

Reading Newsletter 21

Jan. 2026

Spring Term 1 edition

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a well-deserved break and the children are looking forward to another fun term ahead.

We have had a busy start to the term already regarding reading. The OSA kindly organised a book swap earlier this week, KS2 enjoying choosing a free book on Tuesday and Reception and KS1 will have the opportunity to choose a book next week.

Certificates were also given out to children who took part in the Winter Reading Bingo Challenge.

2026 has been announced as the 'Year of Reading'. If you'd like to find out more about this initiative, please read this [blog](#).

Happy reading!

Mrs Amelia Goodson-Smith

Assistant Headteacher and Reading Lead



Upcoming events...



Monday 2nd – Friday 6th March – Book Week

Inspired by the recent announcement of 2026 being the year of reading, we will celebrate books and reading for a whole week.

With World Book Day taking place on **Thursday 5th March 2026**.

Activities will include author events across the school, breakfast with books for Years 2 and 3, teddy bear story time in Reception and KS1, a book scavenger hunt and mystery readers.

Children will also can take part in an art completion inspired by a book or story they love. The artwork can be in any media – drawing, painting, collage, or mixed media – to let their creativity shine! Please send completed artwork into school via the School Office for Mrs Goodson-Smith by **Friday 27th February**. This will allow us time to display and share the wonderful creations during Book Week the following week.

In a change from previous years, we will not be suggesting the children come into school dressed as a book character on World Book Day. Children can come into school dressed in their usual school uniform for all days during Book Week.

To get into the spirit of World Book Day, you can listen to free audiobooks on the World Book Day website [here](#).

National Storytelling Week—please sign up...



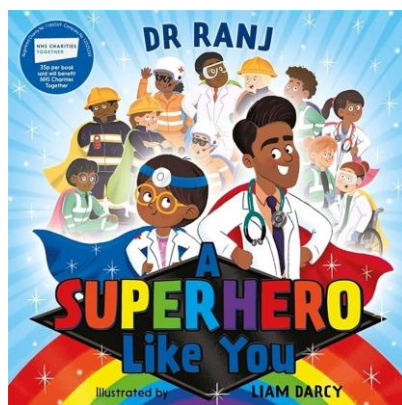
This term we will be celebrating National Storytelling Week between Monday 1st - Friday 6th January. Children will be taking part in a range of in-class activities including shared stories, story discussions and listening to stories from other Teachers and Staff. If you would like to come in to share a story with your child's class, you can sign up. Sign up sheets are located outside the Office, available slots have been highlighted. Please note that the slots are available on a first come first served basis.

Our Amazon Wishlist...

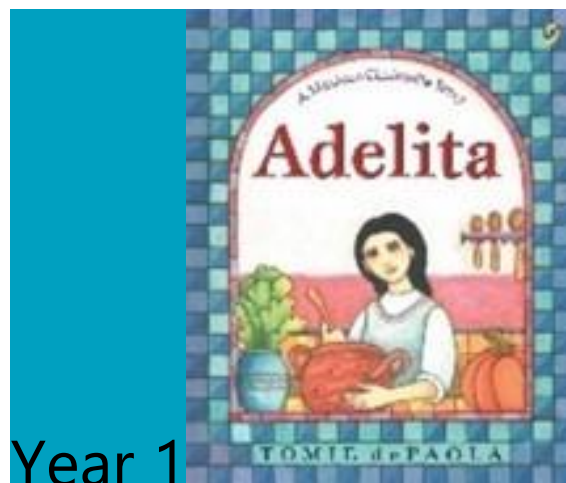
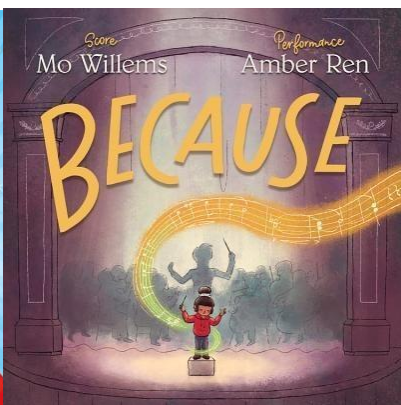


Thank you to those who have already donated books to the Amazon Wishlist, we only have a few books left on the list, with over **200** being purchased already! If you would like to support us in purchasing a new book for school, please follow this link https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/IX2K58WN9T8L?ref_=wl_share

