

Spring Reading Newsletter



Welcome to the Spring Reading Newsletter. It has been a fantastic start to our National Year of Reading celebrations with National Storytelling Week. All the children had great fun exploring oral story traditions, from every corner of the globe, and looked at how tone and expression can help to draw in the listener and give life to a story. Oracy skills are a vital part of your child's development; helping them to become confident, clear and engaging speakers – an essential life skill.

As always, this edition of our newsletter is filled with information, tips and everything reading, here at Coppice Academy! In particular, make sure to have a read through the pages that highlight key information about the purpose and aims of the “National Year of Reading – Go All In!” – these are filled with links for tips and strategies to help you support and develop your child's life-long love of reading and ideas to help you get involved as well. We will be back later in the Spring with our bumper edition focusing on “World Book Day”, an event that has been in the planning since last summer! As “A Reading School” we are definitely going all in!



‘We Wonder’ Competition

This STEM-focused reading challenge is for students aged 7-14. The topic aims to motivate your child, including any reluctant readers, by investigating the natural world and how it interacts with our own. Exploring a range of fun ideas, the challenge will broaden the reading selection as well as supporting engagement with non-fiction texts.

Reading around the topic also raises awareness of real-world STEM careers and functions.

The challenge is for children to design their own community park or green space that celebrates and connects with nature. The aim is to reflect on everyday aspects of the natural world and explore how we interact with and care for the environment around us. This challenge encourages students to think deeply about the natural world; how we experience it, how it shapes our lives and most importantly, how these interactions help us learn, imagine and grow with an understanding of how to protect nature. However, their final design does not need to be set in reality... children should let their imaginations run wild! Whatever they choose, they should remember: the goal is to protect and celebrate our nature and all it has to offer!

The competition recommended reading list and design template will be sent out with this newsletter so that over half term your child can dive in and start to get creative as well as enjoy some relaxing reading time!

Entries for the competition need to be with Miss Wright by 20th March. The top two entries will be entered into the official Literacy Trust judges. With prizes for the best entry from each year group. Good Luck!

What do we mean by a ‘green space’?

A green space is any area, big or small, that supports plants, wildlife and nature. It doesn't have to be a large grassy field, it can be a garden, courtyard, rooftop, balcony or any space that brings people closer to the natural world.

Top 3 Reading Classes in Spring 1 are:

1st Place – 5F

2nd Place – 6S

3rd Place – 6D



Little Wandle..

Using the Little Wandle Books with your child at home is incredibly important to ensure that your child makes the best progress possible.

However, we know it can be challenging to know what to do to support your child and so that is why there is a specific "For Parents" area on the Little Wandle website. Check it out for more information.

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/and Sounds>



We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised
A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



LoveReading

4 KIDS BUY BOOKS CHANGE LIVES

A reminder that as part of ensuring our school remains up to date with best of children's literature, we have a book club through Love Reading.

If you would like to buy books for your child and support us here at Coppice Academy, while doing so, we would greatly appreciate your contribution.

When you make your purchase on the site, please select Coppice Academy as your chosen school.



LoveReading

4 SCHOOLS Powered by LoveReading4Kids

Buy a Book. Support a School. Make a Difference



SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

and earn **FREE BOOKS** for our school!

GO ALL IN.
National Year of Reading 2020

An illustration of a young girl in a superhero costume with a red cape and a bat character with wings and a mask.

Our Travelling Book Fair will be in the main school Library :

Tuesday 17th – Monday 23rd March

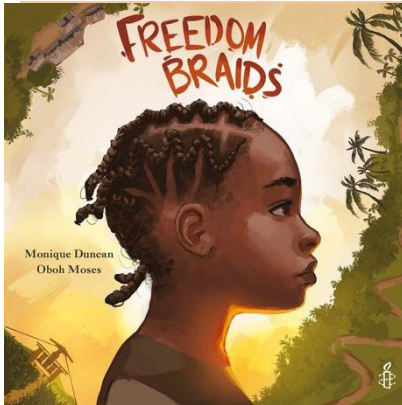
From 3.30pm – 4.15pm

What Should I Read Next?



