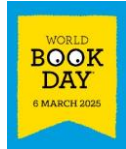




**Reading Gives You Wings...**

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



**Save the Date - World Book Day 2025**

A letter came out at the end of last term explaining this year's focus and events!



At the start of the month, the children took part in Mental Health Week – 'Know Yourself to Grow Yourself'.

The benefits of reading are not limited to the academic and include the positive and more recently vital part it can play in promoting good mental health and wellbeing. The benefits of reading are well documented and include; reducing stress levels and nurturing calmness, increasing vocabulary enabling children to better articulate their thoughts, ideas and feelings, offering an 'escape' into another imaginative world or helping children to understand difficult issues, through the words of others.



**Book Fair**

To coincide with World Book Day, we once again have the Book Fair visiting. Your support with this is very valued as every book that is bought from here provides us with reward points. Last year, we were able to purchase atlases for KS1 and books for each classes reading corners using these rewards. This will be open in the hall on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup>, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> from 3.25 – 4pm**. The children will have an opportunity to look at the books on Friday 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Donations**



During World Book Day the children will be asked to bring in books to swap and we'd like to encourage them to continue to do this all year. If they bring in a book, they can take a book out of the book swap box in their classroom. Our Reading Ambassadors will be encouraging people to bring books in to swap too.

Again, we would also love donations of good quality books and appropriate children's magazines/comics as the children love to read a variety of texts.

**The Library**

**Head down to your local library this term...**

Libraries are fantastic places to get your child engaged in reading and can be a great way to engage reluctant readers! Sometimes it can be tricky to find the right book to engage a child, but by spending some time in the library they can pick a variety of books to find the ones they like without you having to spend a penny.



We continue to have fabulous volunteers coming in and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the charities, volunteers, governors, parents and carers that come in to read with our children. Reading gives us wings and with your support, our children are flying.



**READING NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2025**

**Reading Club/The Reading Shed**

Reading Club continues to be a hit with many children this year. Some weeks I have had up to 25 children in my room snuggled with cushions, blankets and a good book!

At the start of the year, our Reading Ambassadors worked hard to bring all the books from the reading shed in for the colder months – children can now enjoy these inside.



**What can you do to help?**

KS1 children – it's great to ask questions when you are reading together:

What do you see on this page? How do you think the characters feel? What do you think is going to happen next?

When you have finished, talk about how your child feels about the book:

What did they like? What didn't they like? What can they remember about what happened? Who was their favourite character? Why? Link the story to their own experiences. Can they remember experiences? Can they remember when they did something similar?

**Most importantly, have fun!**

KS2 - Luckily, there's lots you can do to support your child's reading in the junior years. Here are some ideas:

- 1. Read regularly** - Encourage your child to read as much as possible, and try to keep reading regular and consistent if you can.
- 2. Talk about books** - Talking to your child about what they are reading helps to build reading motivation. Your interest will spark their interest, and conversation with you will help them articulate their thoughts, extend their vocabulary, and strengthen their understanding of what they've read.
- 3. Choose interesting books** - In general, letting your child choose their own books is a great way to keep them engaged with reading, but don't be afraid to point them in the right direction every now and then. Be sure to suggest options to them based on their interests, including texts beyond their favourite authors.
- 4. Choose interesting non-books** - Remember that reading doesn't just have to involve books: magazines, instruction manuals, recipes, and so on all help to build up stamina, understanding, and fluency.
- 5. Read to your child** - As well as asking your child to read to you, it can be really useful to take some time out to read to them too. Research shows that parents often stop reading to their children in the junior years, but there are great benefits to keeping your reading time going.
- 6. Ask your child questions** - When your child is reading to you or with you, you could help them to develop their comprehension skills by asking questions. Below are examples of good questions to ask. Remember to prompt them to justify their answers by referring to the text as well:  
What do you think the book will be about? Can you tell me what's happened so far? What do you think will happen next? Why do you think the character did...? What do you think the author wants us to think? How did you feel when...? Can you think of a similar experience that you've had? Who do you know who is like...?

**Again, most importantly have fun!**



**Reading Recommendations from our Staff...**



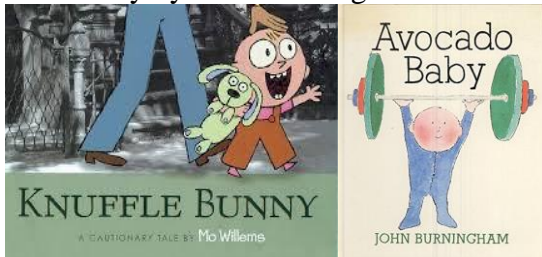
**Reception**

The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas  
One Little Word by Joseph Coelho and Allison Colpoys  
The Rabbit That Listened by Cori Doerrfeld



**Year 1**

Knuffle bunny by Mo Willems  
Avocado baby by John Burningham



**Year 2**

Our Tower and Poems Aloud by Joseph Coelho



**Year 3**

Killer Underwear Invasion! by Elise Gravel.  
Home by Carson Ellis



**Year 4**

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf  
The Magic Faraway Tree- Enid Blyton



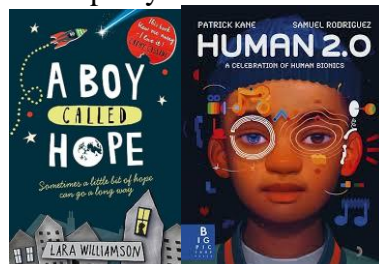
**Year 5**

Thief by Malorie Blackman  
From Hereabout Hill by Michael Morpurgo



**Year 6**

Human 2.0: A Celebration of Human Bionics by Patrick Kane  
A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson





**Reading Ambassadors** – each year a new team is chosen from Year 2 – Year 6 to promote a love of reading as ‘Reading Gives You Wings’...

