



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Diocese of Clifton

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through
Faith, Hope, and Love



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12th February 2026

WORLD BOOK DAY 5th March 2026 - Reading Gives You Wings...

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are excited to be taking part in World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. The whole day will focus on reading and a range of book-themed activities. World Book Day aims to give every child the chance to choose and own a book for free. To support this, every child in school will receive a book token. This can be exchanged for one of the special, new and completely free World Book Day books at participating booksellers, or used to get £1 off any full-price book or audiobook instead. You can find a full list of participating booksellers at:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

World Book Day is built on research about what helps children develop a love of reading. This research shows that there are six key factors that encourage children to read for pleasure:

- Being read to regularly
- Having access to books at home
- Being able to choose what they want to read
- Having trusted adults and friends who share and recommend books
- Enjoying the reading experience
- Having dedicated time set aside for reading

Here are some of the activities that we will be doing on World Book Day on Thursday 5th March 2026:

1. **Focus for the day** - Our work during the day will be based around a book called '**Bloom**' by Anne Booth. *Bloom* tells the story of a grumpy man and a beautiful flower he admires from afar. The flower blooms brightest when the little girl speaks kindly to it. When the man treats people badly, the flower wilts — teaching him that kindness makes things grow. The key message is that kindness, love and respect help living things grow. The world responds to how we treat it — just like the flower. Each class will produce work to share with the school during a whole school assembly in the afternoon. **If anyone has a copy of this book at home, we would be very grateful if you'd send it in for us to use.**

2. **Reading for Fun** - this year's theme is 'Reading for Fun' and during the day everyone will be encouraged to read what they like, in any way they like; this could be at a desk, under a table, with friends, laying on the floor or under a door! Reading where ever they feel comfortable. Where would you choose? Please **send your child's favourite book in with them** (labelled) on the day so we can read it with them/they can share it with their friends. They can also **bring in a cushion/blanket/small soft toy** to use during our many reading sessions throughout the day.
3. **Dressing up** – not this year as our Reading Ambassadors have instead opted for pyjamas/onesies/cuddly and comfy clothes. One of them said to me that it is good to alternate what we do.
4. **Hot Chocolate Sale** - Back by popular demand - School Council and Reading Ambassadors will be selling hot chocolate at break and lunch to raise money for our school and new books for the classrooms. This will be £1.00.
5. **World Book Day Competition** – Make a Bookmark Competition. Children design their own bookmark using drawings, quotes, glitter, stickers, or patterns. The front of the bookmark will have **only** the St Joseph's logo and reading phrase 'Reading Gives You Wings...', but the back will have the child's design on. Entries must be brought into school by Tuesday 3rd March 2026. The winning designs will be photocopied for the whole school! I will provide outlines for the children for this activity and I have attached one to this letter.
6. **KS2 Online session** - KS2 will be joining a BBC Teach Live session with guest authors, book recommendations and engaging, curriculum-linked activities to celebrate reading for pleasure.
7. **Read with your child/children** - Parents/carers/friends/family will be invited in to school to read with your child/children. There will be **two sign up times 8.50 – 9.10 and 2.55 – 3.15** and we would love to see as many of you as possible. School Council and Reading Ambassadors will be selling hot chocolate, tea and coffee during this time to raise money for School Council projects such as outdoor sinks, and new books for the classrooms.
8. **Book swap** - We are very pleased to announce the return of the St Joseph's Book Swap on World Book Day. We are asking every child to bring in at least one gently used book to school. If you have additional books in good condition that you are willing to donate, we welcome them! This will increase the variety of books from which the children can choose. On the day of the event, each child will have the opportunity to pick one book to add to their home library.
9. **Adult book swap** - we would like to invite you to again join in the book swap too. We will set up a table for the swap in the hall. If you have a good book that you would like to swap for another, please bring it into the hall, preferably at the start of the school day, however the table will be there all day so do pop in at a convenient time to you. Why not tie it in with coming into share a book with your child/children in their classroom?

10. Storytelling session - Come and join me for a relaxed storytelling session designed especially for parents, where I will share a story and demonstrate simple ways to talk with your child about what they are hearing. During the session, you will learn easy questioning techniques and discover how to help your child explore characters and events. This friendly session aims to support you as a parent, giving you practical strategies to build your child's confidence, vocabulary, and understanding through everyday story time. **This will be at 9.10 – 9.40am – please could you let the office know if you'd like to attend this.**

We can't wait to celebrate our love of books, with your child on this day. If you have any questions, please contact your child's class teacher.

Thanks for your continued support and remember that 'Reading Gives You Wings...'

Mrs J Knight (Reading and Writing Subject Leader)

Here is a copy of the bookmark format for the competition:

