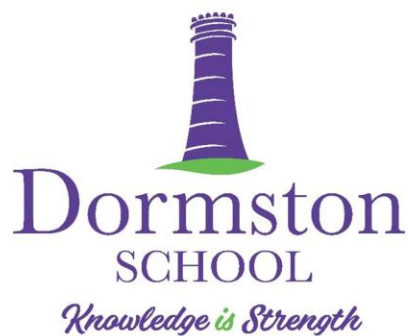


Our Ref: DFX/SEE

September 2026



All Year 7, 8, & 9 Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent and Pupil Reading Group - 'Sin Bin Island' by Doug Naylor

Following the success of last years' Parent and Pupil Reading Group, we are again excited to invite parents and pupils to take part in the scheme. This year we are delighted to announce the book we are reading is the Dudley Children's' Book Award winner 'Sin Bin Island' by Doug Naylor.

Doug Naylor is the co-creator and writer of the classic sci-fi comedy series Red Dwarf, and we are delighted that he has agreed to support us promoting reading his new book. Doug will be visiting school in October to talk to some of our pupils and will hopefully be able to attend a book club meeting later in the year – all arrangements to be confirmed depending on Doug's schedule!

The importance of Reading

At The Dormston School we believe that reading is the key to success at school, and later in life. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day;

- perform better in reading tests;
- develop a broader vocabulary;
- have increased general knowledge;
- develop a better understanding of other cultures;
- leads to lifelong learning;
- increased social mobility.

With this in mind, we think that reading 'Sin Bin Island' will be a fantastic and enjoyable opportunity – it is an amazing read! Just 20 minutes reading per day can have a massive impact on your child's progress, understanding and vocabulary. Equally important is having a discussion about what your child has just read, the plot, theme and characters, and discussing and learning new vocabulary.

Young People's Reading: The importance of family support

"Young people who get a lot of encouragement to read from their mother or father are more likely to enjoy reading, to read frequently, to have positive attitudes towards reading and to believe that reading is important to succeed in life than young people who do not get any encouragement to read from their mother or father."

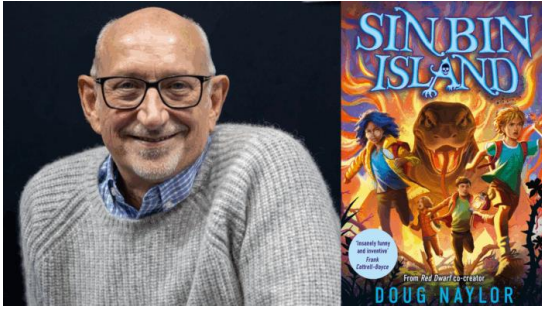
Statistics from The National Reading Agency show that 9 in 10 young people said they get at least some encouragement to read from their mother. By contrast, only 6 in 10 said that their father encourages them to read to some degree.

We think this is an exciting opportunity to read this book alongside your child and would love all parents and carers to be reading role models and sign up to the reading group. We think 'Sin Bin Island' will be enjoyed by both parents and pupils – we will also be encouraging staff to take part, read the novel, and join in the discussions and events as well.



Mill Bank, Sedgley, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 1SN
Tel: 01384 816 395 | email: info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk
www.dormstonschool.co.uk X [@DormstonSch](https://twitter.com/DormstonSch)
Headteacher: Mrs C Sutton





'Sin Bin Island' by Doug Naylor.

DETENTION JUST GOT DANGEROUS!

When Jack Digby is sent to Cyril Sniggs's Correctional Orphanage for Wayward Boys and Girls, he doesn't expect lessons in how to fire cannons and fend off pirate attacks. But perhaps he should, as the school, some say, was founded by a pirate.

Even stranger, at the end of each year, the four worst-behaved pupils are banished to the terrifying Sin Bin Island,

where they must survive for a week. Legend has it, the island was once used to smuggle magic onto the mainland, but in over 300 years the magic has never been found. Until now! Book one of this highly anticipated series, with illustrations by Nik Afia.

MEDIA REVIEWS

Doug Naylor has always been a master storyteller and this might be his most intriguing adventure yet. As funny as it is clever, and brilliantly mysterious from one page to the next, Sin Bin Island drags you through the story at pace, while Doug's turn of phrase and ambling side tracks keep you chuckling along the way. A genius writer, and a perfect book! - *Jamie Smart, creator of Bunny vs Monkey*
Brilliant, totally brilliant. Exciting. Heart-stopping. Hilarious. And touching too. It's the book I always wanted to read as a kid but could never find. It's the new Harry Potter. I want a part in the movie franchise!! - *Craig Charles, actor, comedian and radio presenter*. Insanely funny and inventive - get yourself a ringside seat for this cartwheeling, high-wire, fire-breathing circus of a book. - *Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Children's Laureate*. Sin Bin Island is a wonderfully funny adventure, filled with bright ideas and some bold surprises. Doug Naylor's humour is a delight and a reassurance, propelling young readers through this treasure hunt of epic proportions. - *P. G. Bell, author of The Train to Impossible Places*

Planned Events:

Parent/Pupil Reading Group discussion questions – we would love you to read this book with your child, and discuss some of the characters, events, and ideas in the story. Discussion questions will be available to all those who sign up to the scheme.

Parent/Pupil Reading Group Event in PLC – talking about books is a great way to encourage enjoyment of reading. **Launch Event** - We would like to invite pupils and their parents/carers to this special launch event on **Tuesday 13th October from 6.00pm to 6.30pm in our P.L.C** where refreshments will be provided.

How to take part:

Please register your interest using this link [Parent & Pupil Reading Group - Sin Bin Island by Doug Naylor – Fill in form](#). **Please register by 25th September 2026**

Get the book! Copies of the book are available in the PLC for pupils and parents/carers to borrow, however you may wish to purchase your own copy from Waterstones, T.G. Jones, or Amazon. An Audiobook version is available on CD and download from Audible. We are also able to offer copies of the book for you to purchase. Please complete the relevant details on the link above when you register to take part. **Happy Reading!**

We hope you would like to join us on this exciting reading journey!

Yours sincerely

D Fox

Mr D Fox
Teacher of English & Literacy Co-Ordinator

S Ellsmore

Mrs S Ellsmore
PLC Manager

