



READING MATTERS

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path".
(Psalm 119:105)

January 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed a peaceful and restful Christmas.

The start of a new term brings new challenges and new things to look forward to.

This term we have lots of wonderful reading related events planned to support and encourage our students with their reading. Stay up to date by following us on Facebook, Instagram and via our school website.

We hope you enjoy hearing about all of the activities taking place.

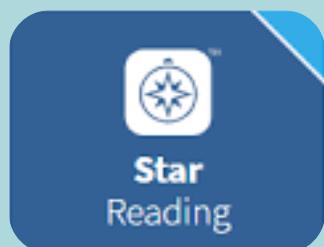
Lathall

Mrs Lathall, Reading Co-ordinator

STAR Reading Tests

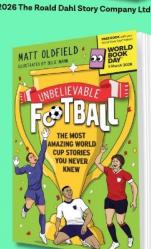
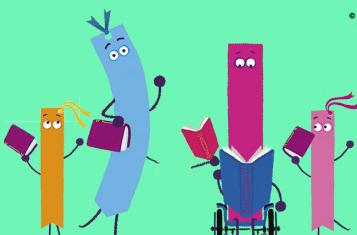
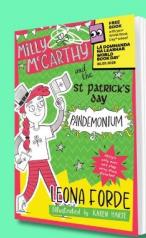
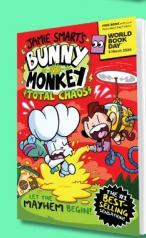
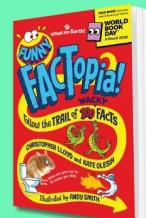
Pupils in Years 7 and 8 will be completing their second STAR reading test this half term.

The tests will run from Monday 12th January until Friday 6th February. New reading ages and ZPDs will be written in student organizers.



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

5 MARCH 2026



World Book Day is a celebration! It's a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading. There will be a number of book related activities taking place on WBD for the pupils to enjoy. More details to follow.

2026s £1 books, available soon in bookshops and supermarkets.

FREE if purchased with a WBD £1 token!

Reading eggs

Every Tuesday and Wednesday, during tutor time, our Reading Eggs group meets. At the end of last term, the children involved in Reading Eggs were awarded certificates and prizes for their hard work and dedication.

They have all worked incredibly hard, but the following children managed to collect the most eggs in each year group.

Year 7

1st Abel L 2846 eggs

2nd Mia G 1,529 eggs

Year 8

1st Ghadeer A 51,403 eggs

2nd Oliver S 13,143 eggs

Year 9

1st Osman M 110,416 eggs

2nd Victoria H 109,117 eggs

Huge congratulations to Victoria and Osman.

To collect over 100,000 eggs is absolutely incredible and shows the amount of time they have both spent working on Reading Eggs.

They both put in hours at home and it has had a huge impact on their reading confidence.

Well done to both.



Millionaire Readers

Lots of wonderful reading took place last term with some students managing to read over a million words! Well done to the following students:



Year 7

Fred T 1,082,407

Bryan A 1,099,265

Yna S 1,088,106

Chico L 1,047,526

Pola K 1,959,685

James T 1,005,155

Maximilian I 1,058,172

Year 8

Mara S 1,158,568

Nikola N 1,120,475

Useful Websites & Resources



Great for book recommendations by age, tips on reading together, and themed book lists.



offers reviews, extracts, and "If you liked this, try..." suggestions - great for finding similar books your child might enjoy.



Via your local library. Free access to eBooks and audiobooks using a library card - perfect for on-the-go reading.



Oxford Owl for Home Includes free reading materials, tips, and resources for parents to help with comprehension skills.



Child-friendly news stories to help with non-fiction reading and critical thinking.



BOOK CLUB

Running every Monday during lunchtime, for children in KS3. If your son/daughter is interested in joining this popular club, please ask them to see Miss Dunstan in M22 for more details.



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Below is a list of recommended reads for anyone who received a book token for Christmas and is unsure what to buy or for anyone who just fancies treating themselves to a new book!



Time Keys: Hunt For the Golden Scarab

This gripping, thrill-packed, time slip adventure whisks readers away to Egypt, both ancient and modern, and is full of fascinating historical detail lived in the first person.



Mallory Vayle and the Curse of Maggoty Skull

Mallory Vayle makes a bizarre pact with a 500-year-old skull: help to free her parents' ghosts from an evil spirit in exchange for a blonde wig and the lifting of an ancient curse.

A scream of a comic horror story.

After

Jen and Father are searching for a new home in a destroyed world. But they have a secret: Father is a human-appearing AI, whom others fear. Thrilling and thought-provoking, this contains much to discuss.



The Thinking Reading Team have already started working with some of our year 7 students.

Helping Your Child Love Reading

Top Tips for Supporting Your Child's Reading at Home

- 1. Make Time to Talk About Books** Encourage your child to discuss what they're reading - characters they like, plot twists, or new vocabulary. Even a 5-minute chat builds connection and comprehension.
- 2. Let Them Choose** Support their reading preferences - graphic novels, audiobooks, magazines, and non-fiction all count. Ownership leads to engagement.
- 3. Be a Reading Role Model** If your child sees you reading regularly - whether it's a book, newspaper or recipe - it helps normalise reading as part of everyday life.



- 4. Set Small Goals** Help them set achievable reading goals, like reading a chapter a night or finishing a book by the weekend. Celebrate small wins. **Use Technology Wisely** If your child prefers screens, try e-books or apps like Audible or BorrowBox to keep them engaged.



I'd love to hear your book recommendations.

Please email me at

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with your top reads!

You can also send me any reading related news that you'd like me to share. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs Lathall

Lathall

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