“There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book.”

—Frank Serafini

This booklet contains a list of great books suitable for KS3 students. It has been compiled in order to support pupils in their English studies, prepare them for future work and, most importantly, to introduce them to inspiring, gripping stories! Included are titles on the current curriculum, important classics and other highly recommended books.

Regular reading is a vital way to improve literacy and writing skills. Pupils who read often will widen their vocabulary, increase their creativity and deepen their understanding of English. Therefore, as a department we would like to work with you in encouraging your children to read whenever possible. This list can be used for ideas.
Holes by Louis Sachar is a staple for all Year 7 pupils, and will be studied during their first year at Archbishop Holgate’s.

A criminal isn't necessarily a bad guy, is he?

Stanley Yelnats isn't a criminal; he didn't steal a car or rob a bank. He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time. Doing something he thought would benefit his father, the inventor, and his mother.

Stanley, or 'Caveman' as the boys at Camp Green Lake call him, is a juvenile with a disturbing secret. He is the stereotypical bullied child, because he is overweight. He never knew what real friends were, until he met the colourfully named 'Armpit', 'X-ray', 'Zero', 'Zig-Zag' and 'Squid'.

You may ask what this book is about; well, it is true to the title. You never know what might turn up when you dig holes in the middle of a desert. Stanley and his new-found friends can only hope not to discover anything too awful...

Awards:
- U.S National Book Award for Young People’s Literature (1998)
- Newbery Medal (1999)

Review:
“Unmistakably powerful”
- Philip Pullman, The Guardian
The Weight of Water by Sarah Crossan is a book written as a series of poems – yet it reads just like a story. It’s therefore a great way of introducing children to poetry.

Armed with a suitcase and an old laundry bag filled with clothes, Kasienka and her mother head for England. Life is lonely for Kasienka. At home her mother’s heart is breaking and at school friends are scarce. But when someone special swims into her life, Kasienka learns that there might be more than one way for her to stay afloat.

The Weight of Water is a startlingly original piece of fiction; most simply a brilliant coming of age story, it also tackles the alienation experienced by many young immigrants. Moving, unsentimental and utterly page-turning, we meet and share the experiences of a remarkable girl who shows us how quiet courage prevails.

Awards:
- Shortlisted for the Carnegie Award 2013.

Review:
- ‘Succinct, with a gentle lyricism, the poems are telling about immigration, prejudice, self-delusion, families and first love, on the way to a life-changing conclusion’
  - The Sunday Times - Children’s Book of the Week
Awful Auntie by David Walliams

David Walliams is a number one bestseller, and is described as the “fastest-growing children’s author in the UK”. Awful Auntie is argued to be his best book to date and contains some outstanding illustrations.

Aunt Alberta is on a mission to cheat the young Lady Stella Saxby out of her inheritance - Saxby Hall. But with mischievous and irrepressible Soot, the cockney ghost of a chimney sweep, alongside her Stella is determined to fight back...And sometimes a special friend, however different, is all you need to win through.

Awards:

Review:
- ‘David Walliams’s best book yet’.
  - The Guardian
Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone

by J. K. Rowling

J. K. Rowling is best known for her Harry Potter books, since made into a series of blockbuster films. This is the first in the series and is a perfect introduction into the world of Hogwarts.

Harry Potter thinks he is an ordinary boy. He lives with his Uncle Vernon, Aunt Petunia and cousin Dudley, who are mean to him and make him sleep in a cupboard under the stairs. (Dudley, however, has two bedrooms, one to sleep in and one for all his toys and games.) Then Harry starts receiving mysterious letters and his life is changed forever. He is whisked away by a beetle-eyed giant of a man and enrolled at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The reason: Harry Potter is a wizard!

Awards:
- Nestlé Smarties Book Prize 1997 Gold Medal 9-11 years.

Review:
- “J.K. Rowling has woken up a whole generation to reading”.

- The Times
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis

Written in the 1940s, this is a long-lived children's classic which led to six sequels and has since been adapted into an award winning film.

C.S. Lewis' timeless adventure "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" follows the exploits of the four Pevensie siblings -- Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter -- in World War II England who enter the world of Narnia through a magical wardrobe while playing a game of 'hide-and-seek' in the rural country home of an elderly professor. Once there, the children discover a charming, peaceful land inhabited by talking beasts, dwarfs, fauns, centaurs and giants that has become a world cursed to eternal winter by the evil White Witch. Under the guidance of a noble and mystical ruler, the lion Aslan, the children must fight to overcome the White Witch's powerful hold over Narnia.

Awards:
This is a classic work of literature and the final book in the series, The Last Battle, received the Carnegie Award.

Review:
"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe is, in turn, beautiful, frightening, wise."

-The New York Times
Jacqueline Wilson is a famous children’s author who tackles challenging topics. Her books are renowned for their recognisable illustrations by Nick Sharratt.

Dolphin adores her mother, Marigold. She's got wonderful clothes, bright hair and vivid tattoos all over her body - a colourful lady, to match her colourful life. But Dolphin's older sister, Star, is beginning to wonder if living with Marigold's fiery, unpredictable moods is the best thing for the girls ...

Some of the hard-hitting issues discussed in this book include alcoholism; adult relationships; sex; adolescent anxiety towards their looks; separation from family; bullying; mental health issues and many others.

