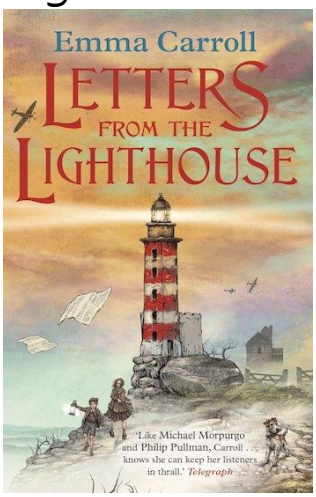
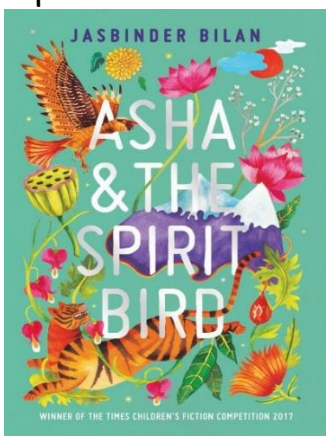
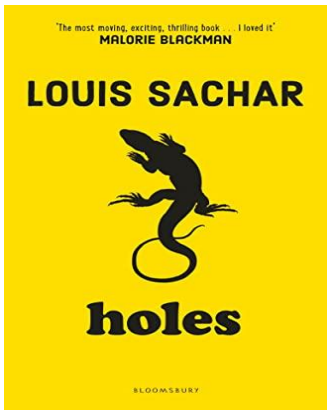
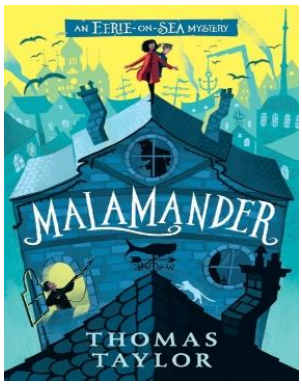
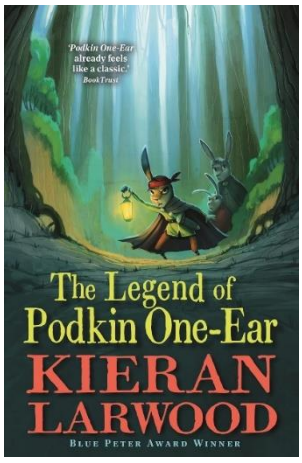
Lawn Primary & Nursery School

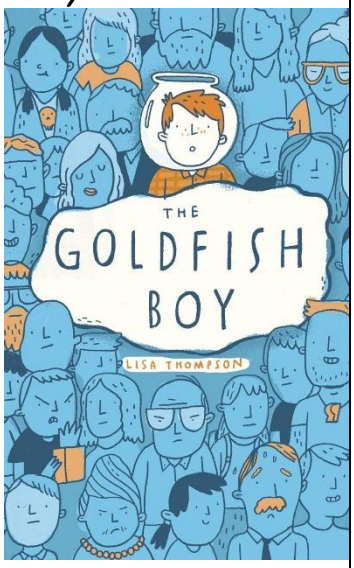
Reading Spine

Year 5

Term	Book	Synopsis	Reasoning
Autumn 1	Letters from the Lighthouse 	February, 1941. After months of bombing raids in London, 12 year-old Olive Bradshaw and her little brother Cliff are evacuated to the Devon coast. The only person with two spare beds is Mr Ephraim, the local lighthouse keeper. But he's not used to company and he certainly doesn't want any evacuees. Desperate to be helpful, Olive becomes his post-girl, carrying secret messages (as she likes to think of the letters) to the villagers. But Olive has a secret of her own. Her older sister Sukie went missing in an air raid, and she's desperate to discover what happened to her. And then she finds a strange coded note which seems to link Sukie to Devon, and to something dark and impossibly dangerous.	From the Queen of Historical Fiction, Emma Carroll, has well-researched this book and this is perfect for children studying WW2 especially evacuees. Letters from the Lighthouse is an incredibly empathetic story that not only portrays the hardships of life during the war but also poignantly explores the anguishing encounters of refugees looking for safety in new places while carrying with them the heartbreak of leaving a war-torn home behind.

