

Autumn 1 2025

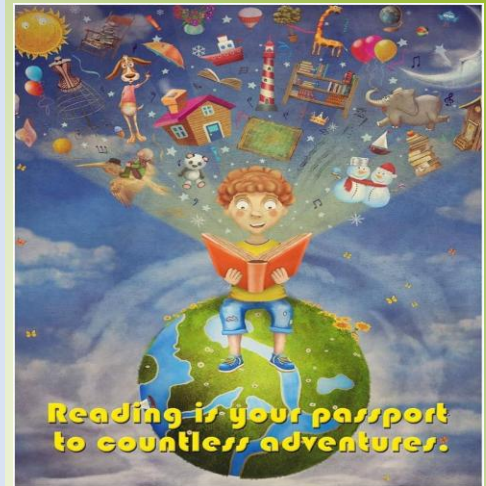
READING: THE NEWS

Springfield Primary Reading news!



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Local Reading events: Sheffield Library 'Story Garden summer reading challenge'

It was heart-warming to hear that many children across school took part in the Sheffield Children's library reading challenge over the summer. For some children it was their second or third year of taking part! Children who took part in the challenge not only sustained their reading skills but took themselves on adventures from reading each of their chosen 6 fiction books. They also achieved a reading medal and certificate- well done everyone!

Other Sheffield Children's library events for the family are:

Mondays: Storytime 11am-Midday

Fridays: Babytime 11am-Midday

Saturdays: Chatterbooks 11am-Midday

(Please contact the Central library for more details)

