



Spring Library Newsletter



2026 – designated the National Year of Reading

What plans are in place for this?

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a major campaign launched in January, led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust. The primary goal is to address the significant decline in reading for pleasure among children and young people in the UK.

The following research was taken from The National Literacy Trust and the results of their survey of young people highlight what could inspire our children to read:

How can we support children and young people to grow a love of reading?

The findings from our 2025 report suggest a need to align reading with children and young people's personal interests and media habits in order to encourage a love of reading in their free time. Insights highlighted the following key motivators for those who took part in the survey.

The key motivators are as follows:

- **Books tied to films or TV series**

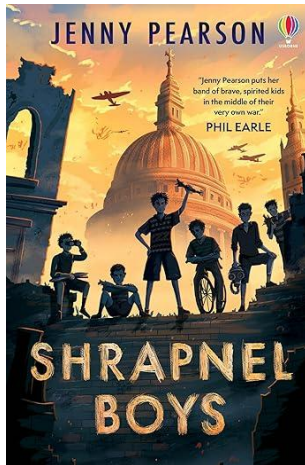
We are so lucky in our school to have the resources to keep up to date with the latest books published for children and we are always looking out for material which will inspire our children. We certainly have many requests for books that are linked to TV and film and these are very popular. Click on the link from BookTrust to see a few examples – I will certainly be going to see the film adaptation of “The Magic Faraway Tree”!

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/resources/find-resources/10-childrens-and-teen-books-becoming-tv-shows-and-movies-in-2026/>

The children thought of many titles that they loved – “Charlotte’s Web”, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” “The BFG” “Diary of a Wimpy Kid”, “How to Train Your Dragon” and of course “Harry Potter”. Whether to watch the film first or read the book is debatable – but for some children the visual storytelling is a lot easier to get into and following that experience with the book could be highly beneficial for them.

- **Books with visually appealing covers**

We often use the phrase, “Don’t judge a book by its cover” but that’s exactly what children do! And who can blame them? The artwork on a book cover is often overlooked but is so important to become involved in the story before we even open the book. Much discussion can be encouraged by simply looking at the cover of a book. For example if we look at a new book we can open discussion and active engagement with the book by asking:

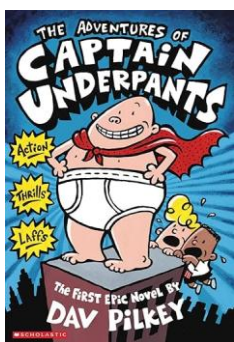


- What is each boy holding?
- Do you know the building in the picture?
- Why do you think the colours on the cover have been chosen?
- Look at the expression on their faces – how do you think they may be feeling?
- The buildings in the corners look like they are damaged – what do you think has happened?
- What do you think is happening here?

Children will often notice a lot more than adults – the discussion and debate can be so useful when looking at choosing a book to read. Have a look at your children’s current reading book and see what you can both discover.

- **The Freedom to Choose What they Can Read.**

When children have the freedom to choose what they read, their motivation and engagement grow. A “quality” book is one that a child *really* wants to read! We all aim to encourage a love of reading for every child – allowing them to experience joy when they read. This may mean reading a book with fart jokes, graphic novels and endless wizards, but this is part of their reading education and should not be criticised.



For example this book is pure fun! Dave Pilkey has an interesting background.

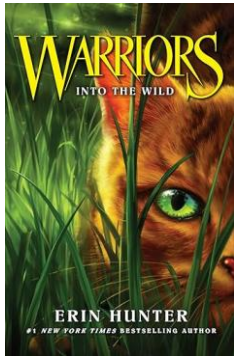
When he was in school he was diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia. Dave Pilkey was so disruptive in class that his teachers made him sit out in the hallway every day. Luckily, he loved to draw and make up stories. He spent his time in the hallway creating his own original comic books - the very first adventures of Dog Man and Captain Underpants.

The following quote is from the National Literacy Trust:

“Our recent research revealed that in the face of steeply declining levels of engagement with reading, children and young people are still drawn to reading materials like comics and graphic novels. It highlights the role of comics and graphic novels as essential tools to (re)ignite enthusiasm in a pastime that is struggling to engage young people.”

- **Hearing recommendations from friends, family and teachers**

Choosing a book can be quite overwhelming and recommendations from all the above are equally as important. It is lovely in the library to hear children recommending books to their friends and many books have been purchased based on their requests. Some of the most popular books at the moment are the “Warrior Cats “series which all began by one of our librarians recommending them.

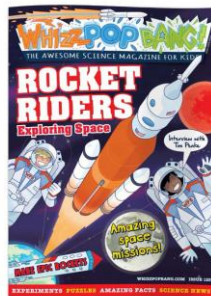
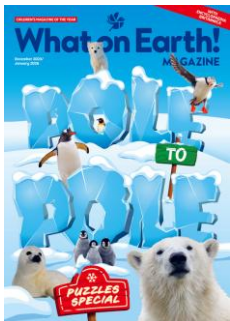


A rich and exciting feline fantasy world in which epic battles for territory and honour are played out, perfect for fans of Brian Jacques' Redwall series.

When 'kittypet' Rusty strays into the forest beyond his owner's garden and is ambushed by a wild cat, life as he knows it is over.

- **Encouraging reading through a variety of formats**

In the library we have a large selection of magazines that parents have kindly donated to us. These give children a wonderful opportunity to browse and find something that catches their interest. Many of these magazines have subscription offers which make great birthday presents from grandparents! A few examples of what we have in the library are shown here.



The BooksforTopics is a great resource to help you through the bewildering choice of reading materials for your child. The extract below can be used by clicking on the coloured links to view their recommendations.

Reading for Pleasure Booklists

The BooksForTopics [Reading for Pleasure booklists](#) are here to help you to find the right books to boost enjoyment in reading – whether it is popular lists of [50 Recommended Reads for each Year Group](#), the best [graphic novels for children](#), recommended [funny books](#), books for [reluctant readers](#) or lists of [diverse children's books](#). We've put together a wealth of resources to support book selection for children's [reading for pleasure](#)