Reading Genre Focus

Our focus this time is stories from other cultures, both historical and current. When we take the time to learn about the varied cultures and peoples in our world, we make it a brighter, more accepting and understanding place to live. Enjoy!



Day after day, Nemy is forced to sow seeds in the sugarcane plantation, until one night, she follows a woman called Big Mother to a hidden shack. There, she finds a group of women braiding each other's hair. But these are no ordinary braids. Hidden in each elaborate pattern is a secret – a message that signals their intent to flee and a map to guide them in their escape. Will the paths these courageous women weave guide Nemy to a new home where she can be free?

A picture book of love, liberation and legacy inspired by the true story of enslaved African women in Colombia braiding maps to freedom.

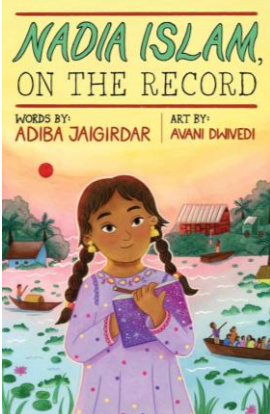
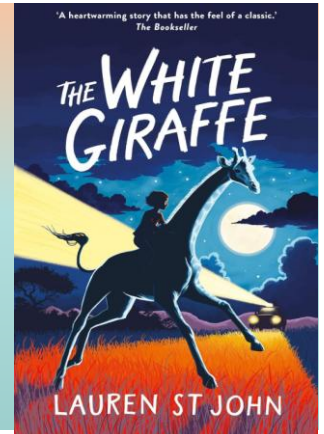
This book has been shortlisted on the Carnegie Book Awards shortlist 2026.

Martine is eleven when she goes to live on a game reserve in Africa, a place where mysteries and secrets abound, where the intoxicating magic of the country casts all sorts of spells.

One lonely night, she looks out of her window and sees a young giraffe, silver tinged with cinnamon in the moonlight.

'For a split second their eyes locked, the small sad girl and the slender young giraffe, then the sky went dark. Martine pressed her face to the window, desperate to see the white giraffe again.'

In that instant Martine knows that she is prepared to risk everything for it. The giraffe looks at her as if it is waiting...



Even though Nadia is excited to meet her cousins on her summer trip to Bangladesh, she is disappointed not to be celebrating her first Ramadan fasting alongside her best friend, Yasmin. Then again, she just might find the news story that will get her picked to be her school paper's editor-in-chief!

As soon as she lands, Nadia realizes she has a lot to learn about Bangladesh. Her favorite aunt (and fellow journalist) is spending the summer researching the disastrous flooding in the region - and she just might need Nadia's help to get the inside scoop about the country's climate dangers.

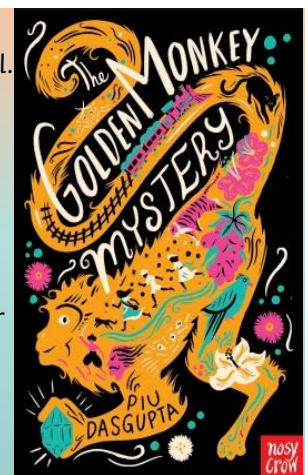
Meanwhile, Nadia's cousins are almost as competitive as she is, and suggest a contest to see who can keep the most fasts. Between her journalism and her determination to win the Ramadan Race, Nadia is sure to have the best Ramadan ever - right?

Roma Moreau is aspiring to be the first woman to study at Bengal Medical College. Here Roma meets a huge amount of adversity and must find it in herself to persevere in order to be successful. Even Roma's own father heavily discourages her from attempting this feat.

During her studies, Roma determinedly unravels a mystery surrounding the mythical golden monkey. Vowing to return it to its home in the Himalayas, Roma stumbles upon a mysterious map and embarks on a dangerous journey filled with thieves, deadly snakes and a magical gem that contains terrifying power.