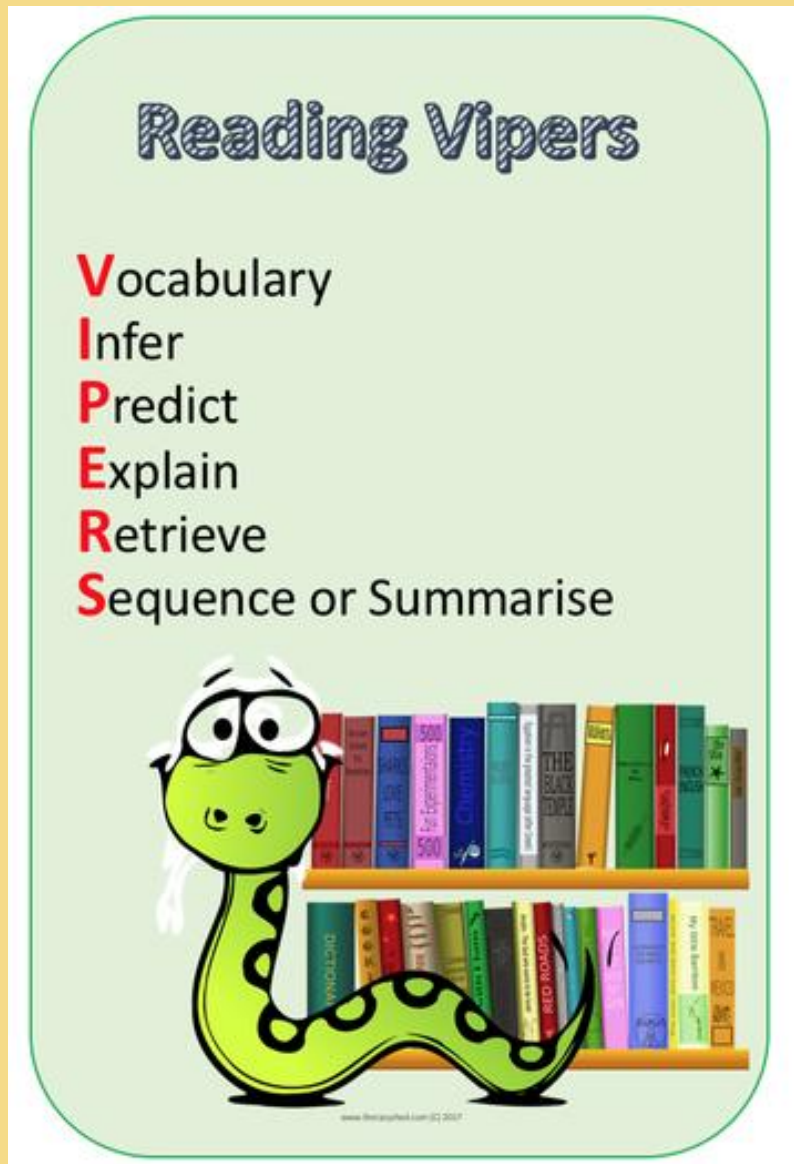


READING VIPERS

What are VIPERS?

VIPERS is an acronym to aid the recall of the 6 reading domains as part of the Reading curriculum. They are the key areas which we feel children need to know and understand in order to improve their comprehension of texts.

VIPERS stands for:

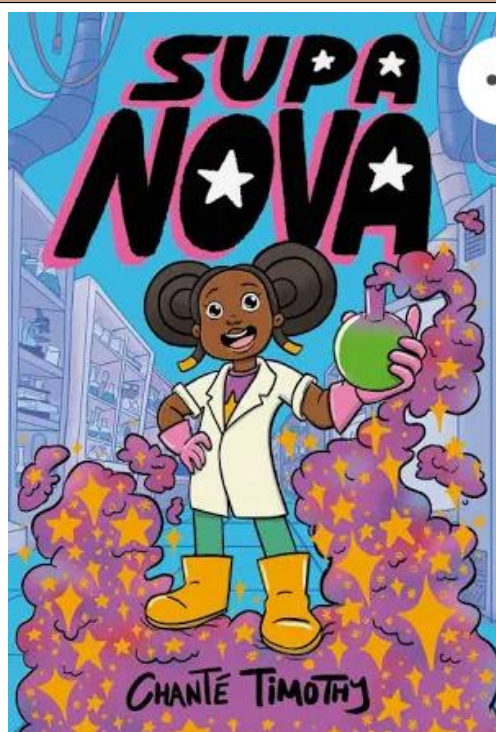
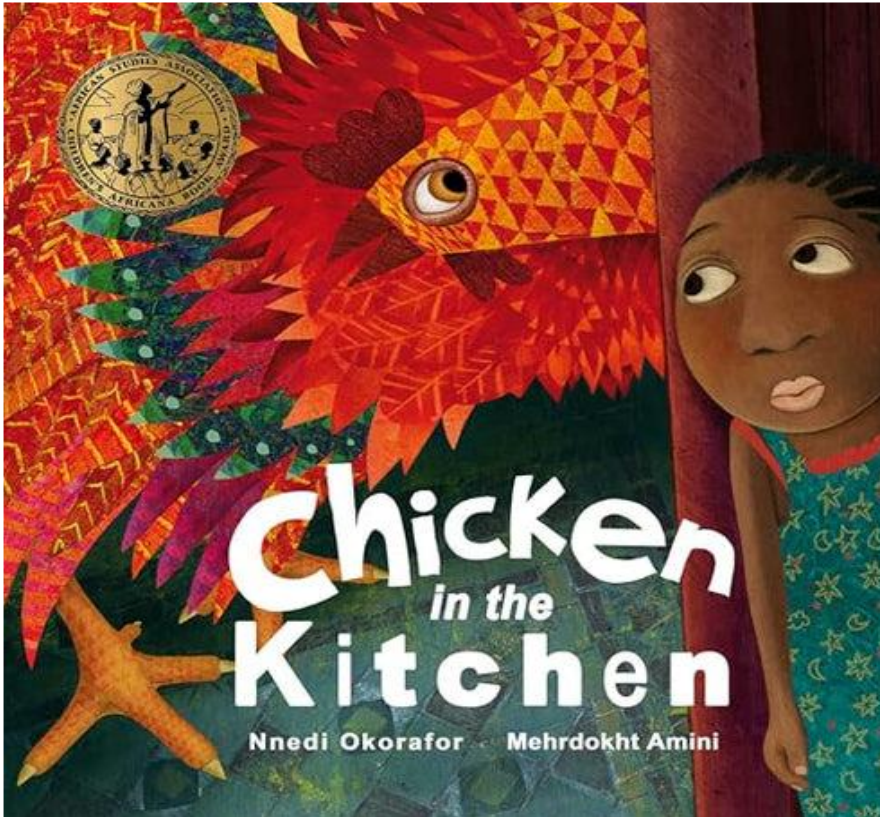


