



Monday 7th June
Term begins
Friday 11th June
Non uniform day
Tuesday 15th June
Class photos
Thursday 1st July
Year 5/6 Sports Day
Wednesday 7th July &
Thursday 8th July
Year 6 Evening
Performance
Friday 9th July
Year 3/4 Sports Day
Wednesday 14th July
Year 1/2 Sports Day
Thursday 22nd July
Leaver's assembly
Thursday 14th
October
Flu vaccinations
<https://charltonprimary.com/2017/12/08/c>



Dear Parents,

We end the term with a little respite from the very wet and windy May we have just experienced, with the promise of some warm weather on the horizon.

Term 6 also offers the potential of more normality and, as such, we are busy planning some of our traditional events – from trips and visits, to information evenings and performances. Dates for our planned information evenings will come out to you at the start of Term 6. We are all keeping everything crossed.

On the 12th June, we will be welcoming 6 new ladies to the Charlton team. As part of our outdoor education offer, we will be rehoming some rescued hens. Although they will probably be looking quite sorry for themselves when they first arrive, we hope that they will quickly settle in and start producing some lovely eggs. This will be a great opportunity for the children to develop their understanding of healthy living and the production of food, taking responsibility for the care and nurture of these animals. It will also be a different space for children to visit.

We would very much like to thank our PTA for their continued support and for providing the birds with their new home!

I know that the PTA are planning further events for the remainder of the year to continue with their fundraising efforts for the school. Please do continue to support their events. Without their planning and enthusiasm, and your support, school would very much miss out on the considerable financial assistance.

It would feel rather strange to be writing to you without mentioning Covid!

As the situation begins to improve, we are mindful that people's preferences on mask wearing differs. Please continue to keep our community safe but decide for yourselves whether you would like to continue wearing a face covering.

Please take some time to browse the pages of this term's newsletter, to catch up on all of the wonderful activities and learning the children have participated in this term.

On behalf of everyone at Charlton, I would like to wish you a lovely half-term and we look forward to welcoming you all back to the start of our final term on Monday 7th June.

Mrs Rooke – Head of School

Foundation



We have been enjoying developing our learning through the theme of 'Big Beasts and Mini-beasts' this term. The children have been using non-fiction books and the tablets to find out information. They have painted and drawn lots of animals and have been exploring the creatures that are in Forest school and in our garden. They have enjoyed lots of stories with an animal theme and even wrote their own class book. We have been thinking about habitats and thought about whether we would find a wolf in our forest school....some thought yes, some thought no! The children have loved this theme so much, we will be continuing our mini-beast theme into term 6. Hopefully the weather will be a little kinder to us.



Year 1



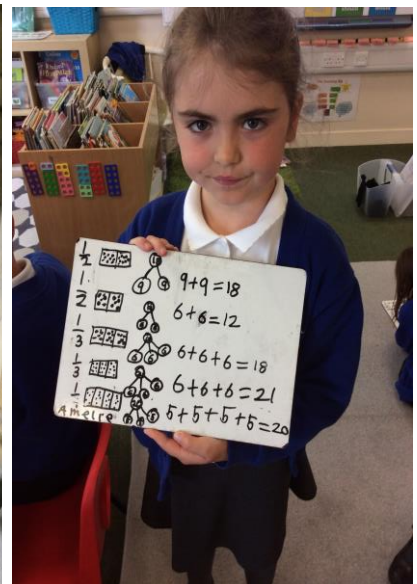
This term, our topic has been based around science. We have done lots of planting, thinking about where our food comes from and how we prepare it to eat. It has been lovely seeing all of the children so enthusiastic for learning and building up our teamwork skills.



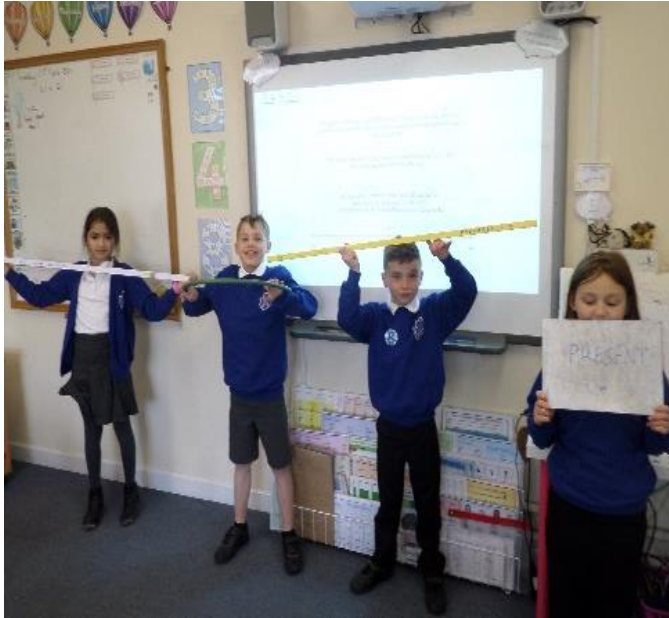
Year 2



This term, Year 2 have explored 'A Twist in the Tale' where they uncovered alternative stories to traditional fairy tales. Children unpicked common traditional tales and added their very own twist to the narrative to come up with their own jumbled up tale, which they read to entertain Year 1. In science, Year 2 enjoyed exploring the forest school whilst looking at habitats and the animals that are native to the UK. They enjoyed having a pond dipping session and some even spotted our resident frog! In geography, the children were busy learning the 7 continents and 5 oceans as well as drawing their own map of forest school and using the 4 main compass points to navigate a partner from one place to other.



Year 3



This term, we have been really enjoying our work on the Stone Age. We made a human timeline! We have used a range of art materials such as clay and pastels to create our version of the amazing cave paintings and tools created by the earliest people.

In science, we have been studying different types of skeletons and we have had fun investigating whether a person's height has a relationship with the size of their foot! We have been able to put into practise our measuring skills from maths to find out the answer to our enquiry.

We have been learning about fractions and the children have amazed us with their maths work this term – showing focus and determination to 'get to grips' with this tricky topic.



Year 4



This term, our topic is 'good vibrations' and we have been exploring sound.

In science, we have been testing which materials make the best string telephones. We also used the decibel readers in the new iPads to test sound insulators.



Year 5



This term, Year 5 we have been learning about India. The children have been learning about the culture, climate and geographical location of the country. Many of the children have enjoyed creating some Indian food at home and have been extra creative making some super rangoli patterns. In Science, the children have been learning all about different lifecycles of mammals, reptiles and birds and spotting those animals that do not behave in the ways we might expect. The children have also listened to and read a number of Rudyard Kipling's "just so" stories and have had a go at creating their own.



Year 6



Over the Easter break, Year 6 took part in a virtual run. Encouraging time outside and to help raise money for the leavers party. Children could walk, run, cycle or even skateboard from Wantage to Paris (566 km). Mr Conway set up a spreadsheet for the children to record their distances on TEAMS, which then calculated our total distance. They smashed it and even reached 901.48km! An incredible £585 has been raised and we are very proud of them all for their efforts.

This week, Year 6 enjoyed their own French cafe! Throughout the term they had been busy learning how to order food and drink in a cafe setting and they did so brilliantly!



Forest School



We have got wet, muddy, bathed in the sun and been hailed upon!

The children have deeply engaged in their play, learning all the time, not just about what's been going on in front of them but also who they are sharing it with. The Forest school groups have bonded well and there is a real sense of community among them.

The children have fully engaged in the different weather conditions and all the opportunities these can bring.

We have experimented with making paint out of charcoal, meals out of mud, built stages from crates, dens out of tarps, created beautiful braids, balanced on see saws, swung on swings and made fire for food. Our site pond has shared with us friendly frogs, nippy newts and numerous wiggly water bugs.

PTA

Friday 11th June – Suggested donation £1

**Non-uniform
day!**

Uniform sale

Keep an eye out during our Sports day events, as we will be selling off final stock from PMG at HALF PRICE!



All money raised goes towards curriculum enrichment across the school.

School site improvements

Project R (Refresh and Renew!)

I am delighted to share with you that we have secured a grant from the Vale Academy Trust to significantly refresh and renew areas of the school site. We are immensely grateful to the Trust for this significant capital expenditure and support to ensure Charlton is the very best school in the local area. Improvement works will be done in stages overtime and wherever possible will be restricted to the school holiday periods. This investment and re-development will provide Charlton with:

- 40 additional iPads to enhance our STEM curriculum
- New fencing around the school perimeter
- New and improved signage around the site
- New hard surfacing on the main playground
- A new chill out 'walk and talk' space for children to use at break times
- New activity equipment (trim trail style)
- Improvements to the Year 1 outdoor space to match the high standard and finish found in the Foundation unit

We will also take this opportunity to make some significant improvements by refurbishing existing classrooms, replacing faulty IWB's and providing additional facilities to deliver subjects such as Art and Design Technology.

Building and improvement work will be scheduled so there will be no impact on the learning of our pupils. Together with our new logo, up-dated uniform and new school website (coming soon) we are extremely excited to be starting work on these eagerly awaited projects.

Exciting times as we look forward and with hope to a forthcoming new school year freer of the current but necessary restrictions.

Mr Rose
Executive Headteacher



Information for parents

Parent Governor Announcement

I am pleased to announce that following the recent Parent Governor Election, which was held on behalf of the governing body, Nick Fisher has been successfully re-elected to local governing body.

The Governing Body are the strategic leaders of our school and have a vital role to play in making sure that every child gets the best possible education. The Governing Body has a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the leadership team to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the governing body team for all their hard work, dedication and commitment, which in turn affords us effective support and challenge toward achieving our overarching school vision.

Steven Rose
Executive Headteacher

Alan Mcpherson
Chair – Local Governing Body

Catering Assistant Vacancies

We are urgently seeking three enthusiastic Catering Assistants to join our busy Catering Team working Term Time only plus three INSET days.

1. Based at Wantage CE Primary School (9am – 1.30pm Mon – Fri 22.5 hours a week) Actual annual pro rata starting salary £9,361.71
2. Based at King Alfred's West Site and catering at St James CE Primary School in Hanney (9.30am – 2.30pm Mon – Fri 25 hours a week) Actual pro rata starting salary £10,401.90
3. Based at King Alfred's West Site and catering at St Nicholas CE Primary School, East Challow (9.30am – 2.30pm Mon – Fri 25 hours a week) Actual pro rata starting salary £10,401.90

The role will involve general kitchen duties, including preparation and serving of school meals, cleaning and clearing away.

For a full Job Description and application form, please apply via The Vale Academy Trust website: <https://www.vale-academy.org/vacancies/>

All schools within the Vale Academy Trust are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. All post holders in regulated activity are subject to appropriate vetting procedures and a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. All staff are expected to promote fundamental British values. The Vale Academy Trust is an equal opportunities employer.

Information for parents

'Help! My child hasn't been offered a school place for September!'

'I haven't got my school of choice'

'I'm moving into the area and am looking at school places'

New Foundation/Reception for September'21

Do you know someone moving into the area looking for a school place in September or perhaps someone unsure of the choice they originally made back in January?

If so, please do share that due to it being an unusually low birth rate year Charlton still has some limited places in one of our lovely Foundation reception classes available for September'21.

Do spread the word as we are looking to allocate the remaining places as soon as possible.



EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)

The EU Settlement Scheme application deadline is now less than 50 days away, parents, families, young people and staff that are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, and their family members may be eligible to apply to the Settlement Scheme.

It is crucial that eligible parents apply to the Scheme themselves and check whether they need to do so on behalf of their children. Eligible children are required to have an application in their own right and no child of any age is covered by a parent's application to the EUSS. There is [more information on this here on GOV.UK](#).

Applications to the EUSS are free and can be made online at www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme, where you can also find out more information about how to apply.

Even with the lockdown easing, it is still really important to take the time to care for yourselves. TalkingSpace Plus is a free, confidential NHS service for adults in Oxfordshire, to help people when they're feeling stressed, anxious or low and we offer our treatments online for your safety and convenience.

If you feel you would benefit from support please contact our service directly on 01865 901222 or visit www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/talkingspaceplus.



Overcoming Anxiety & Depression Together



Community projects

We are supporting Stitches for Survival (S4S) which is a project for people who enjoy hand crafts (knitting, crochet etc) and care about the environment, especially regarding climate change. As you probably, know, COP26 will be held in Glasgow in November and S4S are aiming to produce a 1.5 mile long scarf for this event. This represents the 1.5° C target from Paris agreement. Crafters from across the UK are making sections, which will be assembled to make the scarf in Edinburgh/Glasgow.

If you would like to take part, please contact Christine Walters. However, even if knitting is not your thing, please help by donating any spare yarn or fabric you have. Predominantly shades of blue/green/brown are preferred but all contributions would be welcome.

