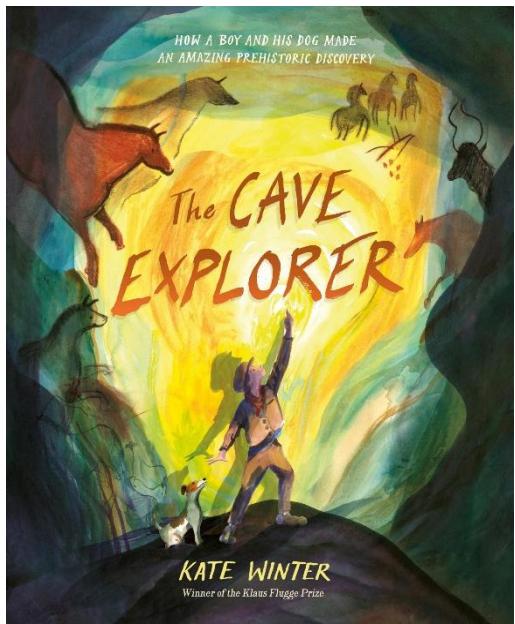
**Isla and the Sky by Greg Stobbs:** Sometimes Sky is vast, bright and blue; sometimes she is dark and thunderous, her raindrops reflecting the town below. Isla loves all Sky's moods and tries to capture the variety in her paintings. When Sky rains or clouds over, however, all the other townspeople grumble and moan. Sky decides she should just try to be happy all the time, so people aren't cross with her. But this is harder than it looks and soon the world below - and Isla's paintings - start to suffer. Can Isla convince big, bold Sky to let all her feelings and colours show ? What happens to Sky when she is on the brink of bursting? This just-published picture book is a celebration of the power of art and emotion.



**The Dreamies by Iona Campbell:** Step into the whimsical world of the Dreamies – tiny and playful creatures who live hidden between the walls of your home. As you sleep, they paint your dreams with dazzling colours, filling the night with wonder and adventure. But sometimes, even the Dreamies lose control, and a dream that starts off fun can twist into something far more thrilling... or even a little scary. Can you help the Dreamies turn a nightmare back into a dream ? Bursting with enchantment and heart, this magical story is perfect for anyone who's ever woken from a bad dream, showing that, with the power of the imagination, you can take control and turn fear into something truly magical.

**Website:** LoveReading4Kids is one of the UK's biggest book recommendation websites and is well worth a visit. You can seek out new books or browse by age – or specifically look at fiction or non-fiction. Other features include books of the month, debuts of the month, dyslexia friendly books and books reviewed by children. Please go to [www.lovereading4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk)



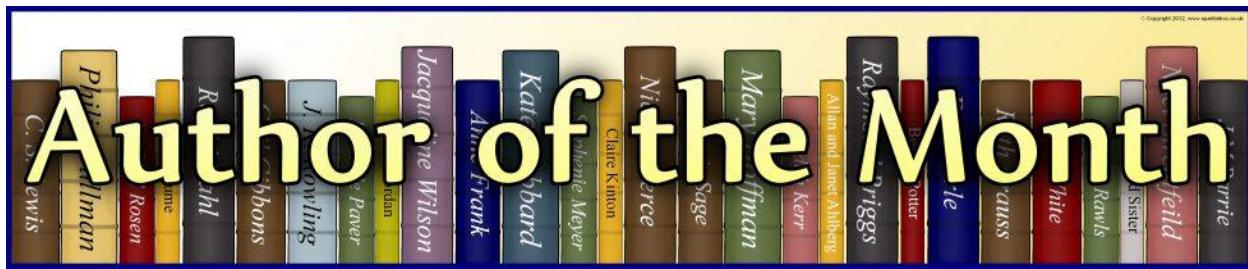


**The Cave Explorer by Kate Winter:** One day in 1940, a young boy named Marcel Ravidat was walking his dog, Robot, near his home in southwestern France. When Robot found a strange hole near an upturned tree, Marcel and his friends rushed in to explore and found some hidden treasure. But the treasure they found was like nothing they had ever expected – prehistoric paintings and carvings that covered the walls of an underground cave - and that told the story of the palaeolithic people that had once called this place home. The discovery of the cave was an important historical find and the artefacts and paintings inside helped archaeologists and anthropologists piece together what life must have been like for humans living hundreds of thousands of years ago. Little did Marcel know that the mystery of why these

