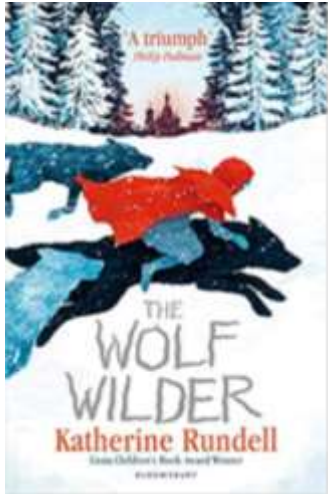


## St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School - Staff Book Recommendations

Mrs Partridge recommends...

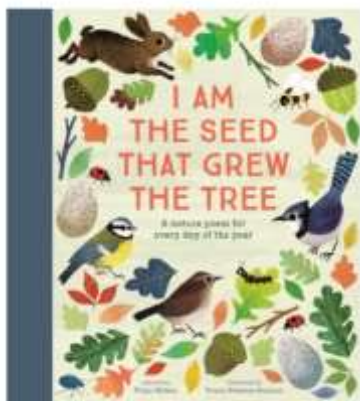


Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia, in a house full of food and fireplaces. Ten minutes away, in a ruined chapel, lives a pack of wolves. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. A wolf wilder is the opposite of an animal tamer: it is a person who teaches tamed animals to fend for themselves, and to fight and to run, and to be wary of humans.

When the murderous hostility of the Russian Army threatens her very existence, Feo is left with no option but to go on the run. What follows is a story of revolution and adventure, about standing up for the things you love and fighting back. And, of course, wolves.

**I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would recommend it to Year 5 and 6 readers.**

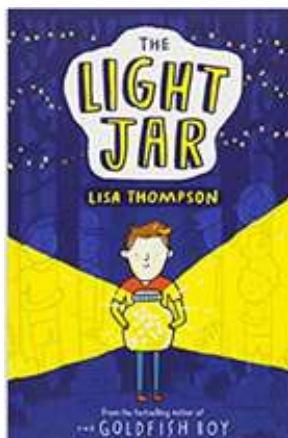
Mrs Partridge recommends...



A beautiful collection of poems from poets old and new. A firm favourite with 2P (2018-19). A poem for every day of the year.

**I'd recommend this to Year 2 right through to Year 6 and beyond.**

Mrs Partridge recommends...



The Light Jar by Lisa Thompson

Nate and his mother are running away, hiding out in a tumbledown cottage in the middle of a forest. When Mum heads off for provisions, and then doesn't return, Nate is left alone and afraid, with the dark closing in all around him. But comfort can come from the most unexpected of places - a mysterious girl trying to solve the clues of a treasure hunt and the reappearance of an old friend from his past. Will Nate find the bravery needed to face the troubles of his present and ultimately illuminate the future?

**I highly recommend this book to Year 5 and 6 readers.**

Mrs Partridge recommends...



Coming Home by Michael Morpurgo, with stunning illustrations by Kerry Hyndman, is a beautiful Christmas story about a plucky little robin who sets out on an epic journey.

Another favourite of 2P's (2018-19).

**Recommended for Year 2 to Year 4 readers.**

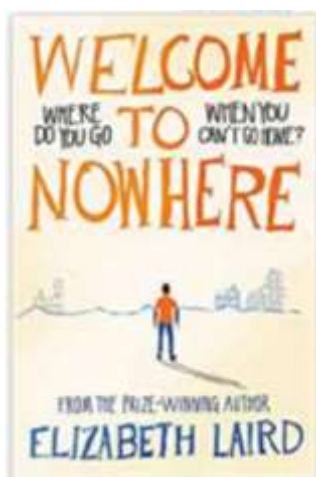
Mrs Partridge recommends...



Seven for a Secret by Laurence Anholt is told through letters sent between Ruby and her beloved Grandpa. Ruby lives in the city and Grandpa lives in the countryside.

2P (2018-19) loved this story. The children were eager to discuss the characters and events. I don't mind admitting that I cry every time I read it, so have tissues at the ready.

Mrs Partridge recommends...