The character of Roma is based on real women that the author researched for this novel and she represents the very real struggle of women not only in India but around the world who fought for their independence and basic human rights.

Books like The Golden Monkey Mystery are also effective tools in teaching how important it is to recognise the struggles of our ancestors in order to fully appreciate the luxuries we are able to experience today.



Other new books to...



Home Reading Reminder...

Just a quick reminder that in order to maximise the impact our reading curriculum has on your child's progress. **We ask that:**

- **You listen to your child read each evening and sign their planner.** Each day in school your child will get up to 2 ticks – one for having their planner and the other for it being signed to prove they have read. If they manage this at least 3 times a week, they are in with a chance of winning Reading Champion – where they are gifted a book, to keep and enjoy, from our fantastic vending machine!
- **You ensure your child has their home reading book in school every day,** along with their planner, to enable us to ensure that they are being suitably challenged and supported in their reading progress.



Note: *If your child has finished their Home Reading Book or has accidentally left it at school, please do still hear them read a book of their, or your, choice and still note it in their planner so that teachers can gain an insight into book tastes and interests across the class and school.*



BIG CAT

Home Reading support places a vital role in helping consolidate the learning that goes on in school and so we want to support and enable you to have meaningful conversations with your child about what they have read. This embeds and extends vocabulary and comprehension skills that will be essential for their education and later in life.

National Year of Reading



This year, we're bringing reading closer to culture...

In 2026, the National Year of Reading is reconnecting reading with the things that already inspire us- from playlists and football matches to films, food and family time. It's reading that fits how we live, not the other way around.

Explore how you can join in the movement at home, in partnership with your children's school or across your local and wider community.

Turn what they love into a love of reading...

Children come alive when they're exploring the things they're passionate about. From superheroes and football to cooking, dancing and dinosaurs – every word counts.

The National Year of Reading 2026 is your chance to help your child discover new worlds, grow confidence and build a lifelong love of reading – through everyday moments you already share.



Why this matters...

Fewer children are reading for pleasure. It's disappearing from life.

Across the UK, children are reading less than they used to and stories aren't getting the same space they once did. And it's happening across all age groups, from toddlers to teenagers.

Children feel the impact. When reading drops, confidence, imagination and learning take a hit as well. Reading helps children focus, express themselves, develop their curiosity, and it gives families an opportunity to connect.



The earliest years make the biggest difference...

It's never too early to start sharing stories. Babies in the womb can already hear sounds and recognise familiar voices, so reading and talking to them during pregnancy is a lovely way to begin.

Throughout their early years, a short story, a song, or a rhyme while you're cuddled up, on the bus, or waiting for dinner – it all counts.

It's those small moments of connection and joy that matter most – that's what children will remember.



For tips look at:

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/parent-support/chatting-your-baby/top-tips-for-reading-with-your-bump-and-baby/>

"This is the biggest reading initiative the country has ever seen – and it's just the beginning. Our ambition is to transform reading for generations"

David Hayman, Director National Year of Reading

Help younger children (5–10 years old) grow into confident, curious readers...

Between 5 and 10, children's passions explode – dinosaurs, dancing, gaming, art, the outdoors. These interests are your biggest ally.

The National Year of Reading will give you ideas, encouragement and simple ways to keep reading fun and part of everyday life, whatever your child loves.

Tips for making reading feel easy:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/resources/find-resources/motivating-children-to-read-at-home-8-practical-tips-for-parents/>

Focus on their hobbies:

<https://wordsoflife.org.uk/activities/using-hobbies-help-your-child-read/>



Great stories don't need to cost a thing...

Your local library is full of free books, e-books and storytimes for families. If you can't get there, try digital platforms such as Libby or Borrowbox, or even ask friends, neighbours or family if they can lend or pass down reads.