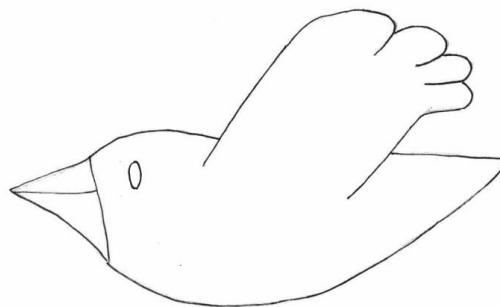
You can find out more at: [Stitches for Survival – Mass-craftivism to put the Earth centre-stage at COP26](#)



It is Elmer Day on Saturday 29th May, and to help celebrate our favourite elephant, Wantage Library are inviting children to help decorate and take part in some fun activities.

If children would like to colour Bird in, and return them to Wantage Library either before or after Saturday 29th May, that would be brilliant – they will then put these up on the display board!

They will also be holding some virtual events online, via the Wantage Library Facebook page – on Saturday 29th May, there will be an Elmer-themed storytime, and on Sunday 30th May, there will be an Elmer themed craft!



School funding

Recently we updated you as to our financial situation and although things are good – full complement of experience teachers and additional subject specialist teachers (French, STEM, PE, Music, Forest School, ELSA, Specialist Maths support, full time SENCo). We need to raise extra funds specially for teaching provision to further enrich our offer through improved resources for the children, greater investment in the curriculum and additional specialist teaching hours.

Our aim is to offer the very best and richest provision possible to our children. To do that we do need your help.

If like other parents, you have recently made a donation to school please be reassured that this is always ring fenced for curriculum development and enrichment.

Ways you can help

- Do you know a firm or local company who would like to sponsor our school?
- Are you a current parent who like others are wishing to make a small, medium or large donation – if so, please do contact the school office to find how to do this
- Some parents have set up a monthly direct debit. Even a small monthly donation makes a significant difference to Charlton. Even £4 a month (£1 a week) goes along way when many people are doing the same thing.

What else can I do?

- Use EasyFundraising when you shop – free to you, and raises money for us: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charltonpsoxfd/>
£856.85 has been received so far! Thank you!
- Are you a past pupil or do you know past pupils that would like to be involved in the school again? Become an alumni and reconnect with us. You could be a role model for our children whilst also making a difference to our provision.
- Become an employer partner – creating volunteering opportunities for your staff and making a difference. This might be volunteering at Forest School, Volunteer reading or other such activity. All our regular volunteers undergo a full induction into school life.
- PTA – have you joined our Facebook group? Lots of information will be shared about upcoming fundraising events, everyone is welcome.
- If you have any questions or need any extra information about how to donate to Charlton or you would like to meet with Mr Rose to discuss a contribution in more detail, please get in touch.



Proposal to merge Charlton Acorns Pre-school with Charlton Primary School

We recently wrote to all parents and staff to share the proposal to merge Charlton Acorns Pre-school with Charlton Primary School. A key rationale for this proposal being that the Pre-school shares a site with the school and most of the children who attend the Pre-school move on to Charlton Primary School. In addition, we have had a long and very positive relationship. We feel the time is right to unite and move forward into the future as a single establishment.

A first step to move toward this change was to undertake a formal consultation on two points:

1. To expand the age range of Charlton Primary School from the current 4-11 years to 2 -11 years.
2. To close Charlton Acorns Pre-school Charity and transfer the assets to the management of The Vale Academy Trust as part of Charlton Primary School.

The consultation ended Thursday 22nd April 2021. I am pleased to share that the feedback we have had during consultation has been incredibly positive, and staff across both establishments are very much in favour of this going ahead. The merger also has the full support of the Local Governing Body and Vale Academy Trust.

As such, we can now move to the next stage in this process. This involves Acorns Pre School Committee holding a EGM to vote on closing the charity which runs the preschool and Charlton Primary completing the necessary due diligence and preparing a full business case application to change the age range which is submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Through the termly whole school newsletters, we will keep you up-dated on developments.

Questions raised during consultation

- **What would happen to before and after school wrap around provision provided at Charlton and Acorns?**

There are no plans to reduce the wrap around offer currently provided at both establishments. Should the merger go ahead a long-term aim would be to ensure we are able to effectively use resources to meet all demand for before and after school places.

Steven Rose
Executive Headteacher

Summer Reading Challenge

Reading at Home

The Summer Reading Challenge: 10th July

The Summer Reading Challenge, funded by the Arts Council, England and presented by The Reading Agency, is a challenge designed to encourage children aged 4–11 to set themselves a reading challenge over the summer to prevent the '*summer reading dip*'.

