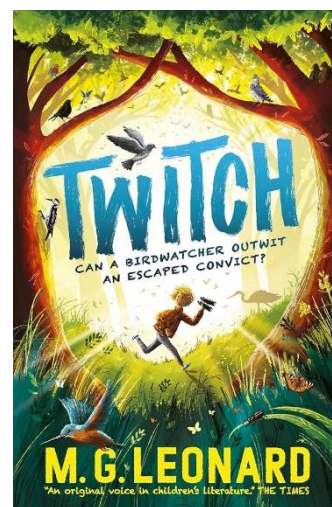


Dear Parents/Carers

### The Big Read 2024 – Twitch by M G Leonard

Once again it is time for our TMSA Big Read and we are pleased to introduce this year's book – Twitch by M G Leonard. Winner of The Sainsburys Children's Book Awards and The Crimefest Award for Best Crime Novel for Children in 2021, this mystery adventure explores themes of friendship and bullying as well as promoting a love of nature by celebrating the incredible world of birds. Twitch is the first book in The Twitchers series which includes Spark (2022) and Clutch (2023). The final book in the series, Feather will be published later this year.



The Big Read is a scheme which we hope will involve the entire Marlborough community of students, staff, parents, and governors, reading a single book by the end of this school year. In previous years we have explored the Big Read in Drama, Art, English and MFL. This year we hope to extend this to more subject areas and Year 8 students have already been looking at the role of carrier pigeons during war in their History lessons as part of the project.

We are encouraging as many families as possible to buy their own copy of the book which is widely available; the paperback version RRP is £7.99 and can be purchased for a discounted price of £7 from our local independent bookseller Brenda Parkhouse.

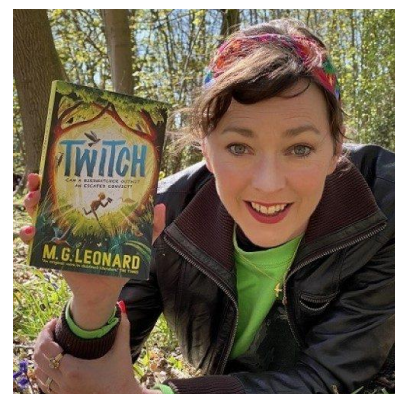
Copies can be ordered via School Gateway and will be available to collect from the LRC.

**If you are registered or have previously been registered for free school meals**, please contact Mrs Sen 01727 731341 as there is funding available for those students.

The book can also be purchased on Kindle currently at £3.49 or Kobo at £5.99 and we have multiple copies available to borrow from the LRC.

We are delighted to announce that M G Leonard will be joining us to speak to Year 7 and 8 on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January and will be available during break to sign copies of the book for students.

All students and staff who read the book and pass the Accelerated Reader quiz will contribute to a house competition and will be given the opportunity to complete review sheets which we will collect and use for display purposes and publish on our Instagram page.



Those who hand in a completed review sheet will also be presented with a pin badge, to show their participation.

We do hope that this initiative will help to promote a love of reading. Not only is it an important skill to develop, reading for pleasure is also a fantastic form of relaxation and escapism; it builds a sense of community by allowing individuals to connect over sharing their experience and opinion of the book. In addition, regular reading can improve literacy and extend vocabulary. Recent research from the Institute of Education suggests that “children who read for pleasure are likely to do significantly better at school than their peers”

We look forward to your support in making this initiative a success and I would like to urge all parents and carers to join us in reading the book whilst engaging in conversations with your children and other parents.

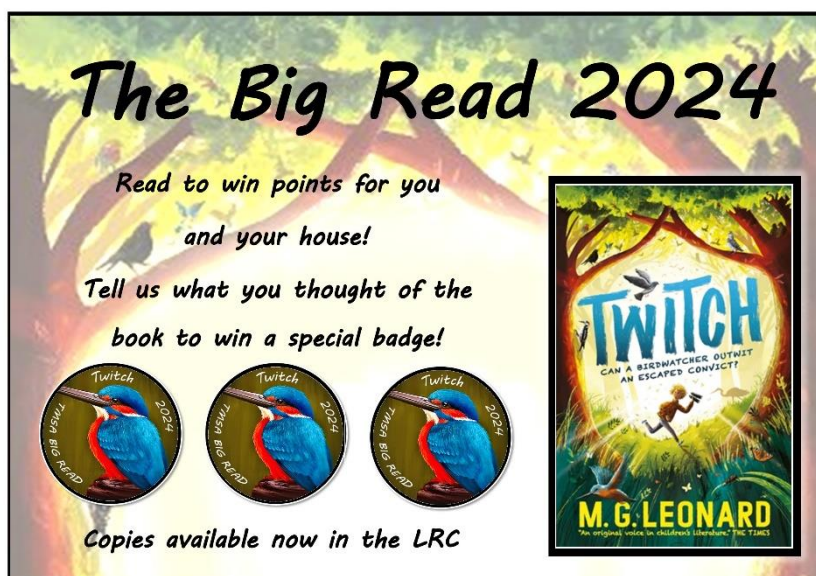
Yours sincerely

Mrs S Nixon

LRC Manager

<https://www.mgleonard.com/>

<https://twitchersclub.com/>



Sustainable  
Marlborough