Many schools, Family Hubs and early years settings also run book swaps or lend boxes to help children explore new stories.

Children don't need a perfect storyteller. They just need you.

We haven't all grown up loving reading, and that's okay. But it helps for children to see you taking part, even in small ways.

Look at pictures together, ask them to tell you what's happening, or enjoy stories in the language you know best. The key is sharing the moment, not getting every word right.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/early-years/their-story-starts-with-you/>

We all know the benefits of reading, but fewer of us are doing it...

Reading expands minds, builds confidence and fuels creativity. Yet with more distractions and less time, reading for pleasure is in decline across many groups.

The National Year of Reading 2026 is here to change that, by reconnecting reading with everyday culture.

It's not about guilt or obligation; it's about helping people see that stories, ideas and imagination belong everywhere.



Bringing reading to culture, not the other way round...

Instead of asking people to "find time to read", 'Go All In' brings reading to them, through their passions. It's about showing that reading isn't a separate world; it's the heartbeat of culture itself.

Whatever people are into – sport, music, food, gaming, film, fashion, or creativity – we use it to draw them into reading. By starting with passions, not pressure, we can create a stronger, more connected reading culture all across the whole of the UK and at every stage of life.

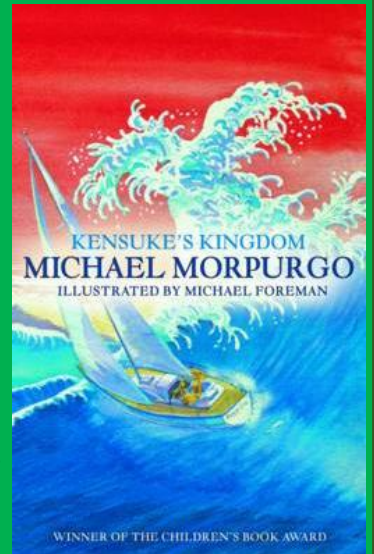




Our recommendation comes from Mr Fraser...

The book I would recommend is "Kensuke's Kingdom" because it is a powerful and moving adventure story about survival, friendship and courage.

When Michael is swept off his family's boat and washed up on a deserted island, he discovers he is not alone – and forms an unforgettable bond with the mysterious Kensuke. I would highly recommend this book for its beautiful description, emotional depth and themes of resilience, trust and respect for nature.



5 out of 5 stars!



Bridging the Fluency Gap...

At Coppice Academy we are always looking for ways to build the strongest and most confident readers as it is such an essential life skill. As I'm sure you all know, we follow the Little Wandle SSP Phonics programme to build a robust foundation for all future reading and comprehension activities. However, we had identified that the jump from smaller group phonics sessions to the in class, VIPERS based Shared Reading sessions, was proving challenging for many pupils. So, to bridge this gap, and ensure our readers are ready to move onto the next stage of their reading journey, we have implemented the Reading Fluency groups.



These are run as small group sessions to ensure that every child gains experience in exactly what skills are needed to give them key comprehension, analytical and investigative skills that builds greater support for all areas of the curriculum. The groups are pitched at three different levels and are linked to individual's age and reading level.



Fluency 1-5

Is aimed at children who are reading at a speed of 60–90 words per minute with 90% accuracy.

Fluency 6 – 10

Is aimed at children who are reading at a speed of 95–120 words per minute with 90% accuracy.

Fluency 11 – 15

For children who are reading at a speed of 125–150 words per minute with 90% accuracy.

Top Tips We know many of you will want to support the work your children are doing in these sessions so we have a few top tips for you.

No. 1 Let your child see you reading for pleasure and talk to them about books you enjoyed as a child and what genres you enjoy most now.

No. 2 Discuss books, audiobooks, articles, newspaper stories etc. unpick what you have read, check understanding. Can they explain it back to you?

No. 3 Read aloud to your child or listening to audio books together; modelling how you can use tone of voice, change of pace and volume to create atmosphere and help develop understanding are all key skills.