Each year, the challenge, with the support of public libraries, motivates over 700,000 children to keep reading, build their confidence and develop their reading skills.

We would LOVE for as many of our children to be involved in this fantastic challenge. Taking part in the challenge is great for a number of reasons:

- It's a great way to celebrate the joy of reading;
- It's a great way to find out about new books;
- It's a great way for children to continue to be supported in their reading through the holidays and to prevent the national trend for children's reading skills to dip over the holidays.

This year, with the help of the new digital platform, the aim is to increase the impact even further and reach 1 million children. By providing fun reading activities this summer, the challenge will also play a key role in supporting reading catch-up after a difficult year.

This year's theme – 'Wild World Heroes' – hopes to inspire children to explore ways of helping to save the planet. With ideas from WWF, the challenge focuses on taking action for nature and tackling real-world environmental issues, from plastic pollution and deforestation to wildlife decline and nature loss. Through taking part in the challenge, children will be able to join six fictional characters – 'wild heroes' – to help solve some of these threats, learning about the importance of the environment while helping to restore nature levels in the neighbourhood of 'Wilderville'.

The Summer Reading Challenge Book Collection comprises 70 must-read titles for children aged 4–11. Each title has been specially chosen to reflect key Wild World Heroes themes including the natural world, young heroes, and taking action for the environment.

The collection is presented in two lists – one for younger children and one for more confident readers – representing exciting contemporary children's fiction, poetry, non-fiction and picture books with nature and environmental themes. Many of the books in the collection are newer titles publishing in 2021.



How the Summer Reading Challenge works

Children can read whatever they like in their chosen format – fiction, fact books, poetry, joke books, picture books, graphic novels, audio books and eBooks can all be used to complete the Challenge. They receive special rewards each time they finish a book and there's a certificate for everyone who completes the challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all primary school aged children and is designed for all reading abilities. Children can sign up for free at Wantage library during the summer holidays.

Throughout the Challenge, library staff support children, helping them to explore a wide range of different types of books and enjoy a range of creative activities and events.

The Summer Reading Challenge website helps children to keep track of their reading all year round, find new book recommendations, take part in mini challenges, play games and more:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



We would strongly recommend that children take part in this exciting challenge. Wantage library will soon be offering children the chance to sign up for this challenge and we will be providing further information on the challenge in Term 6.

Book Talk

In each newsletter, we will continue to provide you with some top tips to support book talk at home.



Tip #4 Discuss reading with family and friends

Make books a part of the family by encouraging your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call or in person. Chat informally about books when you are making meals together and talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. For example, *'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'*

We hope that these tips help you to continue to support your child's reading for pleasure at home. Look out for our reading top tips in each newsletter.

Miss Malpas & Mr Conway

Miss Malpas' book recommendations



Flat Stanley– The Original Adventure

By Jeff Brown

During the night a notice board falls on top of Stanley Lambchop, and as a result, he is now only half an inch thick! Stanley gets rolled up, mailed, and flown like a kite as part of one of the many adventures that he has. He even gets to help catch two dangerous art thieves. He may be flat, but he's a hero.

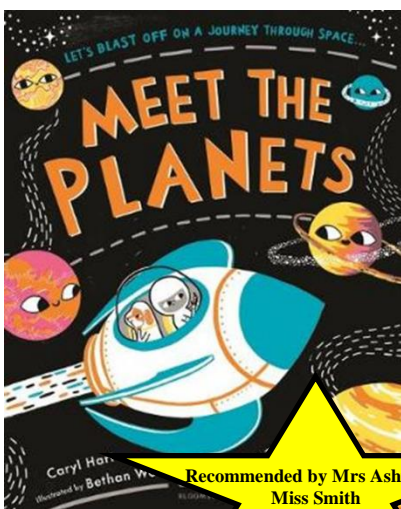
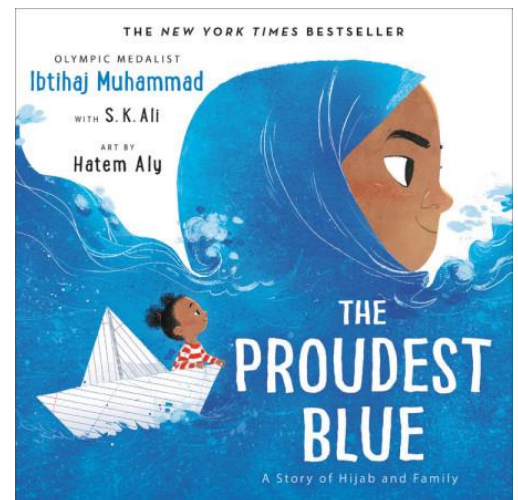
My favourite part was when he was able to slide inside an envelope! If you like adventure stories, then I think you will enjoy this story!

The Proudest Blue

By Ibtihaj Muhammad

It is Faizah's first day of school but best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of wearing a hijab. Her hijab is made of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. Sadly, not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah finds new ways to be strong.

This book is beautifully illustrated and carries several important messages. The story is uplifting and all readers can enjoy the universal theme of new experiences, but also the theme of sibling bonds and of being proud of who you are .



Meet the Planets

By Caryl Hart

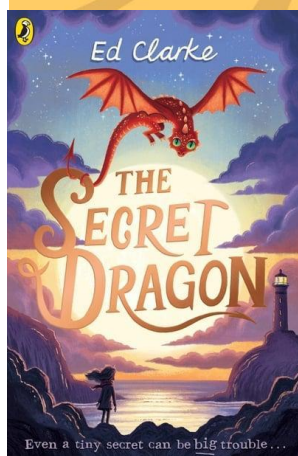
Let's go on a fabulous journey and meet all the planets up high! It would take much too long in a car or a bus, so we'll climb into a rocket and fly! 5...4...3...2...1...BLAST OFF!

Join in with the fun rhymes as we go on an exciting space expedition to say HELLO to all the planets in the solar system....ZOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

This is the perfect picture book for all would-be astronauts!

Recommended by Mrs Ashton &
Miss Smith

Miss Malpas' book recommendations



The Secret Dragon

By E.J. Clarke

'If you're not an animal that's alive today, and you're not an animal that's extinct either, what on earth are you?'

Mari Jones is desperate to be a real scientist, even though she's only eleven. So when she discovers a tiny dragon while fossil hunting on the beach, she is sure she can find a good scientific explanation—as long as she can keep it hidden long enough to study. Unfortunately, for Mari, this is one secret that doesn't want to be kept. As she starts to form a deeper bond with the mischievous dragon, she might have to admit that, when it comes to friendship, science might not have all the answers...

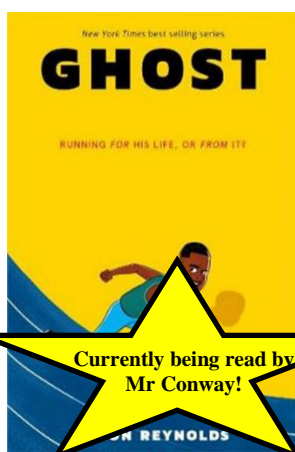
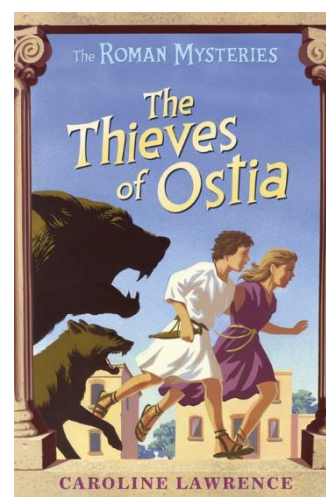
The Thieves of Ostia

By Caroline Lawrence

This story is an exciting adventure set in Ancient Rome about four children: Flavia, a free-born Roman girl; Nubia, a slave girl bought by Flavia; Jonathan, a Jewish boy who lives next door to Flavia and Lupus a boy without a tongue.

The story centres around Flavia and her new friends trying to investigate who is responsible for the dog killings which have recently happened. A band of rabid dogs are also on the loose and are terrorising anyone foolish enough to go to the tombs near Flavia's house.

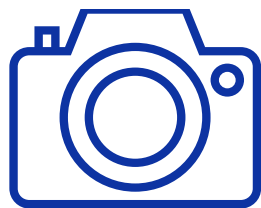
If you like adventure stories then I would really recommend this book. However, I would suggest the audience is Year 5+ due to some of the gory descriptions. If you are interested in Ancient Rome, then these books are perfect to stimulate your imagination and increase your knowledge because the author interweaves historical fact and literary description brilliantly!



Ghost

By Jason Reynolds

Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons – until he meets Coach who sees something in Ghost: crazy, natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?



PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



For regular updates make sure you follow us on Twitter: [@SchoolCharlton](https://twitter.com/SchoolCharlton)

New email: Officech@charlton.vale-academy.org