For more information about how to help your child at home with their reading: please see class pages of the school website: 'How to help your child at home' tab. [HERE](#)

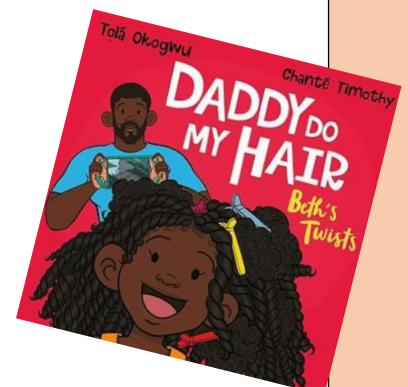
Recommended reads.

If you read any of our recommended reads or stories from any of our Author of the Term from last year. Please let us know. We would love to hear of any stories or authors you would recommend too!

Nnedi Okorafor is a Nigerian-American author of Science-fiction and fantasy. She writes for both children and adults. Her book 'Chicken in the kitchen' is a beautifully illustrated story about a young Nigerian girl who finds the courage to protect the traditions she loves.



Chante Timothy is an illustrator from London who loves experimenting with movement, vibrant colour, character design and storytelling. Chante illustrated 'Daddy do my hair' which is a wonderful rhyming story written by Tola Okogwu. Chante wrote and illustrated 'Supa Nova'. Nova is an amazing scientist who solves problems and has adventures. This story is perfect for graphic novel fans!

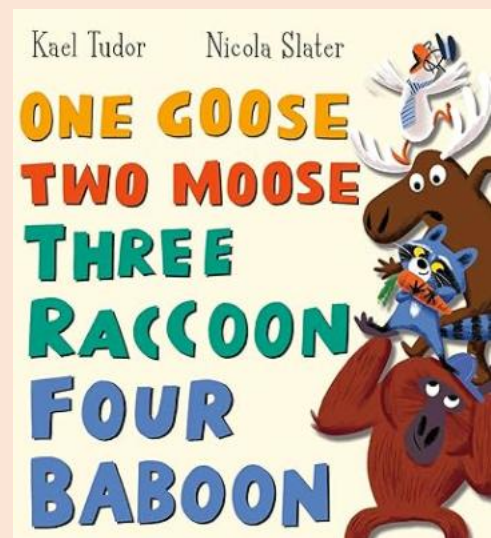




Leigh Hodgkinson is an author and illustrator. She is also an animator director. Leigh was born in Rhodesia, in South Africa and emigrated to the UK when she was a child. Whilst working in animation, she worked on the 'Charlie and Lola' series before becoming an author, making picture books for children. Leigh has ADHD and she loves to create, draw, write, bake, design and make. 'Martha maps it out' is all about Martha who loves drawing maps. This entertaining picture book is perfect for sharing with young children as there is lots to talk about from the illustrations and content. Martha explores all the people and the places that make her world special, and dreams of the future where ANYTHING is possible.



There is One silly goose and a few cheeky moose in this funny rhyming and counting story. Kael Tudor lives in Wales. He began writing his own stories at a young age. He was often inspired by the books that he bought at school fairs and jumble sales- I wonder if any of the books you bought at our Summer fair have inspired you to write too?



