



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our first Library Newsletter of the 2023-24 academic year! There's lots of exciting recommendations, information on upcoming events and the latest news. Every newsletter this year will include a Book of the Half Term chosen by our brilliant Student Librarian team. There will be a selection of my Recommended Reads and information on the Genre Focus and Author of the Half Term. Look out for Mrs Smallwood's Poem of the Half Term in each newsletter too. Remember that as well as our fantastic selection in the library all students have access to Sora, our free online eBook platform. There's a link and simple login guide on the school website, or you can download the app for free to read on the go. As well as eBooks there's a huge selection of magazines and audiobooks to suit readers with all sorts of interests. Happy reading (or listening) everyone!

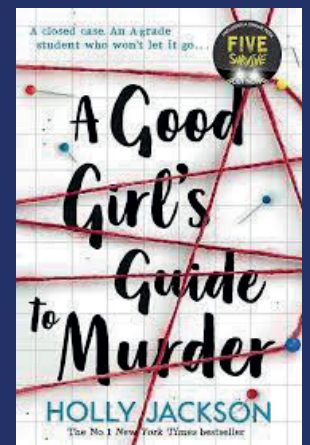
Mrs Ireland

## THE STUDENT LIBRARIANS' BOOK OF THE MONTH

### A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson

The case is closed. Five years ago, schoolgirl Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. The police know he did it. Everyone in town knows he did it. But having grown up in the same small town that was consumed by the crime, Pippa Fitz-Amobi isn't so sure. When she chooses the case as the topic for her final project, she starts to uncover secrets that someone in town desperately wants to stay hidden. And if the real killer is still out there, how far will they go to keep Pip from the truth . . .

The first book in this hugely popular series is a must read for anyone who enjoys a thriller. Jackson combines fantastic story-telling with a gripping plot making for an outstanding read that is recommended by all who read it.



## OPENING TIMES

### 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	OPEN	OPEN
THURSDAY	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN
FRIDAY	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED



## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Student Librarians

We have a new Student Librarian team for this year as we said a sad farewell to last year's Senior Student Librarians.

We welcome back Sahar, Julia and Josh, who continue in the team this year and welcome ten new members to the team. Congratulations to all of you for your successful appointments.

### 2023-24 Senior Student Librarians:

Sahar G

Julia C

### 2023-24 Student Librarians:

Josh AB

Elliot P

Lola W

Imogen W

Edward T

Cristian T

Leilo H

Jasmine W

Laura S

Skyla S

### Coming Up Next Half Term

Scholastic Book Fair: Wednesday 6th December – Monday 11th December

Our annual Book Fair will take place in the library in December and will be open to students to browse and buy before school, at break and at lunch. More information will be sent to parents/carers in November!



SCHOLASTIC



## AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

### Caroline Lawrence -

Caroline Lawrence: Myths, Movies and Storytelling - A. G. Leventis WCN Ancient Worlds Study Day 2019 - YouTube

### The Roman Mysteries

This 17-book series about a Roman girl who solves mysteries started when I had a lightbulb moment: Nancy Drew in Ancient Rome! But if 18-year-old Nancy (a fictional girl detective) had lived in Roman times she would be married with about three kids. So, Flavia Gemina is only ten when she solves her first mystery and meets a diverse trio of friends: her Jewish next-door-neighbour Jonathan, shy slave girl Nubia and a feral beggar boy named Lupus who cannot speak but only growls. Over the next few years Flavia, Jonathan, Nubia and Lupus grow up as they solve many mysteries and have adventures all over the empire. With compelling characters, thrilling plots and conscious accuracy about historical detail, The Roman Mysteries are beloved of teachers, parents and most of all, kids. Ten of the 17 episodes were televised by the BBC in 2007 and 2008. That seems like a long time ago, but ancient Rome is timeless. And so are The Roman Mysteries.

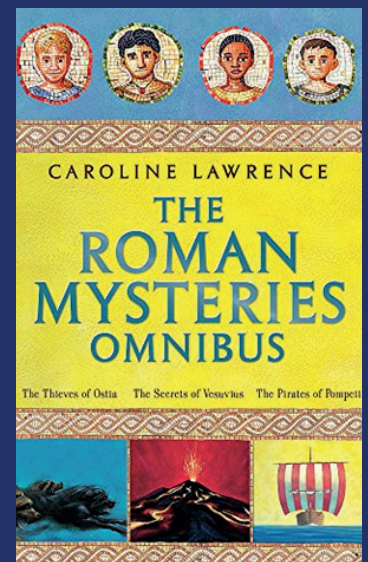


### Review taken from The Guardian Newspaper

The year is 79 AD. Flavia, Nubia, Jonathan and Lupus are four young friends who live in Ostia and love solving mysteries. They gain a reputation for uncovering plots and putting a stop to villains' plans. Their cases take them from a strange dog-killer in Ostia, to the danger of Pompeii at the eruption of Vesuvius, from hunting down a masked assassin attempting to murder the emperor to gladiator fights in Capua, from the famous Colossus of Rhodes in Greece to the chariot races at Delphi, from trekking along the Nile to the very heart of Rome itself, discovering adventure and romance at every turn. These four intelligent and fearless friends help many people but become embroiled in something larger and more sinister than they ever could have imagined. They end up running from danger, afraid for their lives. Will they ever return to their beloved Ostia and save the ones they love most?

