



The Marlborough Science Academy



Dear Parents and Carers,

At the Marlborough Science Academy, we believe in the importance of reading for pleasure. Not only is reading an important skill to develop but reading for pleasure is also a fantastic form of relaxation and escapism, particularly relevant during the current global situation.

I have therefore put together a suggested reading list for your children and would be delighted to receive any book reviews that they would like to send in to me at s.nixon@marlborough.herts.sch.uk The best reviews will be posted on our LRC Instagram account which you can find here <https://www.instagram.com/marlboroughlrc/> All our posts are public so you don't need an Instagram account to view them. We will also use the reviews for a display in the LRC in September.

I have also included a list of books for reluctant and less confident readers.

To access the books, I would suggest joining the public library if you aren't already a member. You can join online here <https://herts.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/JOIN?HOMEPRMS=GENPARAMS> and access both ebooks and audiobooks via their app BorrowBox while the library is closed.

If you would like to purchase any of the books, I can recommend our local independent bookseller Brenda Parkhouse, who can arrange delivery locally or safe collection from her address in St Albans. The school will receive a percentage of any sales in books for the LRC. Brenda's details are below.

Brenda Parkhouse
24 Flora Grove
St Albans
AL1 5ET

Telephone: 07808850123

Email: Brendaparkhouse@hotmail.co.uk

If you have any queries, please do get in touch.

Stay safe and I look forward to meeting your children in September.

Yours faithfully

Mrs S Nixon
LRC Manager and Marketing Officer

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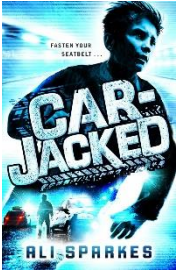
Website: www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

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Suggested reading list for Year 6 into 7

Car-Jacked by Ali Sparkes – This is our Big Read for 2020



Jack Mattingly is a genius.

He has an IQ of 170.

He speaks fluent Mandarin and Latin.

And he can calculate the square root of 1,673,549 in his head.

But when Jack's parents' car is hi-jacked, with him inside it, for once he's as clueless as the rest of us.

The car-jacker doesn't know Jack's in the car - yet. But it's only a matter of time before he's

discovered. And then anything could happen. Only one thing's for sure: Jack's in for the thrill-ride of

his life

I Have no Secrets by Penny Joelson – This was last year's Big Read



Jemma knows who did the murder. She knows because he told her. And she can't tell anyone.

Fourteen-year-old Jemma has severe cerebral palsy. Unable to communicate or move, she relies on her family and carer for everything. She has a sharp brain and inquisitive nature and knows all sorts of things about everyone. But when she is confronted with this terrible secret, she is utterly powerless to do anything. Though that might be about to change...

Wildspark by Vashti Hardy – Shortlisted for the Children's Book Award 2020



A year after the death of her older brother, **Prue Haywood's** family is still shattered by grief. But everything changes when a stranger arrives at the farm. A new, incredible technology has been discovered in the city of Medlock, where a **secretive guild of inventors** have developed a way to capture spirits of the dead in **animal-like machines**, bringing them back to life.

Prue knows that the "Ghost Guild" might hold the key to bringing her brother back, so she seizes the stranger's offer to join as an apprentice. But to find her brother, she needs to find a way to get the ghost machines to **remember** the people they used to be.

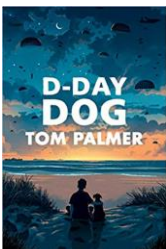
Yet if Prue succeeds, all of society could come apart...

A Pocketful of Stars by Aisha Bushby – Shortlisted for the Children's Book Award 2020



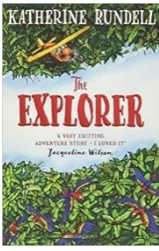
Safiya and her mum have never seen eye to eye. Her mum doesn't understand Safiya's love of gaming and Safiya doesn't think they have anything in common. As Safiya struggles to fit in at school she wonders if her mum wishes she was more like her confident best friend Elle. But then her mum falls into a coma and, when Safiya waits by her bedside, she finds herself in a strange and magical world that looks a bit like one of her games. And there's a rebellious teenage girl, with a secret, who looks suspiciously familiar . . .

