



Low Road and Windmill  
Music Federation

# Reading Newsletter

Hello, one and all! Welcome to Low Road and Windmill Music Federation's first ever Reading Newsletter. At the Music Federation, reading is at the heart of everything we do and we are passionate about promoting a love of reading to all within our communities. This newsletter will highlight upcoming events and books that will help children understand the topics in more detail. Also, there is a section from Mr Evans about recommended reads for different ages.

Enjoy, and remember:

*'The more you read, the more you know. The more you know, the more places you'll go.'* - Dr Seuss

## Upcoming

### Events



#### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a poignant day in the British calendar. We remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the good of others.

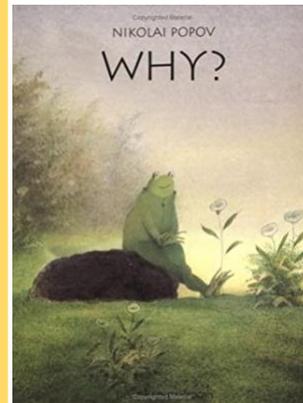
*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them"*

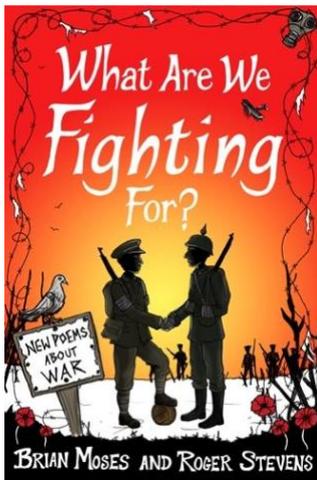
- Laurence Binyon

## Years 1 & 2

#### **Why? By Nikolai Popov**

A frog finds a beautiful flower and picks it for himself. When a mouse sees him with it, his jealousy overcomes him, and he swipes it. Frog's friends come to his aid and chase the mouse away. But before the frogs can celebrate, Mouse's friends return for a counter-attack. Before long the conflict has devolved into a full-scale frog-mouse war. By the end of it, all either side can ask is: why? This seemingly simple book tackles an important subject and will be an invaluable way to talk to young children about conflict and warfare





### **What Are We Fighting For? Brian Moses and Roger Stevens**

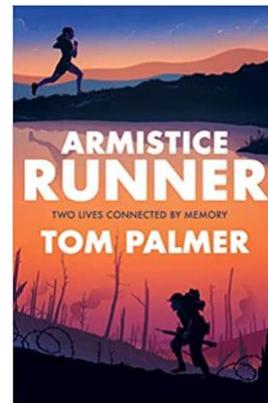
This book explores the concept of war in a brilliantly accessible way for younger readers. Fascinating and moving in equal measure, there are poems about incredibly brave dogs, cats and pigeons; the Christmas truce of WWI when soldiers played football in No Man's Land; poems about rationing and what it was like to be an evacuee, poems about modern warfare and the reality of war today; plus lots of amazing true historical facts.

Years 3 & 4

Years 5 & 6

### **Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer**

Lily has lots of worries. She's struggling to compete in her fell-running races and, worse, she's losing her gran to Alzheimer's. But then she discovers her great-great-grandfather's diaries from the First World War. Could his incredible story of bravery help her reconnect with her gran and even give her the inspiration she needs to push through and win?



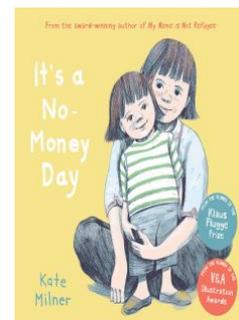
### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November: World Kindness Day**

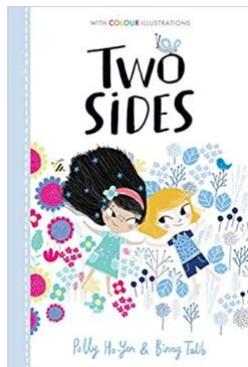
On World Kindness Day, groups and individual people are encouraged to go out of their way to be kind to others, whether that be at home, work, school, or just out in public. Celebrate by pledging to do at least one intentional act of kindness on that day to benefit someone else.

Years 1 & 2

### **It's A No Money Day by Kate Milner**

Mum works really hard, but today there is no money left and no food in the cupboards. Forced to visit the local foodbank, Mum feels ashamed that they have to rely on the kindness of others, but her young daughter can still see all the good in her day like reading and drawing, and even the foodbank. Maybe one day things will be different but for now together they brighten up even the darkest of days. A moving insight into the sad rise and necessity of foodbanks from the perspective of society's most vulnerable, and an essential book to help develop empathy in younger readers.



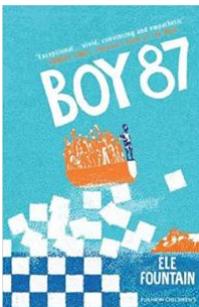


#### Two Sides by Polly Ho Yen

Lula and Lenka are best friends and total opposites – Lula is a Dog Person and Lenka is a Cat Person; Lula is super messy and Lenka is neat and tidy; Lula likes talking to people and Lenka likes watching people – but together they make the perfect pair. Until The Day that Everything Goes Wrong, and suddenly the girls are no longer friends. What started as a day like any other ends with Lula and Lenka ignoring each other and sitting on opposite sides of the classroom. As the days go by Lula makes a new friend who talks almost as much as she does, while Lenka just plays on her own. In spite of feeling lonely, neither one is prepared to listen or forgive ... or to say sorry. Will it be this way forever?

