

“Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.”

— Benjamin Franklin



Literacy Newsletter

The Royal Mint – Coins and the Sea

The Royal Mint runs an annual competition for primary school pupils (aged 8-11) who can enter short stories of up to 500 words. This year they are exploring the role coins have played in Britain’s history of seafaring. How they have been used by sailors and traded by merchants, how they have been tokens of good luck or the captured wealth of a rival, and how their role at sea has inspired imaginations from pirates to sunken treasure.

The Royal Mint would like you to write a story of no more than 500 words about a ship carrying a cargo including gold coins. The ship sails into a storm and gets into trouble, what happens next?

Additional details can be found at: www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/learning/short-story-competition/.

WORD SQUARE PUZZLES




@VocabularyNinja

'Words unlock the doors to a world of understanding...'



Check out these challenges from the Vocabulary Ninja website. Their resources are free and have the aim of developing vocabulary and spelling. These word squares are designed to give children the opportunity to generate as many different words as possible using the letters supplied. The ultimate challenge is to discover the single word that is made up from all of the letters within the square. (A is easier than B.)

Challenge A

	E	D
J		P
M	U	

Challenge B

U	B	B
B	E	U
G	L	M

Answers are at the bottom of the newsletter.

Literacy at home suggestions...

EYFS/Key Stage 1

Nursery rhymes are especially helpful for language and early literacy development. Play audiobooks or read aloud at home to increase the amount of language your child hears.

Key Stage 2

For older children, play word games, talk about word meanings, and point out interesting or new words when reading together. Ask questions before, during, and after reading aloud. This can help your child focus attention on the ideas in the story. Before reading, look at the book cover and talk about what might happen in the story. During reading, ask what questions he has about the story. After reading, talk about what happened. Ask your child to sum it up and relate the story to what he already knows or has experienced.



Did you know that the mobile library stops at the following places on alternate Wednesdays? Check out their website for more specific dates <https://exploreYork.org.uk/mobile-library/>

Wednesday	11.45-12.55	Elvington – Grey Horse
Wednesday	13.30-14.15	Elvington Surgery

Reading and phonics: How we encourage and support reading at school

Here are a few ways in which we support children to read at Elvington:

ERIC (Everyone Reads In Class): This is designated reading for pleasure time.

Bookshelf books: These are books that have been carefully chosen to match the children's current topic. Children are free to read these books throughout their half termly topic.

Reading bingo: Children in KS2 have a grid of different genres that they are encouraged to read (found in their planners). This is to encourage a broad range of reading.

Library slots: Children are encouraged to use their library slot.

Guided reading: High quality guided reading texts that have been carefully selected.

VIPERS: We use VIPERS to teach the reading skills consistently throughout school (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval, summarising or sequencing).

For more information, please visit:

www.elvingtonprimary.org.uk/school-information/curriculum-information/reading-and-phonics

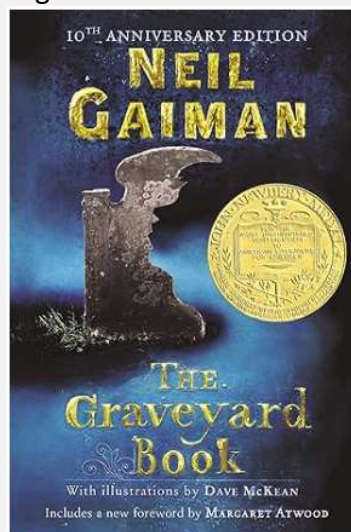
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Featured Author: Neil Gaiman

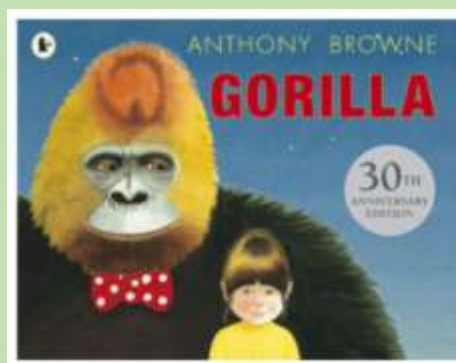
Neil Gaiman is an author who writes across several genres, including short fiction, novels, comic books, graphic novels, nonfiction, and films. Gaiman has won several awards, including the Hugo, Nebula, and Bram Stoker awards. He is also the first author to win both the Newbery and the Carnegie medals for the same book, [*The Graveyard Book*](#).




Recommended book

[Gorilla](#) by Anthony Browne

Hannah loves gorillas but has never seen one. Her father's too busy to take her to the zoo - or for anything else come to that. For her birthday, Hannah asks her father for a gorilla - but is disappointed when she discovers that the gorilla she's got is just a toy one. But then something extraordinary happens...



Here is our list of the some free homework websites and apps suitable for children and parents/carers:

- A+ spelling test app  A quick and easy way to upload your child's spellings so that they can try them in an interactive way. We've trialled this with some of our children in school recently and think it's a great resource!
- Little Wandle. The resources on this page will help you support your child with saying their sounds and writing their letters. There are also some useful videos so you can see how they are taught at school and feel confident about supporting their reading at home.
www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/
- Oak Academy. Click on *English Grammar* or *English Spelling* sections for free short video lessons filmed by teachers.
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-2>
- Oxford Owl. This has some great tips on how to help your child at home. It also has a free e-book library.
<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/>
- The Literacy Shed. A collection of film clips that provide a stimulus for writing. Each clip comes with suggestions of writing activities.
<https://www.literacyshed.com/>
- BBC Bitesize. Useful child-friendly information, particularly for spelling, grammar and punctuation aspects.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f>
- Hatman Reads. Andy Seed, an author, recommends books for 7-11 year olds.
<https://www.andyseed.com/hatman-reads/>

Thank you for your continued support, please remember that education is most effective when all parts are working together...



Answers: A jumped B bubble-gum