I know that this series is aimed at younger readers but I think that they are enjoyable for all ages. A quick and enjoyable read, they are perfect for anyone who, like myself, enjoys adventure, romance and is interested in the Roman period. I had lots of fun reading this series of 22 books and learned a lot about the Roman era.

*"Flavia watched Flaccus lie down and close his eyes. She wanted to ask him a dozen questions. How had he found out they were back in Italia? Why was he helping them? What was marriage to Prudentilla like? Why had he looked so hurt when he found her kissing Tranquillus? Flaccus's muscular forearm was over his eyes to keep out the bright sunshine. Presently he fell asleep. His arm slipped back above his head and his forehead relaxed. Although he was twenty, he suddenly looked very young. Flavia swallowed hard. She realised she was still completely and utterly in love with him."* — Caroline Lawrence, The Roman Mysteries Complete Collection





## GENRE FOCUS

### HORROR

Horror is a genre that is intended to scare, shock and startle the reader. The key focus of a horror novel is to elicit a sense of fear and dread through the use of frightening themes, situations and language.

Horror fiction is often intertwined with other genres such as thriller, gothic, science-fiction and fantasy.

Come into the library to find a wide selection of horror novels, short stories and graphic novels, or visit Sora and have a look through the Halloween-inspired collections on the homepage.

## MRS SMALLWOOD'S POEM OF THE MONTH

### Refugees Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born  
there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

I think this is a brilliantly constructed poem. Read it and you think the speaker is completely unsympathetic to the plight of refugees. However, when you scrutinise the piece from the bottom a completely point of view is presented. I wonder where you think the poet's sympathies lie?





## MRS IRELAND'S RECOMMENDED READS

This half term's recommended reads have all recently been added to Sora as audiobooks – log in now and find the 'new audiobook additions' section on the homepage for over 200 new books!

### Last One To Die by Cynthia Murphy

Young, brunette women are being attacked in London. 16-year-old, Irish-born Niamh has just arrived for a summer of freedom, and quickly discovers that the girls being attacked look frighteningly similar to her. But Niamh is determined not to let her fear destroy her Summer.

But can her new friends be trusted? Will she be able to stay ahead of the attacker? Or will she be next?

This thrilling novel is perfect for fans of the 'One of Us' series and those who love a creepy read!



### Thieves' Gambit by Kayvion Lewis

Challenge: Join the Thieves' Gambit, a cut-throat competition to crown the world's greatest thief

Rule 1: Never fall in love with your opponent

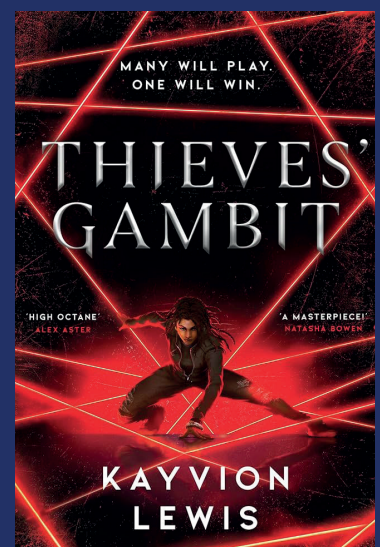
Rule 2: The only thief you can trust is yourself

Endgame: Win the heist to save your family - and yourself.

Seventeen-year-old Rosalyn Quest was raised by a legendary family of thieves with one rule: trust no one. When her mother is kidnapped, her only chance to save her is to win the Thieves' Gambit - a deadly competition for the world's best thieves, where the victor is granted one wish.

To win, she must outwit all of her backstabbing competitors, including her childhood archnemesis. But can she take victory from the handsome, charming boy who makes a play for her heart and might be hiding the most dangerous secret of all?

Thieves' Gambit is the perfect combination of action, mystery and fantasy for those who love a gripping page-turner.





## MRS IRELAND'S RECOMMENDED READS CONTINUED

### Greenwild: The World Behind The Door by Pari Thomson

Open the door to a spellbinding world where the wilderness is alive and a deep magic rises from the earth itself.

Daisy Thistledown has recently escaped from boarding school, and has a mystery to solve. The trail will lead her through a hidden doorway to the Greenwild, a rich and verdant land bursting with magic. There, Daisy finds herself confronting a dangerous presence that threatens green magic on both sides of the door. Daisy must band together with a botanical genius, a boy who can talk to animals, and a cat with an attitude, to channel the power that can save the Greenwild - and her own world too.

The first book in the Greenwild series, *The World Behind the Door* is an enchanting and compelling read – great for those who enjoy magic and adventure!



### A British Girl's Guide to Hurricanes and Heartbreak by Laura Taylor Namey

Winchester has always been home for Flora, but when her mother dies, Flora feels untethered. Her family expects her to apply to university and take a larger role in their tea-shop business, but Flora isn't so sure. More than ever, she's the chaotic 'hurricane' in her household, and she doesn't always know how to manage her stormy emotions. So she decides to escape to Miami without telling anyone - especially her longtime friend Gordon Wallace.

But Flora's tropical change of scenery doesn't cast away her self-doubt. When it comes to university, she has no idea which passions she should follow. That's also true in romance. Flora's summer abroad lands her in the flashbulb world of teen influencer Baz Marin, a Miami Cuban who shares her love for photography. But Flora's more conflicted than ever when she begins to see future architect Gordon in a new light.

Laura Taylor Namey beautifully encapsulates the feelings of grief and healing after loss in this endearing read – with a bonus local connection to Winchester too!

