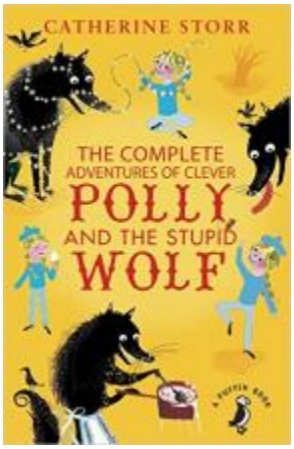
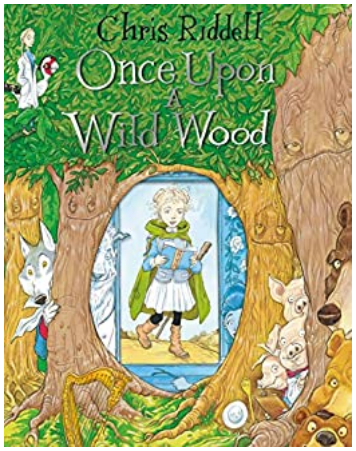
St Marks Must Reads – Y2

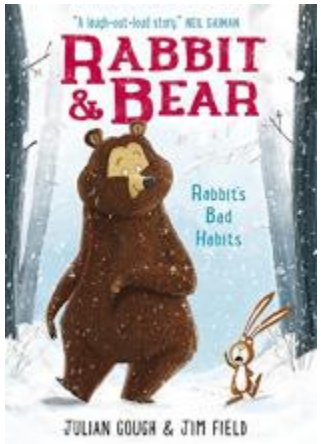
Children in year 2 share a range of strong picture books and some short chapter books. There is a range of humour (from books such as Dog Bottom Swap and Revolting Rhymes) and thought provoking books (such as Mrs Noah's Pockets and Storm Whale). All the books contain rich and expressive vocabulary from the explosive excitement of Traction Man to the poetic beauty of Mrs Noah's pockets. The stories build on children's knowledge of fairy tales as we introduce stories which require that background knowledge. We also introduce a bigger chapter read in the summer term and some thought provoking books to stretch vocabulary and depth of discussion.



Polly is visited over and over again by the Wolf, who is always plotting to eat her, but she is always just able to outwit him. The witty dialogue makes these short stories a pleasure to read aloud. Many intertextual links can be made with well known fairy tales especially, of course, Red Riding Hood.



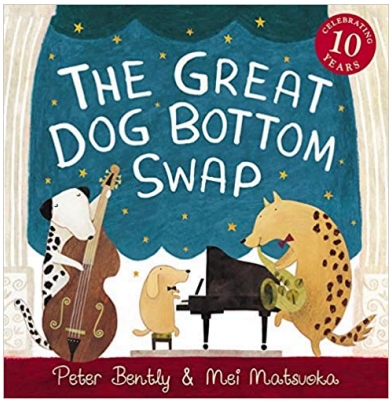
Once Upon a Wild Wood is a richly imagined story packed full of familiar fairy tale characters as you've never seen them before. Including Red Riding Hood, Thumbelina, Rapunzel, Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella, the three bears, the seven dwarfs and many more! This brings together the children's learning so far about classic fairy tales: they become the experts - spotting links, twists and making predictions.



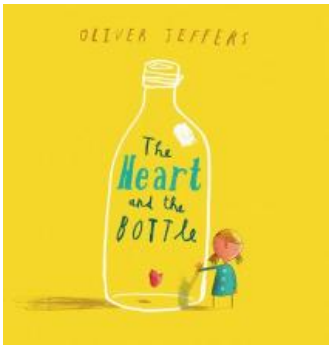
Rabbit has surreptitiously stolen Bear's Winter food hoard but his survival instincts don't extend to easy escape when a wolf appears. Bear's intervention and generous nature lead to a lasting friendship between the pair. A good transition from picture to chapter books with three more in the series for anyone wanting to progress independently.