Vocabulary

In School, we are learning how to be Vocabulary detectives by exploring the meaning of words we come across in our Reading books and through listening to stories in class. We are exploring vocabulary we come across in our wider curriculum too. To ensure we are fully understanding these words, we are better making sense of our learning. Children who are understanding these new words are able to use them in their speaking and in their writing.

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." (Dr. Seuss)

Studies have shown that vocabulary size is a strong predictor of reading comprehension and future academic success.

Word games are a great way to get your child interested in words. We learn best when we are having fun. Play word games when you are travelling somewhere: walking home, in cars, on buses or trains. You just need to have learnt a couple of games, so you are ready to play at any time!

Game 1

I went shopping.

One person starts by saying, "I went shopping and I bought..." (a food item). The second player says, "I went shopping and I bought..." (and repeats the first player's item before adding their own item) And so on. See how many items you can remember.



A variation of this game is: "I went on holiday and I packed..."



Game 2

I spy

Traditional game:

"I spy with my little eye, something beginning with..." (Letter)



Variation 1: Thinking hat.

Word meaning clues are given instead of a letter and the object does not need to be in sight. Say "I put on my thinking hat and think of something that is (give a clue). If the guess is incorrect, say "I put on my thinking hat and think of something that is..." (give first clue and an additional clue)



Variation 2: Big brain

In this game players give a clue containing the first sound of the word as well as a word meaning clue. Unlike 'I spy', players do not need to be able to see the item, but they need to think with their 'big brains'. For example, "I think with my big brain, something that is part of a tree and begins with a b"

Online books and Audiobooks

Children learn words when they listen to stories. Stories are fun, but they are also a great way to learn new words, which in turn will help them in school. When listening to their grown-ups read stories or audiobooks, children hear lots of new words, including more difficult words than they are able to read.

It is great for children to listen to audiobooks on their own but it is even better to listen to them together and share your enjoyment. Talk about what is happening. Stop once in a while and predict what might happen next. If you miss a bit of the story, ask your child to explain what has happened. Together you could draw pictures of what you each think the characters and places might look like. Discuss similarities and differences in your interpretations of the characters and places. You could even act out exciting parts of the story together.

Fridge words

Choose a word you heard in the story and talk about its meaning. Write the word down. Challenge everyone in the family to listen out for the new word. At the end of the day, say the new word in a new sentence. Make a collection of 'fridge words' where you can revisit the new words every once in a while.



Here are some options for Audiobooks:

The e.Library: The Sheffield eLibrary is free to use for Sheffield Library members, which provides you access to eBooks, eMagazines, eAudiobooks, eComics and eNewspapers. Once you are a member of Sheffield libraries, you can register with your library card number. Please ask your library for more details.

LibriVox: provides free downloads of out of copyright books such as Heidi, Black Beauty and The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. These books are read by volunteers.

It is really important that families discuss new words in home language. For access to a range of stories that you can read to your child, please visit <https://worldstories.org.uk/> This website provides stories written in many languages from all over the world.

Upcoming English curriculum events in School.

1. **A 4 week Phonics Course starting on Wednesday 1st October 2025.** This course is held at Springfield Primary school and is hosted by the Family Adult Community Education Service (FACES). This Phonics course is aimed at Year 1 pupils and parents. Places are limited, so please look out for the letter to register your interest for this course. Places for this course will be confirmed before the first course.



2. **Wednesday 15th October 2025, 9.15am-10.15am. A Vocabulary strategy coffee morning.** Mrs. Pycroft will be sharing strategies for learning and remembering vocabulary. This is aimed at all families. Please register your interest through the school spider so that we know how many resources are needed for this meeting.



3. **50 things to do before you're 5 on Tuesday 11th November 2025.** This is held at Springfield Primary and hosted by the FACES service. This workshop is aimed at Early years foundation stage families (Reception children and for families with children under 5 years old). Places are limited so please look out for the letter, later this term, to register your interest for this workshop.



Happy Reading!

Mrs. Pycroft & Miss. Button