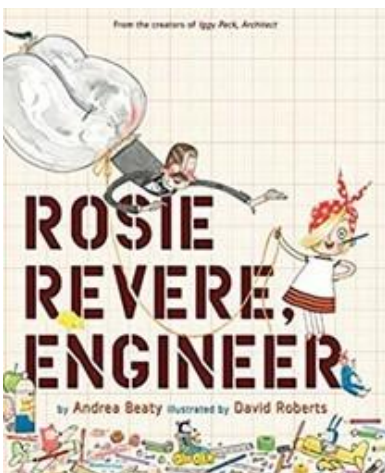
What we're reading this term...



Reception



Year 1



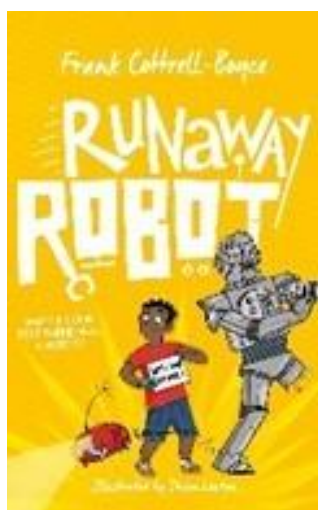
Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6

Choosing the right book for your child...

How to CHOOSE a book!

Look!

Browse the bookshelves – it's a good idea to have a good look at the books.

Check out the COVER!

Does it look interesting? What is the title? Who is the author? Is it like books you've tried before?

READ the blurb!

The blurb is the short paragraph on the back of the cover and tells you something about the story. What does the blurb tell you? Does it make you want to read it?

Think about the GENRE

This is the type of story found in the book. This could be comedy, adventure or fantasy! What other kinds of stories have you enjoyed?

TRY it out

Read a few pages of the book. Do you want to know what happens next? It's fine to put it back if it doesn't feel right.

The RIGHT One

Use the five finger test to help decide if it's the right book for you. Open the book and read a page. Every time you find a word you don't know count one finger. If you get to five the book is likely too hard, so put it back and try another one.

ASK

...the school librarian, teachers, parents and your friends to recommend a book!

National
Literacy
Trust

Love our
Libraries



Advice and tips from Little Wandle...



TM

Why does reading together every day matter?

The number of books your child has encountered by the age of six is a positive predictor of their reading ability two years later.

This benefit comes from:

Adults reading to children and children enjoying books simply by looking at them and talking about them.



Parental involvement in the development of children's reading skills: A five-year longitudinal study (2002) Senechal, M. and Lefvre, J.

We follow the phonics scheme, Little Wandle, these cards are designed for parents and carers to help with phonics learning at home as well as providing phonics games to play with your child.

The image shows three panels of flashcards. Each panel features the Little Wandle logo at the top left and a purple octopus character at the bottom left. The octopus is speaking from a white speech bubble.

- Reception:** Shows a white card with the letter 'b' and a smaller card with a brown bear illustration and the letter 'b'. The octopus says '43 flashcards for Phase 2'. The text at the bottom reads 'Little Wandle at Home First Phonics Flashcards for Reception'.
- Reception and Year 1:** Shows a white card with the letters 'oa' and a smaller card with a pig illustration and the letters 'oa'. The octopus says '43 flashcards for Phase 3'. The text at the bottom reads 'Little Wandle at Home More Phonics Flashcards for Reception'.
- Year 1:** Shows a white card with the letter 'o' and a smaller card with the words 'otter /o/ post /oə/ won /u/'. The octopus says '49 flashcards to prepare for the Phonics Screening Check'. The text at the bottom reads 'Little Wandle at Home Phonics Flashcards for Year 1'.



Thank you for all the wonderful book donations and the OSA volunteers for giving up their time to set up another successful book swap event. Children in KS2 thoroughly enjoyed the event and children in Reception and KS1 are looking forward to their turn next week



If you like...

Ultimate Football Heroes

...try these!



If you like...

Dog Man

...try these!



RSPB birdwatch month – January

This month is the RSPB's big bird watch. Earlier this term we read 'Follow the swallow' by Julia Donaldson in one of our weekly reading assemblies. During the assembly we discussed the migration that swallow take during the winter months. These books are a great way of enjoying the outside with your children and taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch.