D-Day Dog by Tom Palmer – Shortlisted for the Children's Book Award 2020



Jack can't wait for the school trip to the D-Day landing beaches. It's his chance to learn more about the war heroes he has always admired - brave men like his dad, who is a reserve soldier. But when his dad is called up to action and things at home spiral out of control, everything Jack believes about war is thrown into question. Finding comfort only in the presence of his loyal dog, Finn, Jack is drawn to the heart-wrenching true story of one particular D-Day paratrooper. On 6 June 1944, Emile Corteil parachuted into France with his dog, Glen - and Jack is determined to discover their fate ...

The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

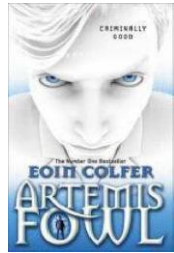


From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches as the mysteries of the Amazon jungle pass by below him. He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer, of making history and of reading his name amongst the lists of great discoveries. If only he could land and look about him.

As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice. He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small.

Except, it seems, someone has been there before them.

Artemis Fowl – Eoin Colfer



Twelve-year-old villain, Artemis Fowl, is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. His bold and daring plan is to hold a leprechaun to ransom. But he's taking on more than he bargained for when he kidnaps Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon (Lower Elements Police Reconnaissance Unit). For a start, leprechaun technology is more advanced than our own. Add to that the fact that Holly is a true heroine and that her senior officer Commander Root will stop at nothing to get her back and you've got the mother of all sieges brewing!

The Bad Beginning (A Series of Unfortunate Events) – Lemony Snicket



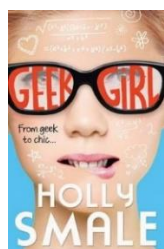
This book follows the turbulent lives of Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire after their parents' death in an arsonous house fire. The children are placed in the custody of their distant cousin Count Olaf, who begins to abuse them and openly plots to embezzle their inheritance. After the Baudelaires are removed from his care by their parents' estate executor, Arthur Poe, Olaf begins to doggedly hunt the children down, bringing about the serial slaughter and demise of a multitude of characters.

The Graveyard Book – Neil Gaiman



When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard? Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead. But for Bod there is also the danger of the murderer still looking for him - after all, he is the last remaining member of the family. A stunningly original novel deftly constructed over eight chapters, featuring every second year of Bod's life, from babyhood to adolescence. Will Bod survive to be a man?

Geek Girl by Holly Smale

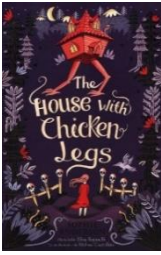


Harriet Manners knows that a cat has 32 muscles in each ear, a “jiffy” lasts 1/100th of a second, and the average person laughs 15 times per day. She knows that bats always turn left when exiting a cave and that peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

But she doesn't know why nobody at school seems to like her.

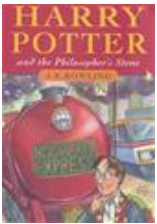
So when Harriet is spotted by a top model agent, she grabs the chance to reinvent herself. Even if it means stealing her best friend's dream, incurring the wrath of her arch enemy Alexa, and repeatedly humiliating herself in front of impossibly handsome model Nick. Even if it means lying to the people she loves.

The House with the Chicken Legs – Sophie Anderson



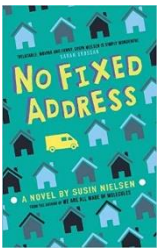
Marinka dreams of a normal life, but her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning. Her grandmother is Baba Yaga, who guides spirits between this world and the next. Marinka longs to change her destiny but her house has other ideas...

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter) – J K Rowling



Harry Potter is an ordinary boy who lives in a cupboard under the stairs at his Aunt Petunia and Uncle Vernon's house, which he thinks is normal for someone like him whose parents have been killed in a 'car crash'. He is bullied by them and his fat, spoilt cousin Dudley, and lives a very unremarkable life with only the odd hiccup (like his hair growing back overnight!) to cause him much to think about. That is until an owl turns up with a letter addressed to Harry and all hell breaks loose!