*Welcome to Nowhere* is a powerful and beautifully written story about the life of one family caught up in civil war by the award-winning author Elizabeth Laird.

Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar doesn't care about politics - all he wants is to grow up to become a successful businessman who will take the world by storm. But when his clever older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some young political activists, everything changes . . .

Before long, bombs are falling, people are dying, and Omar and his family have no choice but to flee their home with only what they can carry. Yet no matter how far they run, the shadow of war follows them - until they have no other choice than to attempt the dangerous journey to escape their homeland altogether. But where do you go when you can't go home?

**Recommended by the Year 6 Book Club (2018-19) for Year 6 readers.**

Mrs Partridge recommends...

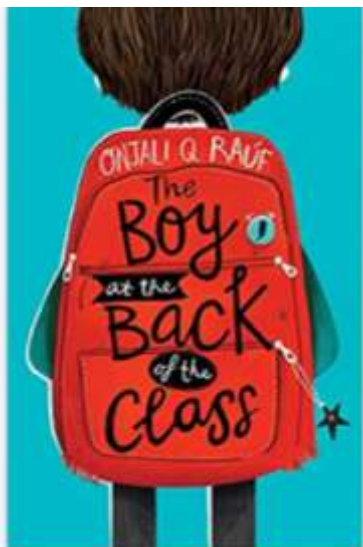


*Bigfoot, Tobin and Me* by Melissa Savage

Lemonade's mother named her for her favourite saying: *When life gives you lemons, make lemonade*. But now her mum's dead. After relocating to her grandpa's place in Bigfoot-obsessed Willow Creek, Lem meets Tobin. Quirky and determined, he's the CEO of Bigfoot Detectives, Inc. and sole investigator for the town. Lem is reluctantly enlisted as his assistant. Together, they try to capture a shot of the elusive beast on film, but what they find is even more amazing.

**Recommended for Year 5 and 6 readers.**

Mrs Partridge recommends...



The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Rauf

Told with heart and humour, *The Boy at the Back of the Class* is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.

There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it.

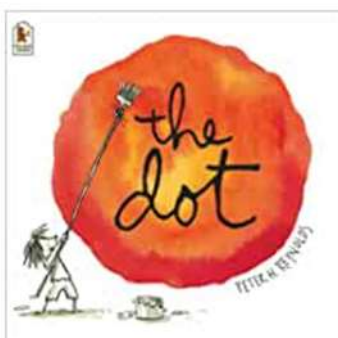
He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite!

But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help.

That's where my best friends Josie, Michael and Tom come in. Because you see, together we've come up with a plan. . .

**Recommended to Year 5 and 6 readers.**

Mrs Partridge recommends...



*The Dot* In this inspiring, award-winning story of self-expression and creativity from Peter H. Reynolds, illustrator of *Ish* and the *Judy Moody* series, Vashti thinks she can't draw. But her teacher is sure that she can. She knows that there's creative spirit in everyone, and encourages Vashti to sign the angry dot she makes in frustration on a piece of paper. This act makes Vashti look at herself a little differently, and helps her discover that where there's a dot there's a way... With wit, charm and free-spirited illustrations, Peter H. Reynolds encourages even the stubbornly uncreative among us to make a mark - and follow where it takes us.

**Recommended to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 readers.**

## Mrs Partridge recommends...



### **Red Leaves by Sita Brahmachari**

Aisha is a thirteen-year-old refugee living in London. Happy for the first time since leaving her war-torn home, she is devastated when her foster mother announces that a new family has been found for her and she will be moving on. Feeling rejected and abandoned, Aisha packs her bags and runs away, seeking shelter in the nearby woods.

Meanwhile, a few doors down, twelve-year-old Zak is trying to cope with his parents' divorce. Living in a near-building site while the new house is being refurbished, he feels unsettled and alone. Discovering a piece of rubble with the original builder's signature set into it, he starts researching the history behind his home - and in doing so finds a connection with a young soldier from the past, which leads him to an old air-raid shelter in the same woods.

Both children, previously unknown to each other, meet in the heart of the ancient city woodland as they come into the orbit of Elder, a strange homeless woman who lives amongst the trees - and, as helicopters hover overhead and newspapers fill with pictures of the two lost children, unexpected bonds are formed and lives changed forever .