Meet this year's team and find out why they love reading and some of their top tips...



## Reading Ambassadors

### **Year 2 – Luna and Xanthe**

Xanthe – ‘It is a time to relax and a good thing to do because you will learn more words’.

Luna – ‘I love reading because you can go into a world full of magic and it is one of the most calming things’.

- ✓ **Learn to use expression when you're reading story books.**
- ✓ **Read more to learn more!**

### **Year 3 - Frank and Charlotte**

Frank – ‘I love football and I have football books. It makes me calm to read’.

Charlotte – ‘I love reading because it can help you to write, read and learn’.

- ✓ **Find a comfy space.**
- ✓ **Try to go to a library lots**
- ✓ **Remember to read as much as you can – it's a life skill.**
- ✓ **Look at the blurb of a book**

### **Year 4 - Lucy and Ella**

Lucy – ‘I love reading because it calms me down’.

Ella – ‘You don't know what adventure is going to happen – you're just in your world of imagination’.

- ✓ **Picture the story in your mind.**
- ✓ **Read the first sentence.**
- ✓ **Have a flick through the book – is it right for you?**
- ✓

### **Year 5 - Harry and Ellianna**

Ellianna – ‘I love reading and would like to encourage others to read’.

Harry – ‘It gives me a different tune in my body’.

- ✓ **You just need to try!**
- ✓ **If you can't read something ask for help.**
- ✓ **Speak about books you're reading and then other people might read more.**

### **Year 6 - Alice and Theo**

Alice – ‘I love reading due to the way books can transport you to a whole other world even with the smallest of details’.

Theo – ‘It helps me to concentrate. Helps me to fall asleep too’.

- ✓ **Choose books that you will like, start reading it a bit first’.**
- ✓ **Put on music or a podcast if you'd like to help you focus.**
- ✓ **Read different types of book to find the type that you like.**
- ✓ **Just reading for 5 minutes a day is good.**

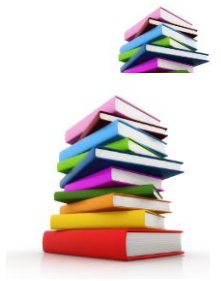


St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through

**Faith, Hope, Love**

**READING NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2025**

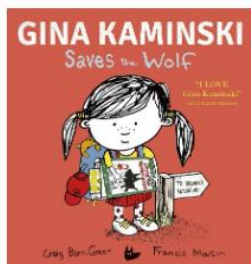


**Award winning – Waterstones Children's Book Prize Shortlist 2025**

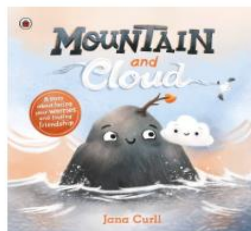


*Illustrated Books Shortlist*

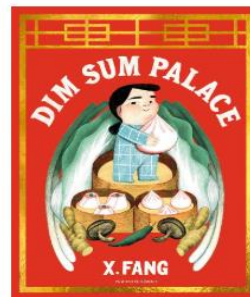
This year's Illustrated shortlist will make you smile, laugh and even tempt your appetite with a variety of visual styles.



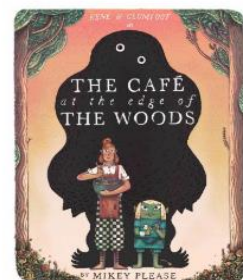
**Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf**  
Craig Barr-Green



**Mountain and Cloud**  
Jana Curll



**Dim Sum Palace**  
X Fang



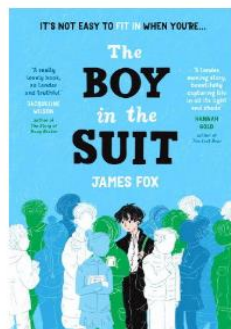
**The Cafe at the Edge of the Woods**  
Mikey Please

*Younger Readers Shortlist*

Our Younger Readers shortlist invites you on adventures in the past, present and otherworldly realms alike.



**Rune**  
Carlos Sánchez



**The Boy in the Suit**  
James Fox



**Secrets of the Snakestone**  
Piu DasGupta



**Tidemagic: The Many Faces of Ista Flit**  
Clare Harlow

**Our website recommendations.**

<https://www.worldbookday.com/reading-recommendations/> Wondering what book to pick up next? Keen to try a new author? Looking for a book to inspire a reluctant reader? We're here to help you discover your next read and to give children, families, teachers and librarians ideas of what books are suitable and brilliant for each age and stage of reading.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-primary-school-pupils/> Browse regularly edited reading suggestions for preschool and primary-aged children aged 0-11 for reading at home and at school in the UK. They have compiled recommended **picture books for 3-5-year-olds**, picture books and emerging reader **books for 5-7-year-olds**; short chapter books and short novels for 7-9-year-olds and longer texts for developing readers aged 9+ in **KS2**. With lots of styles, genres and topics covered, there should be something for everyone.