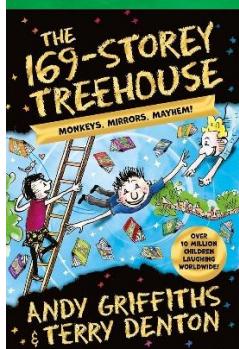
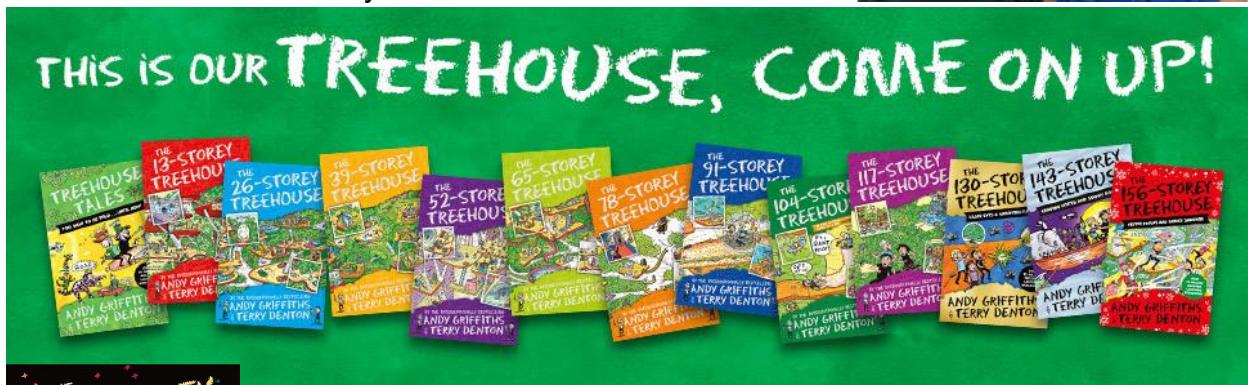
paintings were created, and what stories the artists were depicting, would continue to capture our imaginations as we still debate their meaning today. Beautifully illustrated by Kate Winter, with incredible panoramic fold-out pages, this is a book to treasure and to read again and again. Perfect for all fans of natural history and curious young explorers.

**Art Work:** The books featured all contain stunning artwork and illustrations.....





This month, our library is shining the spotlight on authors **Andy Griffiths** and **Terry Denton** and their series of **Treehouse** books. **Andy** is Australian and is a former English teacher. He was astonished to meet many students who thought reading and writing were boring. But he did notice that they all enjoyed laughing and he began writing short, funny, provocative stories for them, to demonstrate how much fun playing with words and pictures can be. **Terry** is also Australian and has written and illustrated more than thirty books and illustrated numerous others for many notable Australian authors.



**The 169-Storey Treehouse:** Aficionados of the 13 times table will instantly notice that the series has now reached  $13 \times 13$  ! In the latest addition, Andy and Terry have built their biggest and most astonishing treehouse yet ! It has everything they – and you – could wish for including: an electric pony stable, a NOISY level, a weather dome (where you can have whatever weather you want whenever you want it), and a 100% edible gingerbread house and a potato-powered translation transmitter that allows you to talk to everything everywhere all at the same time.

**Competition:** To win a copy of *The 169-Storey Treehouse*, design, draw and label your own treehouse. The best design will win and Mr. James will be doing the judging ! All entries to Mr. Kynaston by 12.00noon on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Good luck !

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

Paul Kynaston : Reading Advocate : Malvern Primary School : Liverpool : February 2026

I'm reading **The Whisperwicks: The Labyrinth of Lost and Found** by Jordan Lees.

Malvern Community Book Club's current book is **Hard-Boiled Wonderland** by H. Murakami.