Years 3 & 4

Years 5 & 6



#### Boy 87 by Ele Fountain

Fourteen-year-old Shif and his best friend Bini are ordinary boys with big ambitions, but their world implodes when they attract the attention of the military "giffa". Wrenched from their families, they're sent to a remote desert prison, where their cellmates are barely clinging on to life.

However, the boys' arrival sparks hope in the imprisoned men, and they give everything to ensure their escape. Reaching the nearest town, Shif has only just begun the perilous journey which he hopes will end in safety and freedom.

Set in an unnamed country, this is a timely and important book which illuminates the realities of life as a refugee. The first-person narration simply but powerfully conveys Shif's terror at the violence and cruelty he encounters, as well as his sense of loss. The horrors he is escaping are all too real, but this is ultimately a story about the power of kindness and the strength of the human spirit.

#### Monday 15 - Friday 19th November: Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual event held in the UK which aims to raise the awareness of bullying and highlight ways of responding to it and preventing it. At the Music Federation, we have a strong ethos of anti-bullying and the matter is taken very seriously. We will encourage both pupils and staff to wear odd socks to show solidarity with the message anti-bullying week brings and to celebrate that we are all unique.



Years 1 & 2

**Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell**

Molly Lou Melon doesn't look or sound like her other friends, but with the encouragement of her grandmother, she gains self-esteem. Once she starts at a new school and bully starts picking on her, she uses her confidence to overcome and resolve the bullying. Molly Lou Melon charms her new classmates with her personality and talents.

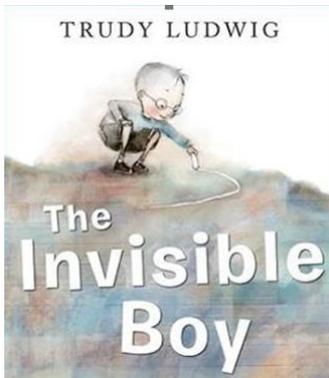


**The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig**

A simple act of kindness can transform an invisible boy into a friend...

Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody in class ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class.

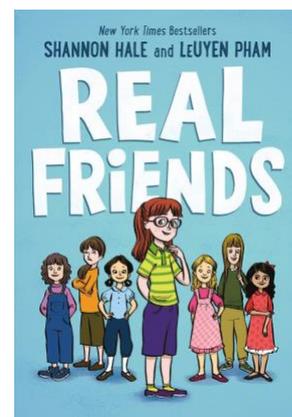
When Justin, the new boy, arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome. And when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine.



Years 3 & 4

**Real Friends by Trudy Shannon Hale**

Following little Shannon's life from kindergarten through fifth grade, Real Friends captures the emotional roller coaster ride of friendship, from navigating the tricky waters of cliques and bullies to her never-ending struggle to stay in 'The Group.' Shannon's honest and heartfelt story reminds us of how hard it was to learn what real friends are - and why finding them is worth the journey.



Years 5 & 6

All of the books suggested for each event will give children a better insight into each subject. They will hopefully spark questions, which will deepen their understanding. More titles and ideas for specific books can be found at [Books For Topics](#) (click the link for the website). There is a wide variety of texts that your child will definitely enjoy.

# Mr Evans Recommends

Each day in every class, children are read to by an adult. The 'class novel' is carefully chosen by staff to ensure pupils are engaged and challenged by the text. We do this as one of the many ways in which reading for pleasure is promoted by staff. As English Lead, I am keen for pupils to receive a rich diet of texts to both broaden a child's knowledge and deepen their understanding of the world. Below are selected texts that will really challenge our pupils. Happy reading!



### Big Bad Bun by Jeanne Willis

There never was a rabbit as bad as Big Bad Bun. Or so you'd think if you read the letter which he left on his bed after school one day...but it turns out Big Bad Bun (whose real name is actually Fluff) might not be as bad as he makes out. His school report aside, that is!

Years 1 & 2

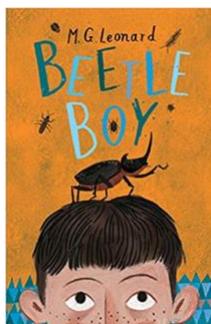
### The Accidental Prime Minister by Tom McLaughlin

When Joe tells a local news reporter exactly what he would do if he were leader of the country, the video goes viral and Joe's speech becomes famous all over the world! Before long, people are calling for the current leader to resign and give someone else a go . . . and that's how an ordinary boy like Joe ended up with the most extraordinary job. Now the fun can really start . . . Hats for cats! Pet pigs for all! Banana shaped buses! Swimming pools on trains!

A hilarious story of one boy's meteoric rise to power!



Years 3 & 4



### Beetle Boy by M G Leonard

Darkus can't believe his eyes when a huge insect drops out of the trouser leg of his horrible new neighbour. It's a giant beetle – and it seems to want to communicate.

But how can a boy be friends with a beetle? And what does a beetle have to do with the disappearance of his dad and the arrival of Lucretia Cutter, with her taste for creepy jewellery?

Years 5 & 6