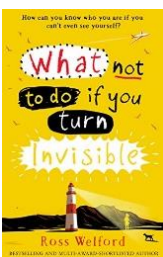
No Fixed Address by Susin Nielsen



Felix Knutsson is nearly thirteen, lives with his mother and pet gerbil Horatio, and is brilliant at memorising facts and trivia. So far, pretty normal. But Felix and his mom Astrid have a secret: they are living in a van. Astrid promises it's only for a while until she finds a new job and begs Felix not to breathe a word about it. So when Felix starts at a new school, he does his very best to hide the fact that most of his clothes are in storage, he only showers weekly at the community centre, and that he doesn't have enough to eat. When his friends Dylan and Winnie ask to visit, Felix always has an excuse.

But Felix has a plan to turn his and Astrid's lives around: he's going to go on his favourite game show *Who, What, Where, When* and win the cash prize. All he needs is a little luck and a lot of brain power

What Not To Do If You Turn Invisible by Ross Welford

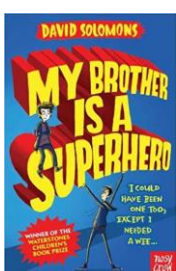


Turning invisible at will: it's one way of curing your acne. But far more drastic than 13 year-old Ethel Leatherhead intended when she tried a combination of untested medicines and a sunbed.

It's fun at first, being invisible. And aided by her friend Boydy, she manages to keep her extraordinary ability secret. Or does she...?

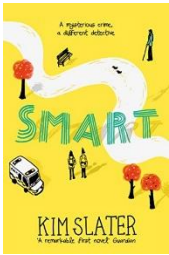
When one day the invisibility fails to wear off, Ethel is thrown into a nightmare of lies and deception as she struggles to keep herself safe, to find the remedy that will make her seen again – and solve the mystery of her own birth...

My Brother is a Superhero by David Solomons



Luke is a comic-mad eleven-year old who shares a treehouse with his geeky older brother, Zack. Luke's only mistake is to go for a wee right at the wrong time. While he's gone, an alien gives his undeserving, never-read-a-comic-in-his-life brother superpowers and then tells him to save the universe. Luke is massively annoyed about this, but when Zack is kidnapped by his arch-nemesis, Luke and his friends have only five days to find him and save the world...

Smart by Kim Slater

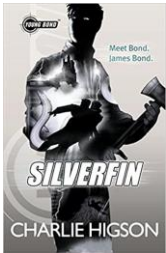


There's been a murder, but the police don't care. It was only a homeless old man after all.

Kieran cares. He's made a promise, and when you say something out loud, that means you're going to do it, for real. He's going to find out what really happened. To Colin. And to his grandma, who just stopped coming round one day. It's a good job Kieran's a master of observation and knows all the detective tricks of the trade.

But being a detective is difficult when you're Kieran Woods. When you're amazing at drawing but terrible at fitting in. And when there are dangerous secrets everywhere, not just outside, but under your own roof.

Silverfin (Young James Bond) by Charlie Higson



Before the name became a legend. Before the boy became a man. Meet Bond. James Bond.

There's something in the water at Loch Silverfin. Something deadly. Something that must be kept secret...

It's James Bond's first day at Eton, and he's already met his first enemy. This is the start of an adventure that will take him from the school playing fields to the remote shores of Loch Silverfin and a terrifying discovery that threatens to unleash a new breed of warfare.

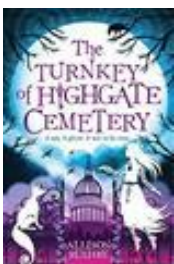
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander



12-year-old Josh and his twin Jordan have basketball in their blood. They're kings of the court, star players for their school team. Their father used to be a champion player and they each want nothing more than to follow in his footsteps.

