



Bredon Hill Academy
— LEARNING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS —

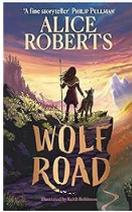
Reading for Pleasure Newsletter Autumn 2 2023

Our aim is for every student to say: “I am a Bredon Hill Academy student. I am a reader.”

Our focus this term is: increasing our book miles. The holidays are fast approaching and this is a great time to stop and consider which books and substantial magazine articles our children have read over the last fourteen weeks since September. A daily reading habit can benefit the reader in many ways: mental stimulation, stress reduction, knowledge, vocabulary expansion, memory improvement, stronger analytical thinking skills, improved focus and concentration skills, better writing skills, tranquillity and entertainment. All of which I am sure we would like to grant our young people at Bredon Hill Academy.

Books to try...

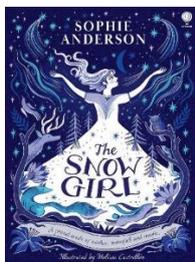
Year 6 9+



Tuuli is a prehistoric girl, travelling with her tribe through the seasons – making camp, hunting for food and protecting themselves against the many hazards that the climate throws at them. Tuuli knows there’s a bigger world out there, and when she spots a strange boy lurking outside their camp, she realises that he might hold the adventure she is looking for.

He is from another tribe, sent to find safer ground and as he and Tuuli strike up an unlikely friendship, they set out on a journey that will impact the rest of human history.

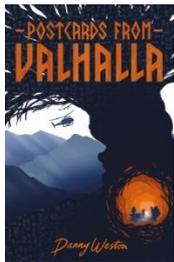
A vast adventure with a very human heart, full of wild animals, huge scenery and heart-stopping danger and inspired by real anthropological discoveries. The stunning debut novel from *Digging for Britain* presenter, Professor Alice Roberts, for fans of *His Dark Materials*, *Wolf Brother* and *The Last Bear*.



When Tasha’s family moves to take care of her ageing Grandpa, lonely and traumatised by a past event, Tasha finds making friends difficult. When the mesmerising first snow of the year arrives, she is enthralled and delights in making a beautifully intricate snow girl, Alyana. Grandpa says that the first snow is powerful and wishes made on it always come true, if that’s true then maybe Tasha can finally have a friend of her own. As Tasha enjoys magical winter nights with her new friend, Grandpa’s health continues to fade, only spring can help him. But what will warmer days mean for Alyana?

Set against a beautiful snowy landscape, this tale of family, friendship, trust and accepting help will delight readers of all ages. The cast of characters leap from the page, and once again we enjoy Anderson’s celebration of loving and important intergenerational relationships. Likewise, strands of Slavic folklore are skilfully woven throughout the story, creating an enchanting story of magic and adventure.

Year 7 11+

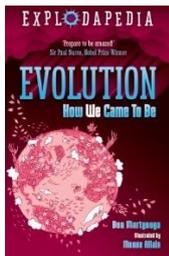


Steeped in atmosphere and myth, Danny Weston's *Postcards from Valhalla* is a fabulously realised adventure for 11+-year-olds. Chillingly suspenseful as the lines between reality and fantasy are blurred, it's a completely compelling story, driven by a quest to find a missing brother, and underpinned by a sense of family.

15-year-old Viggo is getting on with his life in Edinburgh when his mum brings bad news — his older brother Magnus has gone missing in Shetland, where he was working on a Viking settlement. Viggo's response is understated - to begin with, at least. In Viggo's view, Magnus was a "total weirdo", and he'd "lost count of all the disasters that Magnus had caused." But this time, they have more reason to worry — the boys' father went missing in the same spot a few years ago (missing, presumed dead), so Viggo and his mum journey to Shetland.

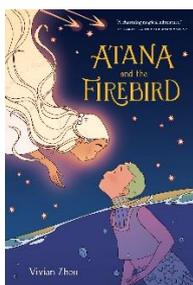
Soon enough, Viggo is plagued by spiralling visions of Viking ships and weird creatures. The sense of fear and escalating danger is viscerally evoked, and so too are emotions around love and loss.

Year 8 13+



The series concept, described as the 'exploded encyclopaedia' with "everything you need to know about science, one book at a time!" It takes key scientific subjects and presents them in a way that is both entertaining and readable with an attractive pocket-sized format and witty illustrations demonstrating that the series is designed for reading for pleasure.

Graphic Text 11+



A mermaid, a firebird, and a witch become entangled with the mysterious and powerful Witch Queen, who may hold the key to each of their past in this epic middle grade fantasy by debut author Vivian Zhou.

Atana's island may be quiet and peaceful, but mostly, it's lonely. With the outside world full of magic hunters who would stop at nothing to capture a mermaid like her, Atana has never been brave enough to swim far from her island's shores and seek the answers to her mysterious past—until a firebird named Ren unexpectedly crashes into her life.

Ren's arrival does not go unnoticed, as it has been hundreds of years since a firebird last landed on Earth. Determined to both protect Ren and finally chase the answers she's longed for, Atana embarks on an adventure that takes her and the firebird to strange new islands and entangles them with the powerful yet secretive Witch Queen.

Dyslexia-friendly Text 11+



It's Arjan's sixteenth birthday and he's celebrating with his mates – going to see a film and then get a Nando's. He's looking forward to some good banter and wondering what might happen with Jem, who's been looking at him differently these days ...

But the night comes to a dramatic and violent end when Arjan is targeted by a group of racist thugs, who single him out due to the colour of his skin and the turban that he wears as a symbol of his commitment to his faith and culture.

Is the life of a good friend and beloved son really worth so little?

Neurodivergence-Focused Text 11+



Ten-year-old Frank loves code and numbers; they're a way to make sense of the world, as well as providing secret languages to share with his friends and his mum. Frank's five-year-old brother Max is autistic and for him the world is often a scary place, when anything unexpected, too loud or too bright can cause him to have a meltdown. The story is narrated by Frank and every reader will understand his frustration at the unfairness of life. We know that he loves Max, but we know too how hard Max makes life for all the family. Frank is then faced with something even more terrible when tragedy strikes. With the help of those around him we watch Frank find a way to make sense of what has happened and the bravery to cope with the different world. Katya Balen has worked with neuro-divergent children and there's a powerful sense of truth and understanding in her beautifully told story.

The library and an offer!

Our library is undergoing an update this year where we are updating stock and styling. As part of this initiative, we have been given a super opportunity to receive £300 pounds worth of non-fiction books for the students if 10 carers/parents take out a subscription to [Britannica magazine](#). These can be either 12-month plans (costing £59.99) or 6-month plans (costing just £29.99). Each new subscriber will also receive a **free book** as a sign-up gift – perfect in the run up to Christmas! Bredon Hill Academy have our own unique code: **ELMLEY** (can be upper or lower case) - we just ask you to put this into the discount code box at www.whatonearth.co.uk on any of their price plans and it will count as one of our 10. As a school, we subscribe to Britannica and copies are available to read in the library.

We are always on the look out for good quality books to boost our stock too. If you have any age-appropriate (10-13) good quality texts that you no longer need, do think about donating them to us. Just drop them off at reception. We would be extremely grateful. Thank you for all of the support you give to our readers. Raising £409 through the Scholastic book fair for us to spend on library books was awe-inspiring.

Places to visit for book information:



<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

<https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/early-literacy-development/articles/reading-your-child>



<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/> <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

Let Mrs Bartlett know of any good texts you would like featured in these newsletters. Drop her an e-mail cbartlett@bredon.worcs.sch.uk or leave her a post-it-note in room 4.

Thank you for your time. Our next issue will be out in February. The English Department.