**Recommended to Year 5 and 6 readers.**

## Mrs Partridge recommends...



### **Imaginary Fred by Eoin Colfer and Oliver Jeffers**

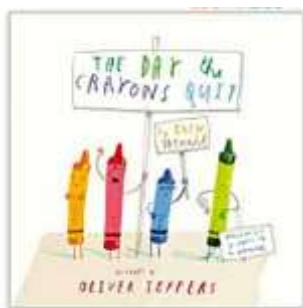
Sometimes, with a little electricity, or luck, or even magic, an imaginary friend might appear when you need one. An imaginary friend like Fred...

Fred floated like a feather in the wind until a lonely little boy wished for him and found a friendship like no other.

A lovely story of discovering friendship.

**Recommended to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 readers.**

## Mrs Partridge recommends...



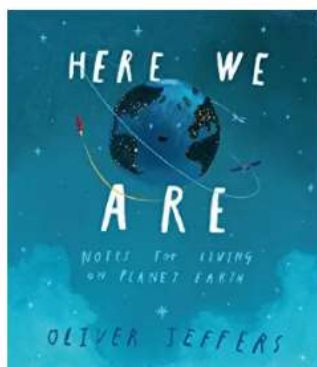
### The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers

Poor Duncan just wants to colour in. But when he opens his box of crayons, he only finds letters, all saying the same thing: We quit! Beige is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown, Blue needs a break from colouring in all that water, while Pink just wants to be used. Green has no complaints, but Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking to each other. The battle lines have been drawn. What is Duncan to do?

A brilliant book! 2P (2020 - 21) loved it.

**Recommended to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

## Mrs Partridge recommends...



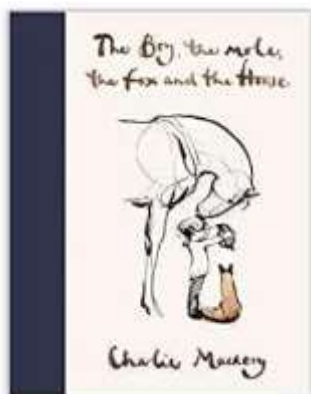
### Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers

Written as a manual to life on Earth from new dad Oliver Jeffers to his baby son, this simple, life-affirming picture book is both an overview of Earth and a guide to living well: concepts of kindness, tolerance and environmental responsibility flow seamlessly into the sparse but perfectly judged text.

A heart felt and thought-provoking book, perfect for the times we are living in.

**Recommended to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.**

## Mrs Partridge recommends...



The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy

'A wonderful work of art and a wonderful window into the human heart' Richard Curtis

**A book of hope for uncertain times.**

Enter the world of Charlie's four unlikely friends, discover their story and their most important life lessons.

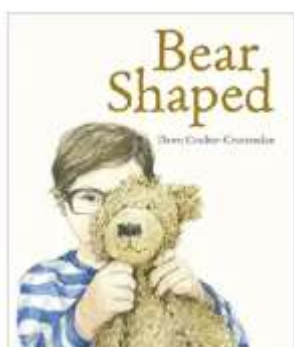
The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse have been shared millions of times online - perhaps you've seen them?

Here, you will find them together in this book of Charlie's most-loved drawings, adventuring into the Wild and exploring the thoughts and feelings that unite us all.

Perfect in every way! 2P bought this for me in July 2020, and I love it!

**Recommended for all ages.**

## Mrs Partridge recommends...



Bear Shaped by Dawn Coulter-Cruttenden

Jack and Bear are the best of friends. Jack loves Bear because he makes him feel brave. But one day Bear disappears and Jack suddenly feels all alone with a big Bear-shaped hole in his heart. Word soon gets around that Bear is missing and Jack starts to receive kind messages from strangers all over the world. Then the toy bears start to arrive. Though the bears start to heal Jack's sadness, none of them are Jack's bear. Perhaps there is something Jack can do with them to help the other people with bear-shaped holes. . .

A beautiful story of love, loss, and moving forward, inspired by the true story of Jack and his beloved Bear.

Enjoyed by 2P (October 2020)

**Recommended to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.**