



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our latest Library Newsletter! I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas break and have had a brilliant start to 2023. This month's newsletter includes our usual Author of the Month feature, a Book of the Month chosen by one of our Student Librarians, Mrs Smallwood's Poem of the Month and my recommended reads. We have news about our Scholastic Book Fair plus the most up-to-date library information to share this month too, and don't forget to check out the monthly challenge at the end of the newsletter. Now that we have reached 2023 we don't have long to wait until World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March so keep your eyes peeled for next month's newsletter which will have all the details!

Mrs Ireland

THE STUDENT LIBRARIANS' BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde –
Chosen By Sahar G

A known classic for good reasons, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde is a fantastic read with many intriguing concepts. The book itself follows a young man named Dorian Gray who has a painting that ages for him meaning he never ages. It is interesting to observe the growing narcissistic nature of Dorian (although it was quite a noticeable trait of his since the introduction) but also how the novella reflects the story of narcissism.

I definitely recommend this to those wanting to start getting into classics but not to those seeking faster paced books as there are many intricate descriptions embedded within the text.



LATEST NEWS

Library Opening Hours

	Before School 8.00am-8.30pm	Break 10.35am-10.50am	Early/Late Lunch 11.50am-12.45pm	Home Learning Club 2.40pm-4.00pm
MONDAY	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
TUESDAY	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
WEDNESDAY	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN
THURSDAY	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
FRIDAY	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED



LATEST NEWS

Student Librarian Recruitment

Your library needs YOU!

We are on the lookout for some more Student Librarians to join our brilliant team. Applications are open to Year 8, 9 and 10 students at the present time – please email library@beaufort.hants.sch.uk or come by the library to pick up a form to fill in.

If you are in Year 7 and are interested in becoming a Student Librarian applications will open for you after Easter.

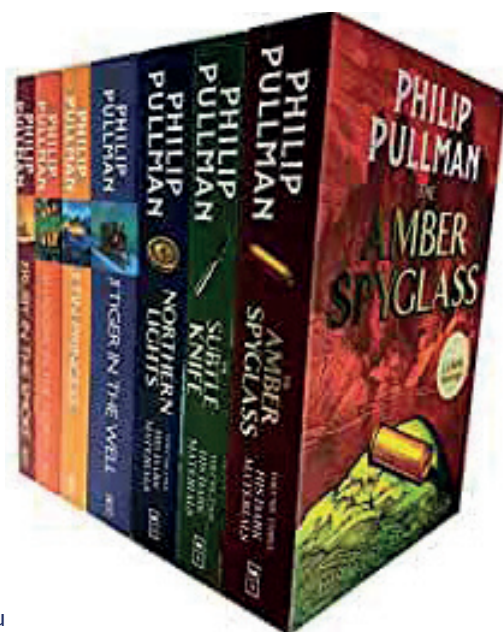
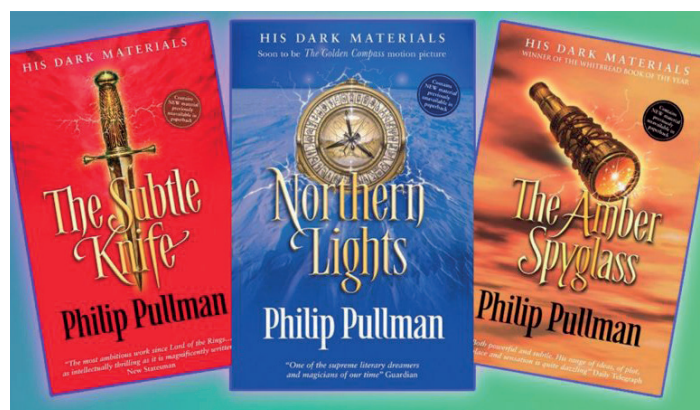
Student Librarian of the Month: December

Well done to Sahar, our Student Librarian of the month for December. Sahar helped every day of the Book Fair making sure all of the books were presented well and keeping an eye on stock levels. She also carried out her normal duties in the library very well too. Congratulations Sahar!