Awards:

Review:
- “Wilson's ability to write powerfully for children... and for adolescents - especially girls - is extraordinary. Her language is simple, her characters recognisable and her touch sure.”

-The Telegraph
Goosebumps is a series of children’s horror fiction short stories. They follow child characters who find themselves in scary situations. The books have gained immense popularity around the world.

Billy and his sister Sheena are visiting their uncle Dr. Deep on a tiny Caribbean island. It’s the perfect place for an underwater adventure... and Billy’s all ready to explore! There’s only one rule to remember: stay away from the coral reefs. But the reefs are so beautiful. So peaceful. Billy can’t resist. But he’s not alone in the water. Something else lurks deep below the surface. Something that’s dark and scaly. Something that no human eye should see...

Awards:

Review:
-“When R. L. Stine’s characters confront a creepy villain, they may gasp, they may shiver, they may even cringe. Mostly, though, they shriek.”
  -The New York Times
Stormbreaker is the first in the Alex Rider series. Is it a gripping, action packed novel which has since been released as a film.

When his guardian dies in suspicious circumstances, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider finds his world turned upside down. Forcibly recruited into MI6, Alex has to take part in gruelling SAS training exercises. Then, armed with his own special set of secret gadgets, he's off on his first mission to Cornwall, where Middle-Eastern multi-billionaire Herod Sayle is producing his state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers. Sayle has offered to give one free to every school in the country – but there's more to the gift than meets the eye.

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Awards:
- California Young Reader’s Medal 2005.
- In 2014, Horowitz was an OBE for Services to Literature.

Review:
- “Anthony Horowitz is the lion of children’s literature”.

-Michael Morpurgo
Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland is a classic novel for any younger reader. It is both charming and utterly absurd, and will awaken the imagination!

In the most renowned novel by English author Lewis Carroll, restless young Alice literally stumbles into adventure when she follows the hurried, time-obsessed White Rabbit down a hole and into a fantastical realm where animals can talk, there seems to be no logic, and royalty tends to be exceedingly unpleasant. Each playfully engaging chapter presents absurd scenarios involving an unforgettable cast of characters, including the grinning Cheshire Cat and the short-tempered Queen of Hearts.

Awards:
- The 1999 edition of the book was awarded the Kate Greenaway Award for excellent illustrations.

Review:
- “Lewis Carroll’s brilliant nonsense tale is one of the most influential and best loved in the English canon.”
  - The Guardian
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
by Roald Dahl

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014 and is perhaps Roald Dahl’s best known story.

Charlie longs to see inside Mr Willy Wonka’s enormous chocolate factory. Now Mr Wonka, the most wondrous inventor in the world, has hidden golden tickets inside his delicious creamy chocolate bars. Only five winners can go through those great iron gates. Will one of them be Charlie?

Awards:
- Blue Peter Book Award 2000

Review:
- “A bestseller since its first publication, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory has been adored by generations.”
  - The Guardian
Year 7

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
by Charles Dickens

A Christmas Carol is a true classic, and is taught at KS3 in many schools around the country. Charles Dickens is a much loved writer, and world renowned author. A Christmas Carol was met with instant success and critical acclaim.

If you love a good story, then look no further. Ebenezer Scrooge hates Christmas. It's all humbug to him. But one Christmas Eve, he is visited by the ghost of Jacob Marley, and then by three more spirits ...the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet To Come. Will the things they show Scrooge be enough to make him change his miserly ways and learn the true meaning of Christmas?

Review:

- “The moral of this book is to be generous at Christmas and enjoy what you have.”

-The Guardian
Cherub: The Recruit by Robert Muchamore

The Recruit is the first novel in the much-loved children’s fiction Cherub series. This is an exciting, action-packed book (at times depicting violence) which perfectly hooks its readers into the entire series.

A terrorist doesn’t let strangers in her flat because they might be undercover police or intelligence agents, but her children bring their mates home and they run all over the place. The terrorist doesn’t know that a kid has bugged every room in her house, cloned the hard drive on her PC, and copied all the numbers in her phone book.

The kid works for CHERUB. CHERUB is not James Bond. There are no master criminals or high-tech gadgets. CHERUB kids live in the real world. They slip under adult radar and get information that sends criminals and terrorists to jail. For official purposes, these children do not exist.

Awards:
- Red House Book Award Winner (2005)
- Richard and Judy Greatest Kids Reads Winner in the Fluent Readers Category.

Review:
- “Punchy, exciting, glamorous and, what’s more, you’ll completely wish it was true.”
  - The Sunday Express
Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

Michael Morpurgo is a world renowned fiction writer, and his books are enjoyed by thousands of readers. Many of his books have been re-told in different ways, from stage performances to films. *Private Peaceful* will be studied in Year 8 at Archbishop Holgate’s School.

Thomas “Tommo” Peaceful and his elder brother Charlie do everything together. They used to go to school together, face their problems together, sleep and eat together; they even loved the same girl... but now they have to face the many facets of war together. Can a bond and loyalty between brothers overcome the brutality of the front lines and bring them safely home? When the lines of heroism and cowardice collide, what can one man or even a brother do to fight the injustices of it all?

Awards:
- Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal.
- Winner: Red House Children’s Book Award.
- Winner: Blue Peter Book Award.

Review:
- “Full of warmth as well as grief, conveying vividly how precious it is to be alive...”
  - *The Sunday Times*