



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through  
**Faith, Hope, Love**



**READING NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2025**

**Reading Gives You Wings...**

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

**World Book Day 2025**

For World Book Day, we explored *An Emotional Menagerie* by The School of Life—a poetic A–Z of emotions, each linked to an animal. The book helps children understand and express their feelings, from anger (a roaring lion) to calmness (a drifting jellyfish). We chose this book to support two of our REACH values: resilience and empathy. Children took part in a special assembly sharing what they had created during the day.

This year's World Book Day theme was **"Read Your Way"**, celebrating the joy of reading wherever and however we like. Throughout the day, children were encouraged to read in their favourite way—whether that was under a table, curled up on the floor, with a friend, or even under a door! Pupils brought in their favourite books to share, along with cushions, blankets, and soft toys to make our reading sessions extra cosy and fun.



**Scholastic Book Fair**

Thank you such much for supporting our book fair during parent's evening week in March. Due to the money raised through selling books, we were able to spend **£428.06 on High Quality texts for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes.**



We're 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!



As we reach the end of the school year, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the charities, volunteers, governors, parents, and carers who have given their time to read with our children. Your support has helped nurture a love of reading—and with your encouragement, our children are truly taking flight.



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### Why not have a look this summer...

# The Library Challenge

12 July - 13 September 2025  
Suitable for children aged 3+

**The Library Challenge**

Check out all libraries in the challenge by following this map.

Download a digital version of the map at [gloulibraries.uk/welcome-library-challenge](https://gloulibraries.uk/welcome-library-challenge)

Read, Grow, Explore!

Don't forget to also visit online for events, recommended reads, activity sheets & more!

**Head down to your local Gloucestershire Library...** Go Green, Get Reading, Get Rewards! There are lots of different interactive and fun challenges that you can complete! You can do activities by yourself or ask friends or family members to help too. This year is all about the natural world.

### Or have a look at...

#### The Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge



- UK's biggest RfP programme for primary school children in libraries
- Free downloadable information pack on their website
- Can be completed online or in-person at their local library

### What can you do to help? Top Tips to Encourage Your Child to Read...

Want to spark a lifelong love of books in your child? Here are some fun and easy ways to make reading exciting at home:

- Let Them Choose** – Whether it's adventure stories, comics, or fact books about dinosaurs, letting children pick what they read keeps it fun and personal.
  - Create a Reading Spot** – A cosy corner with a cushion or blanket can make reading feel like a treat.
  - Read Together** – Share stories, do the voices, laugh at silly parts—it's a great way to bond and build confidence.
  - Make It a Habit** – A story before bed, reading in the garden, or bringing a book on a picnic—reading fits anywhere!
  - Talk About Books** – Ask questions like "What would you do if you were that character?" or "What do you think happens next?"
  - Be a Reading Role Model** – Let your child see you enjoying a good book too!
- The most important thing? Keep it light, joyful, and full of imagination. Reading should be an adventure—and with your support, every child can become a book explorer!





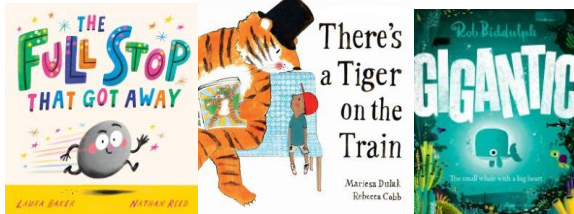
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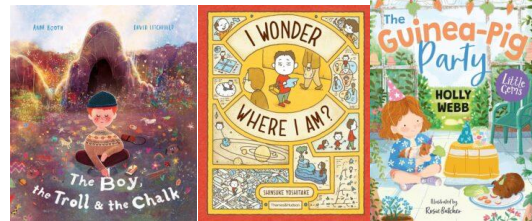
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**Summer Reading Recommendations from our Staff and the Reading Ambassadors ...**

**Reception**



**Year 1**



**Year 2**



**Year 3**

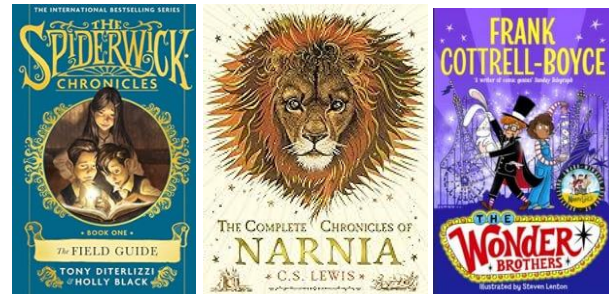


**Reading Ambassadors:**

**Frank – Football Legends**

**Charlotte – Scribble Witch series**

**Year 4**



**Reading Ambassadors:**

**Ella – World's Worst Children**

**Lucy – Billy and the Minpins**

**Year 5**



**Reading Ambassadors:**

**Harry – How to Train Your Dragon**

**Elliana – The Lost Book**

**Year 6**



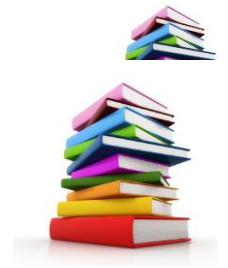
**Reading Ambassadors:**

**Theo – The Paperbag Prince**

**Alice – Warriors into the Wild**



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



**Shortlists...**

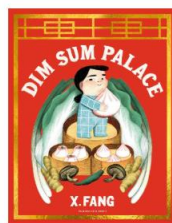
*Illustrated Books Shortlist 2025*



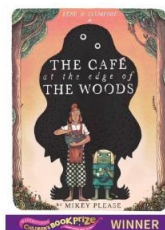
Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf  
Craig Barr-Green



Mountain and Cloud  
Jana Cull



Dim Sum Palace  
X Fang

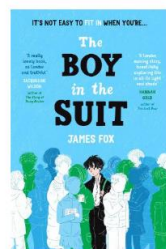


The Cafe at the Edge of the Woods  
Mikey Please

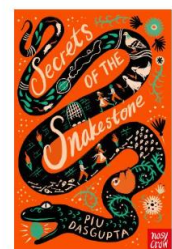
*Younger Readers Shortlist 2025*



Rune: The Tale of a Thousand Faces  
Carlos Sanchez



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.waterstones.com/the-waterstones-childrens-book-prize> - why not have a look at previous winners. Check out different types of books with a categorised sorter near the bottom of the page.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-primary-school-pupils/> - great selection of lists for each year group and suggestions for different genres such as graphic novels, magazines and newspapers.

<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.