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

Phillip Pullman

Pullman's most famous work is *His Dark Materials* series, which centres on Lyra Belacqua, a young girl who lives in a parallel world ruled by the sinister Church (or Magisterium). *Northern Lights*, the first volume of the trilogy, won the 1996 Carnegie Medal in Literature and was adapted into a major film. It was followed by *The Subtle Knife* (1997) and *The Amber Spyglass* (2000). The latter volume won the Whitbread Book Award in 2001. Each book was subsequently adapted into a BBC radio play and a TV series based on the books was first seen in 2019. In addition, Pullman wrote a series of companion works centring on various characters featured in the series.

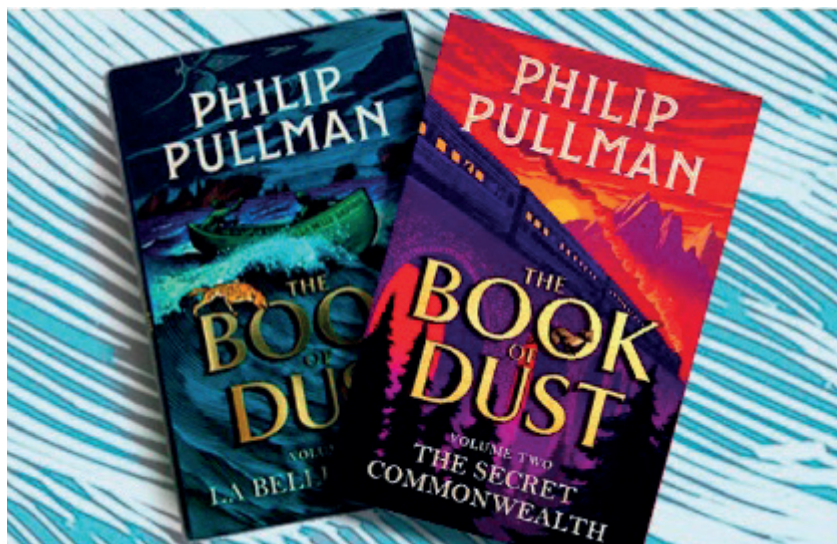




AUTHOR OF THE MONTH CONTINUED

The Northern Lights pivots on its extraordinary worldbuilding—in a world both like and very unlike our own, magic exists, science is ascendant, and all people are accompanied by a shapeshifting animal called a dæmon, a sort of outer manifestation of their inner soul. Lyra herself embarks on a journey to save her friend Roger, who's been kidnapped by an oppressive religious order. Lyra encounters aeronauts; talking, armoured polar bears; and witches along the way. This really is exciting stuff, which can be enjoyed by lovers of fantasy fiction and people who love brilliantly plotted stories.

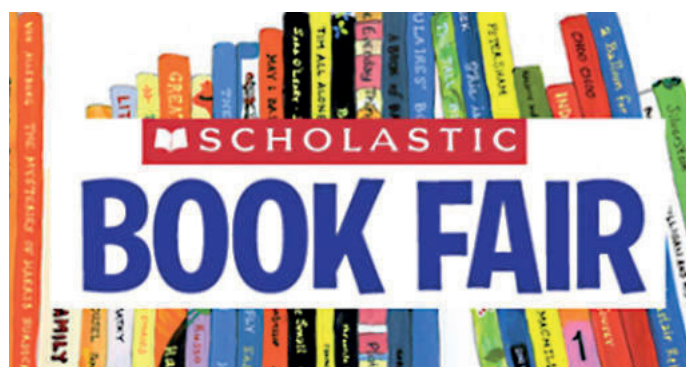
LINK: [Philip Pullman and Ruth Wilson on His Dark Materials | In Conversation](#)



LIBRARY NEWS

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to all students, parents and staff who supported our Book Fair before Christmas. As a result of our excellent sales of £467.25 we will now get rewards to spend on new books for our school library. The Student Librarians who helped run the Book Fair will have a choice on what books we will order as a thank you for everything they did to help.





MRS SMALLWOOD'S POEM OF THE MONTH

The Tyger by William Blake

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?
And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat.
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?

What the anvil? what dread grasp.
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?
When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?
Tyger Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?



I love this poem. So many of us will have heard it before- it was read to me when I was a small child and I heard it again at primary school. But I also came across it when I studied William Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience at A Level. And what a wonderful poet he is!

Blake is simultaneously a poet and artist – which makes him seem so very contemporary. In *The Tyger*, Blake combines a childlike portrait of the most beautiful and dangerous of cats with verses that contemplate this creature – still a near myth to Europeans in the 18th century – as an image of all that is sublime in nature. For Blake it is not the beauty but the ferocity of the tiger that makes it a miracle of nature.

Now when you look at Blake's illustration of this poem, his picture is much cuddlier than the words beside it suggest. In fact, the purple and golden colours of Blake's big cat make it a dream creature, one that is not quite real. In the last line of his poem, he acknowledges this, for the poet himself becomes the creator, pausing on the edge of danger: will he "dare" to frame that fearful symmetry? Is this merely a tyger of the imagination? However, not only is he alluding to himself as creator of this tyger he is, in many people's eyes, asking about the very nature of God, who in the 18th Century, would have been regarded by many as the creator of all.





MRS IRELAND'S RECOMMENDED READS

This month's Fiction Focus is Fantasy. If you're a fan of the magical and supernatural then a fantasy read will be right up your street. These are some of my favourite fantasy picks from our school library:

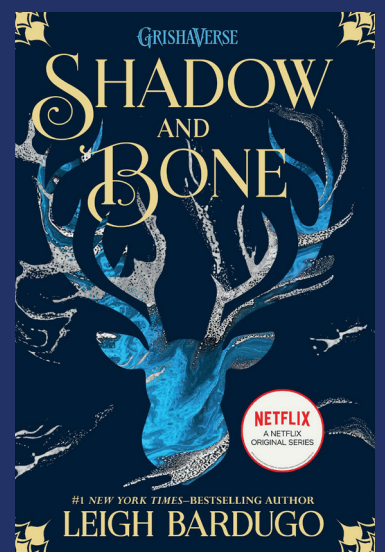
Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo

Soldier. Summoner. Saint. Orphaned and expendable, Alina Starkov is a soldier who knows she may not survive her first trek across the Shadow Fold - a swath of unnatural darkness crawling with monsters. But when her regiment is attacked, Alina unleashes dormant magic not even she knew she possessed.

Now Alina will enter a lavish world of royalty and intrigue as she trains with the Grisha, her country's magical military elite - and falls under the spell of their notorious leader, the Darkling. He believes Alina can summon a force capable of destroying the Shadow Fold and reuniting their war-ravaged country, but only if she can master her untamed gift.

As the threat to the kingdom mounts and Alina unlocks the secrets of her past, she will make a dangerous discovery that could threaten all she loves and the very future of a nation.

Shadow and Bone is the first book in the series following protagonist Alina Starkov, written by the talented Leigh Bardugo. The book draws you in to the magical story from the first page and takes the reader on a journey of twists and turns. Now a popular Netflix series, Shadow and Bone won't disappoint fantasy or action fans.



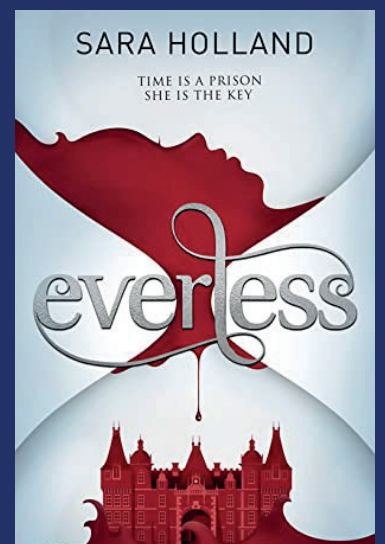
Everless by Sara Holland (T+)

In the land of Sempera, the rich control everything - even time. Ever since the age of alchemy and sorcery, hours, days and years have been extracted from blood and bound to iron coins. The rich live for centuries; the poor bleed themselves dry.

