

READING NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1 2026



WELCOME BACK!

We hope you all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some well-deserved time together with family and friends.

We're so excited to welcome everyone back for another fantastic school year! 2026-27 is lined up to be another jam-packed year, full of amazing learning, wonderful books and lots of exciting reading events sprinkled throughout the year. There will be plenty of opportunities to celebrate reading and help our children continue to grow as confident, enthusiastic readers.

We hope this newsletter is a useful way to keep up to date with what's been happening in school, discover upcoming reading events, and find ideas for supporting reading at home.

Here's to another year of sharing great stories, celebrating reading successes and fostering a lifelong love of books!

KS2 AUTHOR VISIT: OLAF FALAFEL

We're thrilled to be welcoming the brilliantly funny author and illustrator Olaf Falafel to school on 17th September! Olaf will be talking to our KS2 children about his hilarious new book: The Far-Out Five: Portal Loo Panic!



Known for his laugh-out-loud stories, quirky illustrations and energetic presentations, Olaf is sure to inspire lots of children to pick up a book and discover the joy of reading. We can't wait for what promises to be a fantastic and fun-filled visit!

KS1 AUTHOR VISIT: SARAH MERRIEN



We're delighted to finally welcome Sarah Merrien to our school this October after last year's KS1 author visit was postponed due to the hot weather. Sarah will be sharing her book, Percy the Extraordinary Explorer, and we're looking forward to an engaging visit that will inspire a love of reading in our younger children.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

17th Sept

Olaf Falafel author visit (KS2)

7th Oct

Sarah Merrien author visit (KS1)

Nov 2026

Book Fair! Date TBC

PARENT READING SURVEY

A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out our reading survey at the end of July. We really appreciate your feedback!



CALLING ALL SECRET READERS!



Our Secret Reader sessions have been hugely successful in Foundation, and we'd love to spread the magic across the school! A Secret Reader is a mystery guest who comes into school to share one of their favourite books with their child's class. The children love trying to guess who the reader might be, and it's a wonderful way to celebrate a love of reading. If you'd be interested in taking part, please contact your child's class teacher for more information.

USEFUL QUESTION STEMS

Don't forget to take a look at the reading at home question stem sheet at the front of your child's diary. These handy stems are specifically tailored to each year group and are designed to help make reading at home as meaningful as possible. By using these questions, you can help deepen your child's understanding, build confidence and make the most of every reading session. If you have any question relating to supporting your child with their reading at home, your child's class teacher will be more than happy to help.



FOUNDATION

Reading session	Session outline	Guidance for the session
1	Front cover detectives	Before you start reading with your child, take time to look closely at the front cover together. Talk about the title, the pictures, and what they might tell you about the story. Ask questions like "What do you think this book is about?" or "Who do you think this character is?" This simple step helps spark curiosity, build prediction skills, and get your child thinking about the story before it even begins. It's a great way to make reading more engaging and meaningful right from the start.
2	Adult reads to child	At this stage, it's all about making reading fun, warm, and interactive. Use different voices, talk about the pictures, and encourage your child to join in with repeated phrases or rhymes. Ask simple questions like "What do you think will happen next?" or "Can you spot the cat?" to build curiosity and comprehension.
3	Child reads	Read a sentence or short phrase aloud with expression, then have your child repeat it back to you—just like an echo! This helps them hear how fluent reading sounds and gives them a chance to practise without pressure.
4	Child reads to adult	When your child reads to you, the most important thing is to be patient, encouraging, and positive. Let them try sounding out tricky words, and gently help if they get stuck. Praise their efforts often—confidence grows with encouragement! If they make a mistake, give them time to notice and correct it themselves.
5	Comprehension check	After reading, talk about the story together—ask who their favourite character was, what they liked or didn't like, and what they think might happen next. These conversations help your child think more deeply about the story and build important comprehension skills in a fun, relaxed way.

Sessions should take place in the order 1-5. Sessions can be repeated if required, but should not be skipped.

YEARS 3-4

Question Stems

LKS2 reading

Vocabulary

- What does the word _____ mean?
- Can you find a word you don't know?
- What clues in the sentence help you work out the meaning?
- Can you think of another word that means the same thing?
- Which word or phrase do you like best? Why?

Inference

- How do you think the character is feeling? How do you know?
- What clues tell you that?
- Why do you think the character did that?
- What does this tell you about the character?
- What do you think the character is thinking?

Prediction

- What do you think will happen next?
- Why do you think that?
- What might the character do next?
- How do you think the story will end?
- Has anything happened so far that helps you make a prediction?

Explanation

- Why do you think that happened?
- Why is this part important?
- How do you know?
- Can you explain that in your own words?
- Why did the character react in that way?

Retrieval

- Who are the main characters?
- Where is the story set?
- What happened at the beginning of the story?
- What happened after _____?
- Can you find the part that tells us _____?

Summarising

- Can you tell me what has happened so far?
- What were the most important events in this chapter?
- Can you summarise this page in one or two sentences?
- What is the main idea of this section?
- If you were telling a friend about this story, what would you say?

YEARS 5-6

Question Stems

UKS2 reading

Vocabulary

- What does this word mean in this sentence?
- Can you find a word you don't know? What do you think it means?
- Are there any words or phrases that are new to you? How could you find out what they mean?
- Can you use this word in your own sentence?
- Why do you think the author chose this word?

Inference

- What do you think the character is feeling? What clues tell you that?
- Why do you think the character did that?
- What can you infer about this place or situation from the details given?
- How do you know what the character is thinking, even if it isn't said?

Prediction

- What do you think will happen next? Why?
- How do you think the story will end?
- What clues has the author given you about what might happen?
- If you were the character, what would you do next?
- Based on what you know so far, what do you expect to happen in the next section?

Explanation

- Can you explain what just happened in your own words?
- Why do you think the character made that choice?
- How does this part of the story connect to something that happened earlier?
- Can you explain why this event is important to the story?
- How would you describe the main idea of this chapter?

Retrieval

- Who are the main characters in the story?
- Where does the story take place?
- What happened at the beginning of the story?
- Can you find a sentence that tells us how the character feels?
- What did the character do after...?

Summarising

- What are the most important events in this chapter?
- How would you describe the story in just a few sentences?
- What has changed from the beginning to the end?
- If you had to tell someone what this book is about, what would you say?

CLASS READERS:



Shrew Class:

A range of books about dinosaurs and families



Robin Class:

The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson



Hedgehog Class:

Esio Trot by Roald Dahl



Otter Class:

Portly the Otter by M.G. Leonard



Puffin Class:

The Puffin Keeper by Michael Morpurgo



Seal Class:

King of the Cloud Forests by Michael Morpurgo



Red Kite Class:

When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle