

Spring 2 2026

READING: THE NEWS

Springfield Primary Reading news!



In this issue:

- ☐ Bedtime reading research
- ☐ Recommended reads
- ☐ Vocabulary Talk.
- ☐ World Book Day plans
- ☐ Other Book events in school
- ☐ Children's reading books

**“
A book is a
gift you can
open again
and again.
”**

Garrison Keillor

Bedtime reading research.



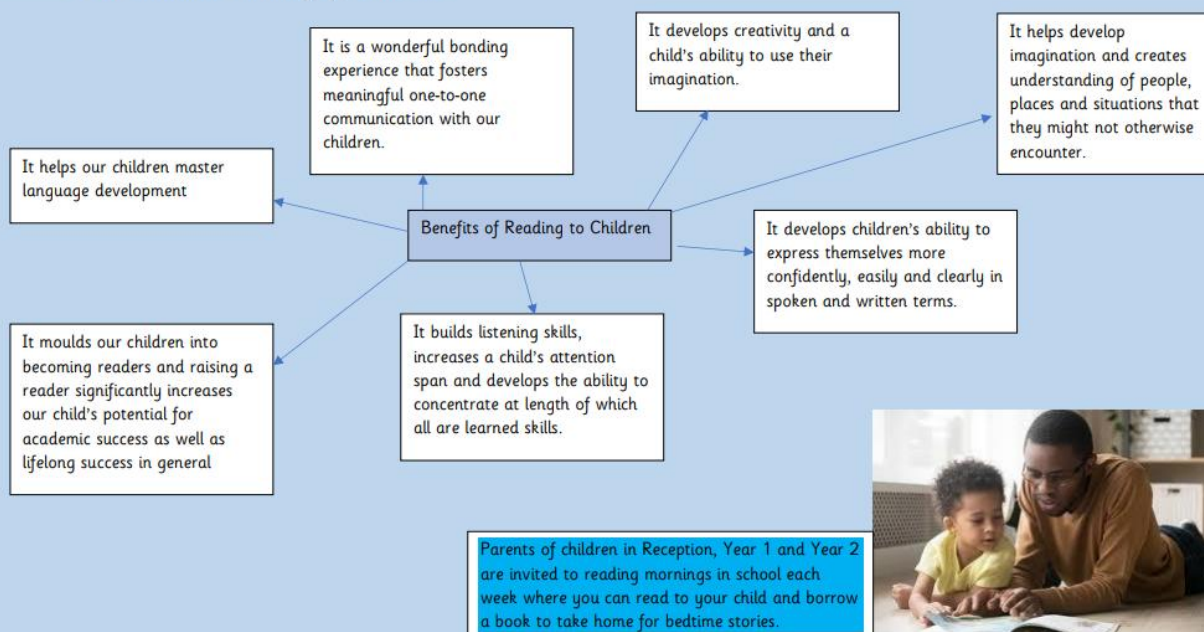
BookTrust research carried out with young families (children aged 0-4) shows that:

- Only 40% say a bedtime story is part of their normal routine.
- 38% don't read with their child due to lack of time.
- 30% say that reading isn't a big part of family life.
- 28% don't find reading with their child easy.



Reading at Springfield

Reading to your child is an important way of introducing stories and vocabulary to them as well as being a wonderful bonding time with your child. When children are reading their own Reading books, you can help your child with their reading by being supportive and encouraging. Talk about the pictures and what is happening. Talk about the meaning of words too.



This information is taken from our School's Reading information booklet which is posted on our school website [here](#).

Whilst it is important for children to read themselves, research tells us that it is so important for children to hear stories being told too. Find out more from the Children's literacy charity [here](#).

Our Reading mornings in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are a great way to access books, which can be borrowed from school for bedtime reading, and returned to school the following week.

Recommended reads.



Graphic novels are becoming increasingly popular amongst our children. Last 'World Book day' week, we based our learning all around Graphic novels and each class produced a large graphic novel text. It is great to see children around school still enjoying reading graphic novels. A study by the National Literacy trust (2023) found that:

- *40% of children read graphic novels on paper, screen or both at least once a month.

- *More of those who read graphic novels read something daily in their free time compared with peers who did not read graphic novels (36% vs 23%)

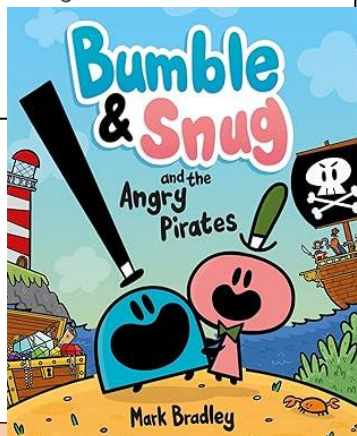
- *59% of those who read graphic novels in their free time said they enjoyed reading for pleasure compared to 33% of those who didn't read graphic novels.

- *86% of graphic novel readers saw themselves as either "good" or "very good" readers, compared to 76% of non-graphic novel readers.

Here are some recommended Graphic novels for you to try:

A recommended read for EYFS children.

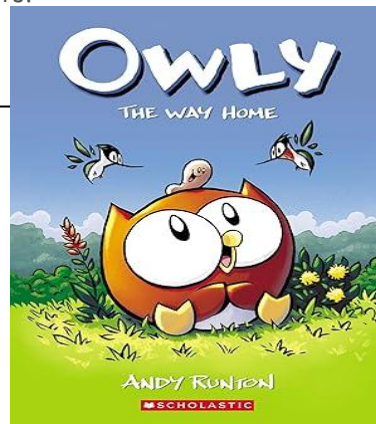
Best friends Bumble and Snug are Bugbops-little monsters with big feelings! The Bumble and Snug stories are from a series of books. In this adventure they go on a picnic. However, they get lost on the way home and come across some pirate treasure and some angry pirates! Bumble and Snug and The Angry Pirates is a story about being cross, how to listen and friendship.



A recommended read for KS1 children.

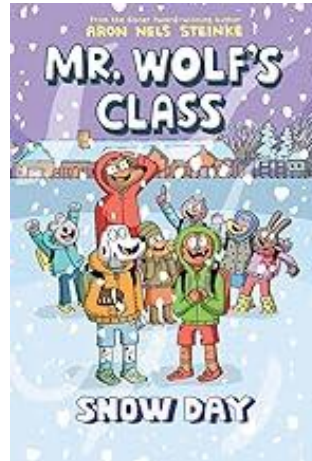
The 'Owly' books are a series of graphic novel texts by American author Andy Runton.

Owly is a gentle, good-natured owl who likes to make friends and help others. He comes across challenges and adventures along the way. These texts are a lovely introduction to graphic novels for younger readers.



A recommended read for Y3-4.

There are 5 books in the series of Mr Wolf stories to enjoy. In this story, it is snowing and there is excitement in the air as the school day might end early. Find out what adventure happens with Mr Wolf and his pupils.



A recommended read for Y5-6

This series is a trilogy. This book is the first in the series. It introduces the reader to two unlikely friends: Bea and Cad, who get swept up in an epic quest to save the world with the help of Pig Wizard! When they go to look for Pig Wizard, he is nowhere to be found- all that it left is the Jar of endless flame and a mysterious note.

Can Bea and Cad find Pig Wizard in time to save the world?

Vocabulary Talk.

Be a word detective


In classes we have been collecting and talking about the meanings of words which we are unsure of. We are enjoying learning more words and using these words when we speak and in our writing.



A Challenge for you:

Using the words from our whole school 'Sparkling word' tree (refuse, billabong, decompose, serendipity, confess, frightened, ricochet, snoring, controversial, generous, monstrosity, expedition, autonomous, present) or the words on your knowledge organiser or curriculum information grid on your class page on the school website. See if you can complete the following challenge:

Can you draw the word, write the definition and write the word in a sentence as an extra challenge? E.g

Draw the word	Definition	sentence
 Stern	Very serious and a little bit cross.	Make a stern face.

Return your challenge to your class teacher for dojo rewards!

We enjoy playing vocabulary games in school. Try these vocabulary games at home, to explore different ways of using vocabulary:

Game 1: My favourite word.

Discuss your favourite words as a family. These can be words in any language. Why are they your favourite word? Can you illustrate your word? Can you use your favourite word in a sentence? Explore different words you all like and why.