Jules and her father are behind on their rent and low on hours. To stop him from draining himself to clear their debts, Jules takes a job at Everless, the grand estate of the cruel Gerling family.

There, Jules encounters danger and temptation in the guise of the Gerling heir, Roan, who is soon to be married. But the web of secrets at Everless stretches beyond her desire, and the truths Jules must uncover will change her life for ever ... and possibly the future of time itself.

Sara Holland is a fantastic author who's writing immediately entices the reader. Everless is no exception with its effortless flow and brilliant descriptions. Everless is the perfect read for fans of darker fantasy.



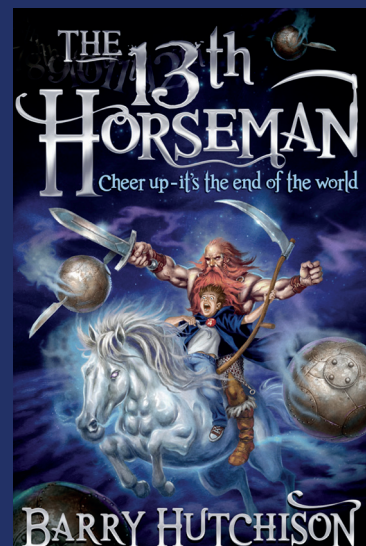


MRS IRELAND'S RECOMMENDED READS CONTINUED

The 13th Horseman by Barry Hutchison

Drake is surprised to find three horsemen of the apocalypse playing snakes and ladders in his garden shed. He's even more surprised when they insist that he is one of them. They're missing a Horseman, having gone through several Deaths and they think that Drake is the boy for the job. At first he's reluctant to usher in Armageddon but does being in charge of Armageddon have to spell the end of the world?

This brilliant comical spin on the fantasy genre is the ideal read for fans of Chris Stewart, Paul Riddell and Terry Pratchett. The 13th Horseman is the first of the Afterworlds series and the perfect book for those who enjoy a lighter fantasy or comedy read. Hutchison's writing is witty and compelling.



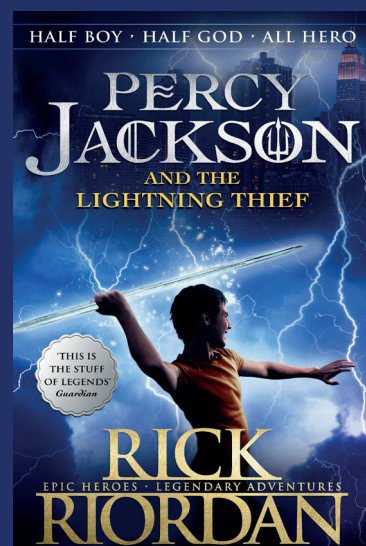
Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

I was just a normal kid, I went to school (got expelled a lot, but that wasn't my fault), played sports and hung out with my best friend. Until I accidentally vaporized my maths teacher.

Now, I spend my time at Camp Half Blood, battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive.

And now that Zeus thinks I've stolen his lightning bolt, staying alive is going to be even harder...

The Percy Jackson series has been a fan-favourite for many years for good reason – Riordan's storytelling is fantastic and the brilliant blend between the historical and the magical makes this book an exciting read that you won't be able to put down. This fantasy pick is perfect for those interested in mythology as well as fans of action and adventure.





MONTHLY CHALLENGE

Can you match the fantasy book titles to their movie adaptations?

Hint: there are 5 movies and 7 titles so two are there to throw you off!

- a. The Lord of the Rings
- b. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
- c. Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief
- d. The Golden Compass
- e. The Hunger Games
- f. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
- g. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