Autumn 1	Asha and the Spirit Bird 	Asha lives on the family farm with her mother in rural India. Her father is away working in the city, and when the money he sends stops suddenly, a wicked debt collector arrives. She's determined to seize the property – and the treasure rumoured to be hidden on the land. Guided by a majestic bird which Asha believes to be the spirit of her grandmother, she and her best friend Jeevan embark on a journey to the city, across the Himalayas, to find her father and save her home ...	Set in rural India with the spiritual traditions and beliefs of the region, *Asha and the Spirit Bird* is an adventure story full of wonder and hope along with being steeped in culture and geography. There is also a focus on friendships, family and faith.
Spring 1	Holes 	Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck, so when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre (which isn't green and doesn't have a lake) he is not surprised. Every day he and the other inmates are told to dig a hole, five foot wide by five foot deep, reporting anything they find. Why? The evil warden claims that it's character building, but this is a lie. It's up to Stanley to dig up the truth.	This book is a must on every school's booklist-a true modern classic. It has won countless awards. Hilarious, easy to read and completely unique, any child that reads it, will remember this story. The book is full of adventure and as you read it, many questions will come to you. Plot twists also emerge that children never expect which is always a joy to see when reading together.

Spring 2	Malamander  	***Nobody visits Eerie-on-Sea in the winter. Especially not when darkness falls and the wind howls around Maw Rocks and the wreck of the battleship Leviathan, where even now some swear they have seen the unctuous Malamander creep...*** Herbert Lemon, Lost-and-Founder at the Grand Nautilus Hotel, knows that returning lost things to their rightful owners is not easy – especially when the lost thing is not a thing at all, but a girl. No one knows what happened to Violet Parma's parents twelve years ago, and when she engages Herbie to help her find them, the pair discover that their disappearance might have something to do with the legendary sea-monster, the Malamander. Eerie-on-Sea has always been a mysteriously chilling place, where strange stories seem to wash up. And it just got stranger...	This book is the first in a series of oceanic adventures that involves a mysterious beast from within the deep. Characterisation is strong and you are made to feel by the author that you are friends with Herbert and Violet. Thomas Taylor has created a great maritime mystery full of atmosphere and suspense. A beautiful map adorns the first couple of pages and what a hook that is to the children-looking back and studying it as the story progresses through the sleepy seaside town of Eerie on Sea. This quote from the book sums up the magic and wonder around this story, ***"If the impossible is possible anywhere, it'll be possible in Eerie-on-the-Sea."***
Summer 1	The Legend of Podkin One-Ear  	*A thick white blanket covers the wide slopes of the band of hills known as the Razorback Downs . . .* Podkin is the son of a warrior chieftain. He knows that one day it will be up to him to lead his warren and guard it in times of danger. But for now, he's quite happy to laze around annoying his older sister, Paz, and playing with his baby brother Pook. Then Podkin's home is brutally attacked, and the young rabbits are forced to flee.	Kieran Larwood's talent and his passion for his wonderful characters leap off every page and it's hard to put this book down. It was his life-long love of fantasy stories that inspired him to write these stories. This is another book that is the first in a wonderful series. The illustrations are stunning and yet again, another beautiful map is found at the beginning of the book. Kieran says that when he

		The terrifying Gorm are on the rampage, and no one and nowhere is safe. With danger all around them, Podkin must protect his family, uncover his destiny, and attempt to defeat the most horrifying enemy rabbitkind has ever known.	read The Hobbit as a young boy and saw the map at the beginning of the book-he knew he wanted to replicate that one day.
Summer 2	The Goldfish Boy  	A story about finding friendship when you're lonely - and hope when all you feel is fear. Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. Until the day he is the last person to see his next door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing. Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance - with the help of a brilliant cast of supporting characters.	This book covers some real-life topics that we are finding have become more prevalent over the last ten to twenty years, for example, OCD. This is a sensitive and empathetic portrayal of someone living with that disorder. It is a story that will make you both laugh and cry. Lisa Thompson has helped, through her books, raise awareness of issues that we may encounter in our own lives or at school. It shows how sometimes we all need to ask for help and support and the good that can come from asking for that help.