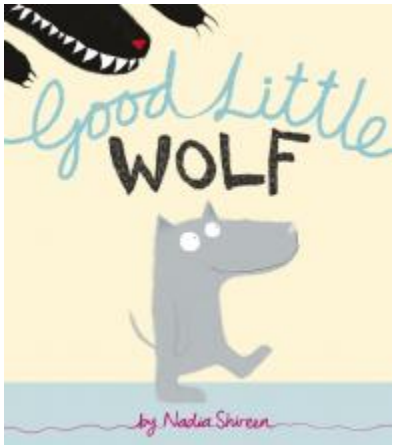
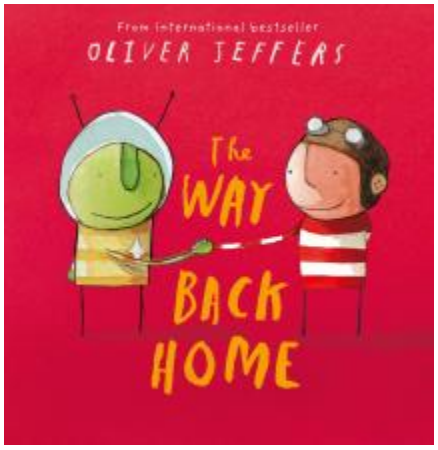
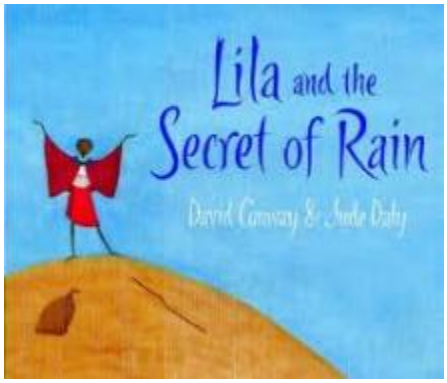
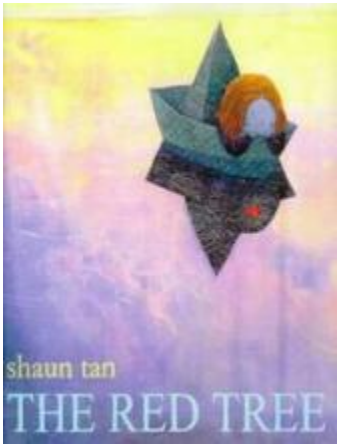
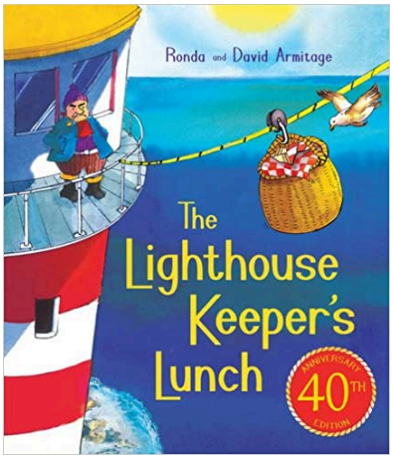
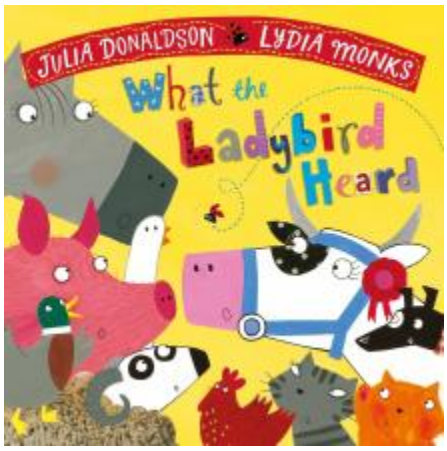
The tale of how Mr Fox outwits three dastardly farmers who would destroy him and the family he is struggling to feed. 'Boggis and Bunce and Bean / One fat, one short, one lean. / These horrible crooks / So different in looks / Were nonetheless equally mean.' is a refrain chanted by children. One of Roald Dahl's most loved short novels