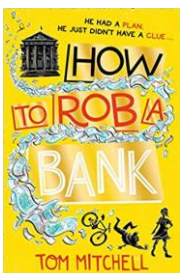
Both on and off the court, there is conflict and hardship which will test Josh's bond with his brother. In this heartfelt novel in verse, the boys find that life doesn't come with a play-book and it's not all about winning.

The Turnkey of Highgate Cemetery by Allison Rushby



Flossie Birdwhistle is the Turnkey at London's Highgate Cemetery. As Turnkey, Flossie must ensure all the souls in the cemetery stay at rest. This is a difficult job at the best of times for a twelve-year-old ghost, but it is World War II and each night enemy bombers hammer London. Even the dead are unsettled. When Flossie encounters the ghost of a German soldier carrying a mysterious object, she becomes suspicious. What is he up to? Before long, Flossie uncovers a sinister plot that could result in the destruction of not only her cemetery, but also her beloved country. Can Flossie stop him before it is too late?

How to Rob a Bank by Tom Mitchell

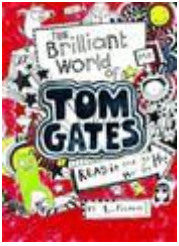


Some people rob banks because they're greedy. Others enjoy the adrenalin rush. Me? I robbed a bank because of guilt. Specifically: guilt and a Nepalese scented candle...

When fifteen-year-old Dylan accidentally burns down the house of the girl he's trying to impress, he feels that only a bold gesture can make it up to her. A gesture like robbing a bank to pay for her new home. Only an unwanted Saturday job, a tyrannical bank manager, and his unfinished history homework lie between Dylan and the heist of century. And really, what's the worst that could

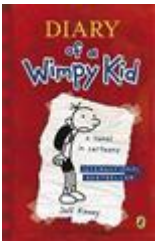
Suggestions for reluctant or less confident readers

The Brilliant World of Tom Gates by Liz Pichon



Tom's battered homework diary is crammed with his scribbles and stories, cartoons and ideas - as well as comments from the long-suffering Mr Fullerman.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney



Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a school where he and his friend Rowley hope to survive as undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily. And when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take measures to save their friendship.

Owen and the Soldier by Lisa Thompson



When Owen discovers a crumbling stone soldier in the local park, it feels like he finally has someone he can talk to about his worries. But the town council want to remove him. Can Owen find the courage he needs to save the soldier before it's too late?

The Lost Diary of Sami Star



Life is hard for Hannah. At home, everyone's always arguing, and when she tries to talk to her friends, it feels like they're not really there for her. But everything changes when she comes across a diary in the park belonging to a girl called Sami Star.

Slime by David Walliams



The Isle of Mulch is home to a huge number of adults who like nothing more than making children's lives a misery. And the worst of them all is Ned's aunt, Greta Greed. Something needs to be done. And now Ned has the power of Slime on his side!

The Beautiful Game by Alan Gibbons



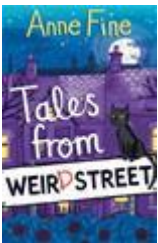
Liverpool supporter Lennie's poor attitude towards Manchester United fans at a match leads to him learning about various football disasters in the history of "the beautiful game". Story is interspersed with pages of information on football disasters.

A Dangerous Game by Malorie Blackman



Although Sam has a long-term illness, he wants to lead a normal life. He is thrilled when his parents let him go on the school trip to the Scottish Highlands. Sam wants to prove he's just as strong as his friends but the trip turns out to be dangerous.

Tales from Weird Street by Anne Fine



Three friends set each other a story-telling challenge on a lazy, sunny afternoon. But the heat of the day soon gives way to thrills and chills galore with all the spooky stories!

Run Wild by Gill Lewis



Izzy and Asha need a space to call their own, where they can practise skateboarding away from the Skull brothers and trouble at home. But the wasteland they claim already belongs to something else - an injured wolf that desperately needs their help.

The 13-Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton



In a treehouse with a bowling alley and a lemonade fountain, Andy and Terry are too busy with flying cats and sea-monkey mishaps to work on their next book.