Mrs Pycroft's favourite word is... "Entschuldigung". This is a favourite word because of the way it sounds when it is said. It sounds polite and kind and when it is spoken, it demonstrates the meaning of the word, which in English means "excuse me/sorry".



Game 2: Hink Pink

Hink Pink is a pair of rhyming words that together they form an answer to a riddle. Each pair of words must have the same number of syllables, like 'Hink' and 'pink'. There are two ways of playing this game:

1. Give out both the clue and the answer and encourage your child to match them up.
2. Give out either the clue or the answer and ask you child to give the other half.

Once your child gets the idea of how to play, they may wish to make up their own! For young children, rhyme is a difficult concept, first explore matching the rhyming words.

Clues:

- *What do you call a rodents home?
- *What do you call an empty seat?
- *What do you call a young person running free?
- *What do you call an incorrect tune?
- *What do you call a distant vehicle?
- * What do you call a large branch?
- * What do you call an insect that isn't wet?
- *What do you call a tune that goes on and on?

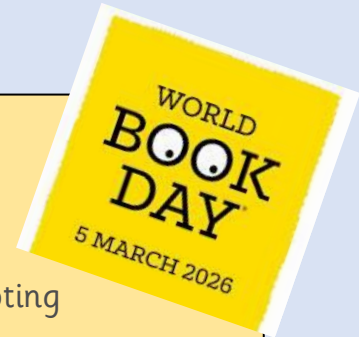
Answers:
Mouse house
Bare chair
Wild child
Wrong song
Far Car
Big Twig
Dry Fly
Long song

Game 3: Ways to say.

Brainstorm different ways of talking like 'mumbling, bellowing, whispering, croaking, and sobbing'.

Check that everyone knows what the words mean and have fun acting them out. Write the words on pieces of paper, scrunch them up and place them in a hat. Choose a simple phrase such as 'It's almost 4 o'clock.' Take turns taking a word from the hat, saying the phrase in that style, while others try to guess.

World Book Day Plans.



This year is the National year of Reading. In school, we are always promoting reading for pleasure and the enjoyment of listening to others read. This will be part of our focus for our world book day celebrations. Over the week of world book day, pupils will also be engaging in a whole school plan to use a story book as a stimulus for writing and oracy work. Pupils will be learning to talk about a text they have read and also learn how to talk to present what they have learned. Each class will perform their learning to another class in school. Our other world book day plans include:

Drop Everything and Read (DEAR time) Pupils will be treated to a selection of inspiring stories, comics, Non-fiction, poetry books during this time, where all adults and pupils in class will have time to read for pleasure.



Book buzz

The most powerful influencers of reading are our friends. To have recommendations of books from others, inspires us to read texts that we may not even have thought about. In class, pupils will have the opportunity to talk about what they are reading and give recommendations to each other.



Adult readers.

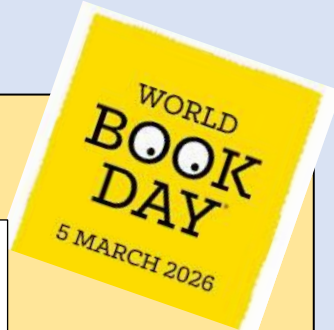
Adults from around school will be taking time-out to read to pupils in other classes. Who will come and read to your class?



Parent readers.

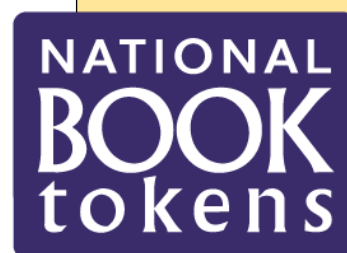
We would welcome any parent readers into school too! Last year we had a wonderful family come and read a story in Arabic and translated into English to our Year 2 class. This was really well received. Children love to hear stories from other adults.

If you have a story you would like to read to a class, or a group of pupils, please get in contact and let us know which class you would like to read to and when you are able to come and read. Please email donna.pycroft@springfield.sheffield.sch.uk by Tuesday 24th February 2026.



World Book day tokens EYFS and KS1

All EYFS and KS1 pupils will be given a National Book token during their Reading morning in class. These tokens can be redeemed at local book stores and supermarkets to purchase one of the world book day books.