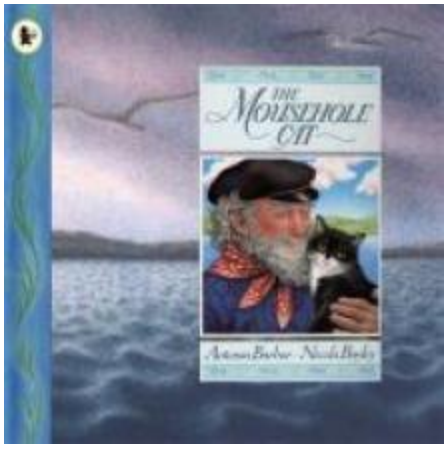


The day has arrived for the Dogs' Summer Ball. It's so high class, that each dog must remove their bottom before they are allowed inside the hall. But in the middle of all the frivolity something unexpected happens and the dogs have to make a hasty exit... with or without the correct bottom! This book is a real Longfleet favourite.

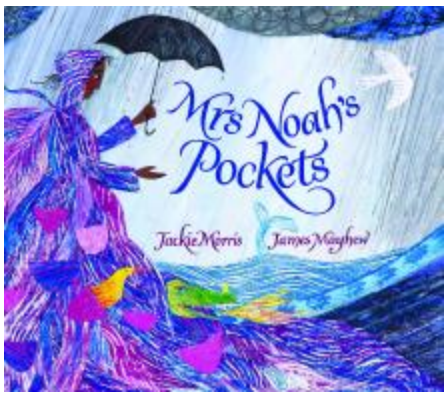


A curious child, saddened by loss, shuts away her heart in a bottle and seals off her wonderment at the world. It takes the intervention of another child, smaller and still curious, to find the way to restore her heart to its rightful place and reopen her mind. The graphic representation of the story with the characters' imaginative ideas appearing in bubbles above their heads combined with an uncluttered text give this moving

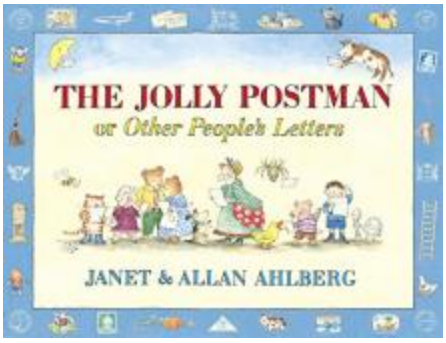
		picture book a special magic.
 Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood and a boy (Peter? The Boy Who Cried Wolf?) sit with awestruck faces alongside Rolf, a good little wolf, to hear the tale unfold. But is Rolf a proper wolf? Having encountered a big bad wolf, he tries to find out. A humorous picture book which plays on knowledge of well known tales and which requires reading the pictures to appreciate the final joke.	 A delightful story about an Earth boy and a Martian who both crash land on the moon. They co-operate to find solutions so that they can both return to their homes in their respective craft. The joke of it is, the Earth boy has to return home by other means to collect the things they need to effect the repairs & then return to the moon to help his new friend. Links can be found in the earlier Must Read - *Lost and Found*	 There has been no rain in Lila's Kenyan village for many weeks and "Without water there can be no life", her mother says. Lila's grandfather reveals to her the secret of rain and she climbs the mountain to tell the sky the saddest thing she knows. Will the sky listen to her plea? Beautiful language – 'the sky was ebony with emotion' – accompanies delicate illustrations that convey the sparseness of life and landscape.
 A small girl is having a bad day. Nothing makes sense, terrible troubles surround her. All this is expressed in few words but with powerful pictures. Amongst the gloom there are symbols of hope that make her optimistic again.	 Once there was a lighthouse keeper called Mr. Grinling. At night time he lived in a small white cottage perched high on the cliffs, and in the daytime he rowed out to his lighthouse to clean and polish the light. Every day Mr Grinling tucks into delicious lunch, prepared by his wife, Mrs Grinling. But Mr Grinling isn't the only one who enjoys the tasty food, so Mrs Grinling has to think of a way to stop the greedy seagulls from stealing the lighthouse keeper's lunch.	 In this clever plotted rhyming tale, a ladybird overhears a secret plan to steal the prize cow. Through team work and communication the animals work together to foil the burglars and save the cow. Could lead to map making and directional writing work.



