



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through

Faith, Hope, Love

READING NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2025



Reading Gives You Wings...

Hello and welcome to our Autumn 2025 Reading Newsletter celebrating all things related to reading because it enables us to **REACH** and **be the best we can be!**

Stroud Book Festival



We were delighted to once again take part in the Stroud Book Festival this year! On the 5th, 6th, and 7th of November, children from Reception to Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic range of virtual workshops. These sessions are always a highlight, inspiring a love of books and reading—something we know is so important for every child. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they engaged with authors and stories in such an exciting way!

Stories at the Convent Year 1 and Reception and mystery reader in Reception



Our children are so lucky to enjoy a wide range of wonderful reading experiences across the year! From Mystery Reader sessions in Reception—where parents and teachers surprise the children with story time—to magical visits like story time at the convent for Reception and Year 1, these opportunities make reading exciting and memorable. Each experience helps nurture a lifelong love of books and storytelling, and we are thrilled to see the joy they bring to our children throughout the year.



Scholastic Book Fair

We are excited to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair delivery is scheduled for the beginning of **February 2026**, and will be open during parents' evenings. Get ready to explore amazing books and support our school community! Due to the money raised through selling books last year, we were able to spend **£428.06 on High Quality texts for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes.**



A reminder that we're always looking to grow our classroom and library book collections, and we'd love your help! If you have any **gently used children's books** at home that you no longer need, please consider donating them to school. All donations will go towards encouraging a lifelong love of reading across all year groups. Thank you for supporting our reading community!



We're already a third of the way through the school year, and what a fantastic start it's been! A huge thank you to all the charities, volunteers, governors, parents, and carers who have supported our children's reading journey so far. Your time and encouragement are helping to build confidence and a lifelong love of reading. Let's keep the momentum going as we turn the page into the next chapter!



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Why not have a look this Christmas...

The Library



Why Visit Your Local Gloucestershire Library?

Your local library is full of exciting things to discover! It's not just about books—there are fun activities like storytime, craft sessions, and LEGO clubs. You can borrow amazing stories, learn new facts, and even explore comics and magazines—all for free! Friendly librarians are always ready to help you find your next adventure. Pop in with your family and see what treasures you can uncover!

<https://gloslibraries.uk/news/whats-winter-gloucestershire-libraries>

November – Author Visit

We were delighted to welcome local author **Sian Hughes** to our school this month! She shared her journey to becoming an author and worked with the children on creative storytelling. The sessions were full of imagination, and the lovely props Sian brought along really brought her stories to life. It was a truly memorable experience for everyone involved.



Ready for a Reading Adventure?

Trying something new can be exciting—and reading is no different! Encouraging children to explore new genres and styles helps spark curiosity, build confidence, and make reading fun. Here are our top tips to help primary readers take the leap into something new.



- ✓ 1. **Start Small and Fun** Choose short, engaging texts like comics, picture books, or short stories in the new genre. This makes the change less intimidating.
- ✓ 2. **Offer Choice** Give them a selection of new genres or formats (mystery, poetry, nonfiction, graphic novels) so they feel in control.
- ✓ 3. **Connect to Interests** Link the new reading material to something they already love—sports, animals, space, or favourite hobbies.
- ✓ 4. **Model Curiosity** Show your own excitement by reading something new yourself and sharing what you enjoyed about it.
- ✓ 5. **Buddy Reading** Pair them with a friend or sibling to explore the new book together. It turns reading into a social activity.
- ✓ 6. **Use “Try It for 10” Rule** Encourage them to read just 10 pages or 10 minutes before deciding if they like it. Often, they'll want to keep going.
- ✓ 7. **Celebrate the Effort** Praise the attempt, not just the result. Acknowledge their bravery in trying something different.



Newly published reading recommendations from our Mrs Knight (Reading lead) and our Reading Ambassadors ...

<u>Reception</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 10 Dogs by Emily Gravett2. Marching Band by Kael Tudor3. I Will Swim Next Time by Emily Joof	<u>Year 1</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Oh Dear, Look What I Got! by Helen Oxenbury2. Meet the Mubbles by Liz Pichon3. Where to Hide a Star by Oliver Jeffers
<u>Year 2</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Pia's Pet Club: Puppy Problem</i> by Serena Patel2. <i>The Poisoned King</i> by Katherine Rundell.3. <i>Alan, King of the Universe:</i> by Tom McLaughlin	<u>Year 3</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>A Mermaid's Diary</i> by Chris Riddell2. <i>My Mum</i> by Laura Dockrill3. <i>Flow, Water, Flow!</i> by Dom Conlon & <i>World of Wild: Off They Go!</i> by James Carter
<u>Year 4</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Diary of a Future Billionaire</i> by Pamela Butchart2. <i>Cobweb</i> by Michael Morpurgo3. <i>Nora and the Map of Mayhem</i> by Joseph Elliott	<u>Year 5</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Land of the Last Wildcat</i> by Lui Sit2. <i>Glassborn</i> by Peter Bunzl3. <i>Beastlands: Race to Frostfall Mountain</i> by Jess French
<u>Year 6</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Hidden Treasure</i> by Jessie Burton2. <i>Hardit Singh Malik: World War One Flying Ace</i> by Bali Rai (eBook)3. <i>I Am Wolf</i> (Alastair Chisholm): An adventure/sci-fi book for this age group.	

Reading Ambassadors display – some of their recommendations...





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Award winning – The Week Junior Book Awards



The Week Junior Book Awards celebrate the best in children's literature across 14 categories, from exciting adventures and heartwarming stories to captivating non-fiction and eye-catching illustrations. These awards shine a spotlight on the very best in books for young readers and continue to inspire children to discover their next great read. Learn more...

<https://www.theweekjuniorbookawards.co.uk/2025>

Here are a selection of the winners...



Our website recommendations.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/young-readers-programme/young-readers-programme-book-lists/>

The National Literacy Trust website again offers some very detailed information and guidance on good books for both primary and secondary readers to access. They recommend fiction, non-fiction, manga, comics, poetry and other choices.

<https://ukla.org/awards/ukla-book-award>

The UK Literacy Association website provide lots of information and recommended reads on books that have been judged by teachers. Book lists begin from as young as 3-6+ through to 11-14+, providing titles which are both fiction and non-fiction.