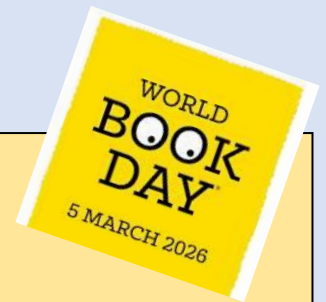


The redemption period for World Book Day 2026 £1/€1.50 tokens is from Thursday 12 February until Sunday 15 March 2026.

World Book day tokens KS2







Pupils in our KS2 classes will be visiting Waterstones book store in Orchard square, Sheffield city centre on either Tuesday 3rd March or Wednesday 4th March 2026 to spend their book token vouchers. Miss Button has kindly arranged this trip again this year as pupils in past years have enjoyed selecting a book to purchase with their voucher. We look forward to seeing which books they have chosen.




World Book Reading Bingo Challenge

Miss Button and Mrs Pycroft have created a reading quiz for you to try. Simply achieve all the reading challenges on this page, then create a challenge of your own. Send a photograph of you doing your reading challenge to school by the deadline. There is a prize for the most creative entry!


Reading Bingo

For this reading challenge, complete all 12 challenges and then take a picture of you doing challenge number 13—reading a book doing a challenge of your own choosing:

1. Read in a pillow den	2. Read a book with a one-word title	3. Read a book with a blue cover, whilst wearing something blue
4. Read a book about an animal whilst drinking a cup of hot chocolate	5. Read on a rainy day	6. Read a book where the author's name has the same first letter as yours
7. Read a book at a toy tea party or to a pet	8. Read a poem	9. Read a fairy tale
10. Read a hardback book with illustrations	11. Read a book with a friend or family member.	12. Read wearing your pyjamas whilst snuggled in a blanket.
13. Read a book whilst doing something of your choosing. We would like children to get a photo of themselves reading their books in unusual and out-of-the-ordinary places. An example could be up a climbing frame or on a trampoline (children have been asked to be mindful of being safe and to check with an adult first). The more creative – the better! We would love for families to get involved as well so please feel free to join in.		



Can you cross off all of these challenges before the end of term? Deadline for photo entries into this reading competition is **Monday 23rd March 2026.**
Please send photos to donna.pycroft@springfield.sheffield.sch.uk



Book events in school



We have an exciting project planned with the Family Adult Community Education Service (FACES) team, bringing books and storytelling to life through a Traditional Tales workshop. The workshop aims to work with families to produce a live-action story telling of a book. The story will be told in home language using props and resources made as part of the workshop. We would love to offer this to all families but places are extremely limited. We will aim to share the outcomes of this storytelling event in the next Reading newsletter.



School Reading Books

Our reading approach is that pupils will read a book with their teachers in class in a Guided reading session. This session is usually within a group, working on specific reading and comprehension objectives. That book is then taken home to practise the reading skills taught in class. As children read more of this text, the more fluent they will become. We value children reading books which are familiar to them as an important strategy for furthering their reading skills.




We recommend children read 5 times per week. But we understand that some weeks at home are busier than others! The length of time your child reads depends on their age and reading level.

How do I encourage my child to read?

- Read yourself- not just books, all forms of text.
- Show the value of books in the home.
- Encourage reading in the environment.
- Support your child to read their Common Exception words (Tricky words)
- Visit the library.
- Make time to read: a regular slot for you to read to your child and your child to read to you, helps to give it the importance.
- Use lots of praise and encouragement.
- Help your child with their reading challenge and encourage your child to read 5 days per week.
- Use reading prompt questions to support your child.
- Ask questions to check their understanding of what they have read.



Do you know how valuable it is for your child to read every day?

Child A	Child B	Child C
Reads 20 minutes a day. = 3600 minutes in a school year. That's 1,800,000 words!	Reads 5 minutes a day. = 900 minutes in a school year. That's 282,000 words!	Reads 1 minute a day. = 180 minutes in a school year. That's 8,000 words!
		

By the end of Year 6, Child A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Child B will have read just 12 days.

If you would like any advice as to how to support your child with their reading. There is more information about reading strategies on our class pages of the school website [here](#). If you need any further support, please do not hesitate to ask your teachers in school.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Pycroft & Miss. Button

