



Welcome to the Spring 1 edition of our reading newsletter. 2026 marks the National Year of Reading, a Department for Education initiative to help more people (re)discover the joy of reading and make it part of their everyday lives. In this digital world, it is easy to forget how reading expands our world and sharpens our minds, so let's make time for reading...

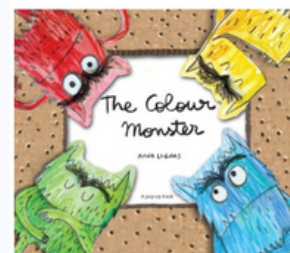
## Book Recommendations

With Children's Mental Health Week on 9<sup>th</sup> February, books are a wonderful way to help children learn about themselves and their feelings, and to share their worries in a safe way. The following books may help:

The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas

Treasured in households worldwide for its accessible, gentle and fun approach to talking about feelings, it's a stunning story with beautifully crafted collage artwork that represents each emotion in a unique and child-friendly way.

**EYFS**



**KS1**

Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival



When Ruby has a worry – depicted as a scribbly yellow shape – it is hardly noticeable at first, but it starts to grow and soon it's with her all the time, stopping her from doing the things she loved. Sensitive and very reassuring, this clever book teaches young children that talking about (and sharing) their worries can really help.

The Worries series by Jion Sheibani, offers gentle, thoughtful stories that help young readers recognise, name and understand their worries. Each book in the series explores common fears and anxieties children may experience, from a new baby in the family, to worrying about a sleepover.

**KS2**



# SJV Reading News



## DRAGONS, WORLDS & STORY MAGIC!

with Tom Moorhouse & Lucy Strange

Y5 and Y6 took part in an exciting live lesson on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February as part of National Storytelling Week. This livestream focused upon how stories can help us face the unknown, feel brave, and turn worries and mysteries into adventures.

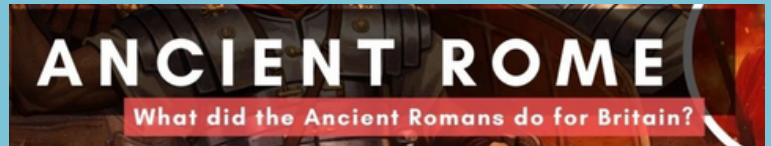
The session included guest authors Tom Moorhouse, author of 'Where the Dragon Waits', and Lucy Strange, author of 'The Storm and the Minotaur'. Both of these books are now available to borrow from our school library and are currently proving very popular!

### Year 4 Live!

I found it very beneficial as now we can apply similar approach when reading for pleasure at home.

Year 4 parents/carers were invited into school to take part in a 'live' reading lesson. Mr Lacey demonstrated the way reading is taught in our school, using the 'Are You Really Reading?' approach. Parents were able to see how we use emojis, hashtags and timelines to make reading more meaningful and build children's understanding. The feedback was very positive...

This modern and interactive approach made learning both fun and meaningful.



Y4 also took part in a live lesson on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February linked to their learning about the Romans. They went back in time nearly 2,000 years to Fishbourne Roman Palace, the largest Roman residence in Britain, exploring mosaics and artefacts. They also heard from historian Greg Jenner (author of 'Chaotic History: Romans' and host of BBC's 'You're Dead To Me') who talked about his book and Rome's lasting impact on Britain.

- **Book week: 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March (including our annual book fair and 'Reading Rocks' Cafe. Look out for a letter with more details soon...**