



# Reading Newsletter: Summer Term



Only one half term left? It seems as if this year has flown by. Our children have really enjoyed the texts they have read throughout the year. Check out the books we'll be reading in class in our last half term of the year.



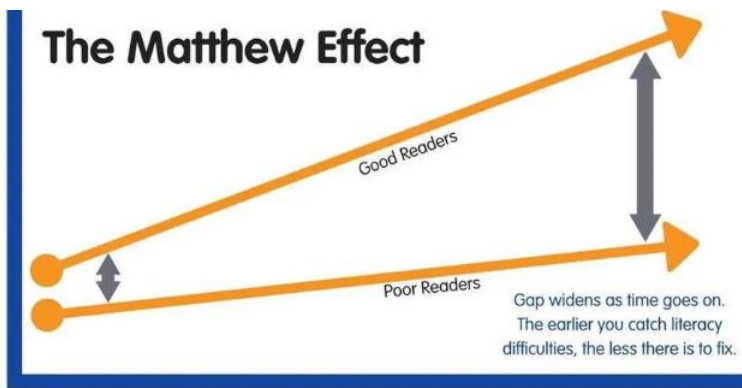
## Reading at Home

Did you know?

Reading for **just 20 minutes a day** means a child will have been exposed to over a million words a year and is 90% more likely to perform better at school.

A child who reads for 5 minutes will only experience around 250,000 words and will score better in tests than only 50% of their peers.

**Children who read more, do better.** Children who don't read may find it harder to progress as quickly as their peers. One in four children will find it difficult to access the secondary curriculum as a result.



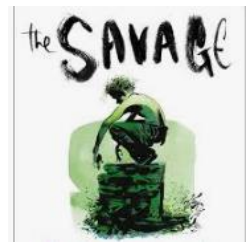
Stanovich (1986)

Age

Find more information about reading at home on our website.

Author  
In the  
**Spotlight**

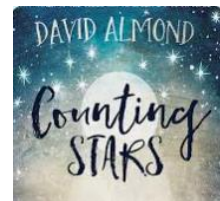
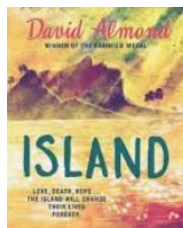
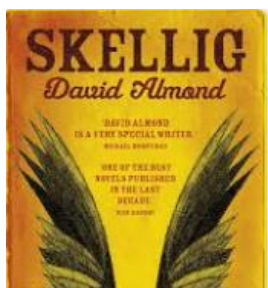
**David Almond**



**1. THE IMPERFECT AND BEAUTIFUL PROCESS OF CREATING A BOOK**

I knew, when I was young, that I wanted to write. I loved stories. I loved books. I'd go to our local library and dream that my books would stand on its shelves one day. But how could that be possible? The things that I loved were so intimidating. Their apparent perfection scared me stiff: all those words in perfect order, all those neat lines of print, those perfectly-printed pages. My work looked nothing like that. My messy mind looked nothing like that. How could anyone create such a thing? Maybe writers had special kinds of minds. Maybe the insides of writers' minds looked like the insides of their books.

But of course, for we human beings, there's no such thing as perfection. We're imperfect beings in an imperfect world and our imperfection is at the heart of creativity. Our minds are messy, crowded with memories, images, sensations, fleeting thoughts, fragments of tales and dreams, weird speculations, devils and angels, hopes and fears. Much of the mind blazes with light. Much of it is vague and shadowy. Much of it is pitch-black and unknown. The mind is fragile, like the body is, but it is also one of the most powerful things in the known universe. The mind creates our world, our civilisation. And each of us has one of these astonishing, imperfect, beautiful things.



**Reading Competition: Caught Reading**

In this final competition of the year, I would like you to capture yourself reading in the most unusual place you can think of. Take a picture or draw yourself and send it to...

[info@beechwoodjuniorschool.co.uk](mailto:info@beechwoodjuniorschool.co.uk). Prizes for the most unusual!

**Entries due in by 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Always get permission from an adult before attempting anything!**

