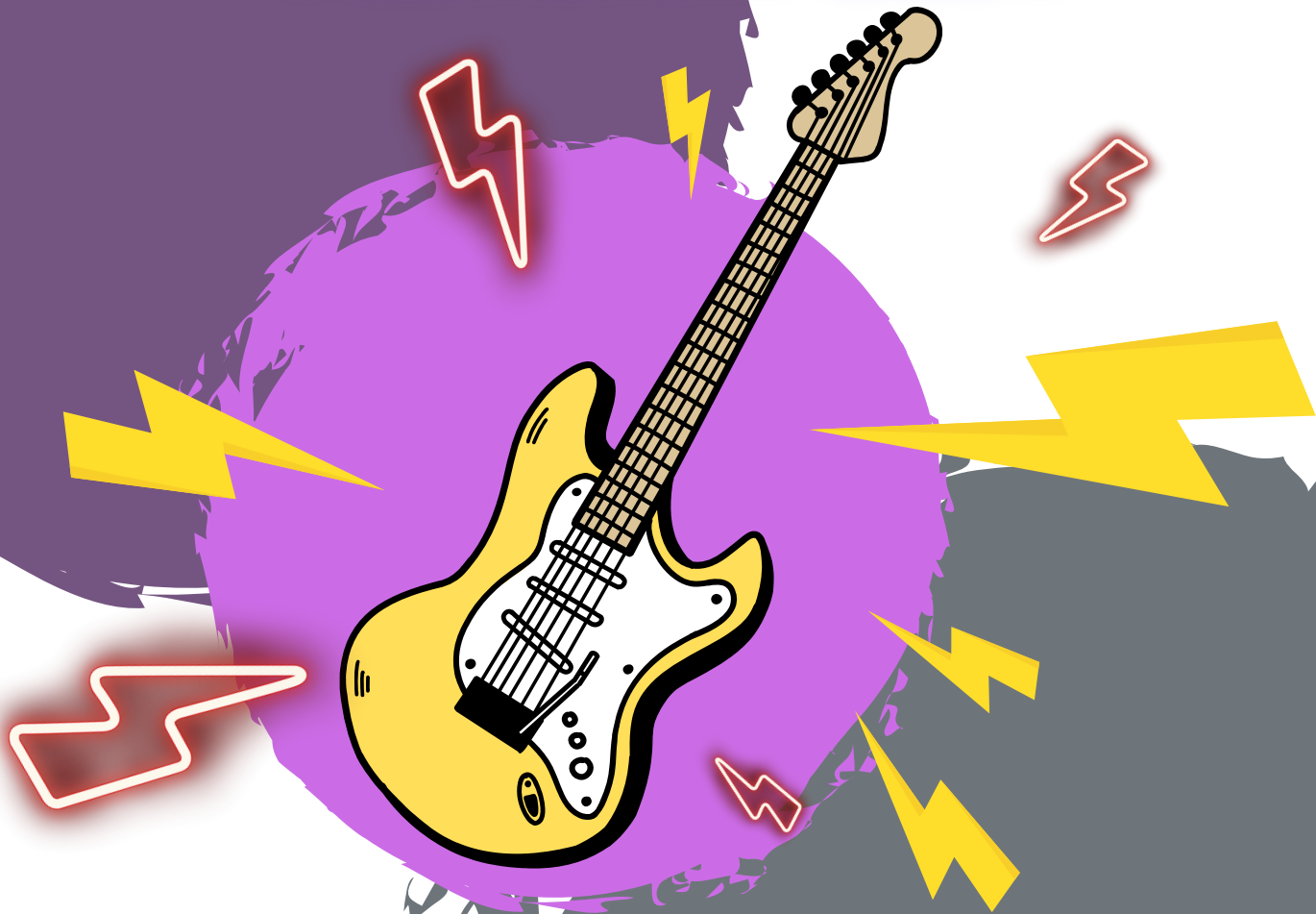




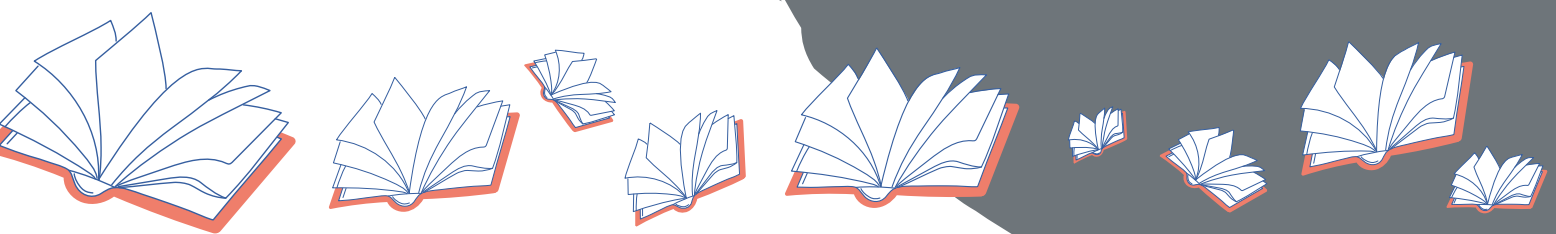
READING ROCKS

FEBRUARY 2024



At Abbey Academies Trust, we understand the importance of encouraging children to read for pleasure. It might not seem like a particularly important task, but actually, research shows that reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school and even into adulthood.

Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others.



TIPS

- Take a look at the pictures. You don't just have to read the words on the page. Maybe there's something funny in the pictures that you can giggle about together, or perhaps your child enjoys guessing what will happen next.
- Ask questions and talk about the book. Picture books can be a great way to talk through your child's fears and worries, or to help them deal with their emotions. Give them space to talk, and ask how they feel about the situations in the story.

Check out some top reads for February.

by Caryl Lewis and Illustrated by George Ermos

Marty doesn't have much. Unlike his mum, who has billions of things: newspapers, holey shoes, rusty lawnmowers, broken picture frames – she keeps EVERYTHING! Marty finds himself drowning, yet there is a glint of something magical on the horizon. On Marty's birthday, Grandad, gifts Marty a rather plump, stripy seed. The seed grows bigger and bigger, and launches Grandad, Marty and his best friend Gracie on an impossible, wondrous plan fuelled by love, hopes and dreams. A story brimming with hope, packed with witty, warm and well-rounded characters. The striking cover is just captivating, enticing you to read on. Although the book deals with some difficult themes, such as poverty, mental health and bullying, it also inspires readers through the powerful message, that anything is possible.



by Jon Roberts and Illustrated by Hannah Rounding

Accompanied by Myles, her assistance dog, Lilly sets off from Granny's house to explore. First, she walks through the garden, then she visits the seashore. But when she comes to the big cave at the end of the beach her acute hearing means she fears the loud noise when she drops her torch. Terrified that there is a monster lurking in the darkness, what could it be?

After rummaging through drawers at Granny's house, Lilly discovers a torch and embarks on an adventure. Sprinkled throughout there are sensitive references to Lily's neuro diversity, and her wonderful relationship with Myles, her trusted companion. The most beautiful illustrations dance off the page, capturing the magnificent, exploring, and inquisitive mind of Lilly.