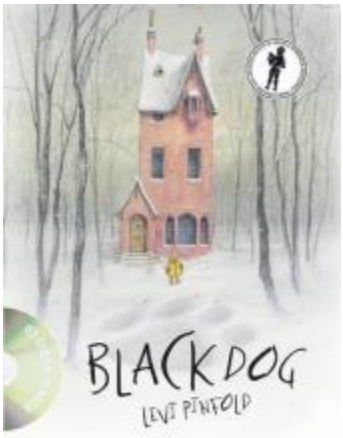
This is a magical retelling of an ancient Cornish legend told from the cat's perspective. It tells the story of Mowser the cat and her pet man Tom and how she saves him from drowning, and the village of Mousehole from starvation, by calming the Great Storm-Cat with her song.



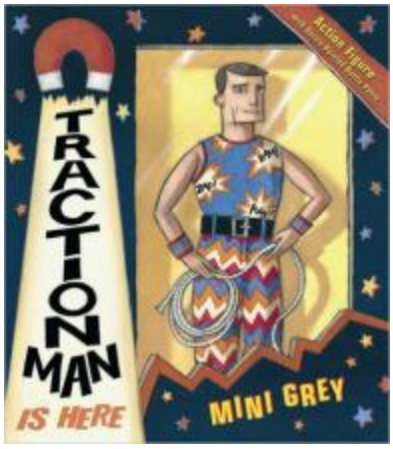
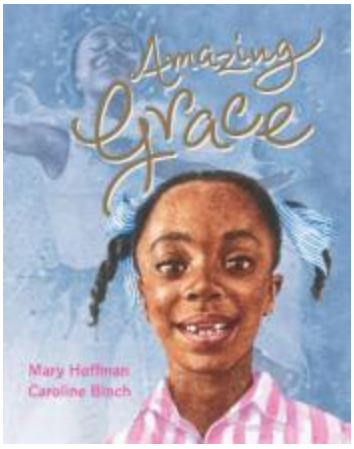
As the rain falls with increasing intensity and the water rises, Mr Noah makes a list of all the animals he believes should sail in the ark he is building. He also has another list of all those creatures he thinks are troublesome and not worth saving. Mrs Noah watches what is happening and pursues her own agenda as poetic language and mixed media illustrations work together to create understanding in this new slant on a very old tale.



Sub-titled 'Other People's Letters', this is a stupendous and original picture book. As the Postman delivers his letters to the Wicked Witch, the giant (Mr. V. Bigg in Beanstalk Gardens) and B(ig) B(ad) Wolf, Esq., c/o Grandma's Cottage, Horner's Corner, the child reader can actually open the envelopes, take out the letters or cards and read them.



The Hope family lives in a tall narrow house in a snowy wood, the interior of which is depicted in detailed pictures full of the paraphernalia of playful & imaginative life. One day a Black Dog appears outside and it seems to grow exponentially as each member of the family espies it through the window. It takes the smallest member of the family to face the fear and resolve the situation

 A boy receives an action figure as a Christmas present and the first half of this inventive picture book shows Traction Man's exciting adventures in house and garden, sink and bath. Then comes the visit to Granny who has knitted a green romper suit with matching bonnet for our hero. Will Traction Man be able to overcome the embarrassment of this inappropriate costume and put it to good use with the aid of his trusty pet, Scrubbing Brush?	 A wonderfully affirmative story. Grace 'a girl who loved stories' is told that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school pantomime because she is black and female. With the help and support of her grandmother she comes to believe that she can be anything she wants. The excellent illustrations show Grace's shifting emotions as she copes with disappointment and triumph and her constant joie de vivre.	