

Summer 2 2026

READING: THE NEWS

Springfield Primary Reading news!



In this issue:

- Y1 library visit
- Vocabulary Talks
- Summer Reading challenge
- Year 5 : Your school needs you!
- Blue Peter badge news
- Book amnesty



"Books train your mind to
imagination to think big."
– Taylor Swift

LittleYellowStar

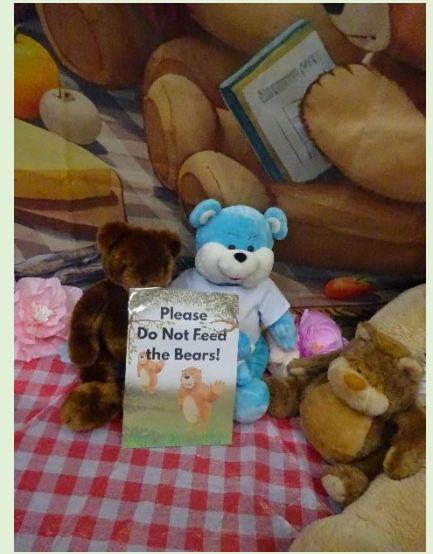
Year 1 Library trip

Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Sheffield City Library during May, where they were invited to take part in the delightful 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' event. The children had a fantastic time exploring the library, sharing stories, and celebrating their love of reading.

This was Year 1's first trip beyond the school, making it a very special milestone and a memorable first out-of-school learning experience. The children's excellent behaviour and enthusiasm made us incredibly proud.

Experiences like this would not be possible without the support of our wonderful parents and carers. We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who generously gave their time to accompany the children. Your support helps make these valuable learning opportunities possible.





When Year 1 arrived at the library, they eagerly followed a trail of bear footprints, which led them to a secret picnic room.

Once inside, the children listened to and acted out a fun poem before enjoying a story all about **catching a bear**.

The excitement continued as they joined in with games featuring songs, and new vocabulary.

The highlight of the visit was a surprise appearance from a giant bear, who delighted and entertained everyone, making it an enjoyable experience for the children!



Vocabulary Talks: Teaching Vocabulary in School

We use the Word Aware STAR approach to teaching vocabulary in school.

Select new vocabulary.

Teach new vocabulary.

Activate: using the new words in sentences and in our writing.

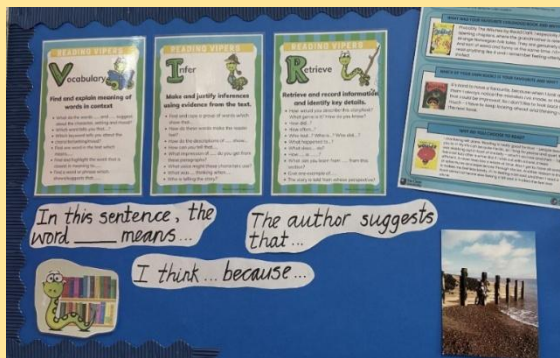
Review: revisit new vocabulary often, so it makes these words 'stick' in our minds.



Throughout the week, we introduce exciting new words linked to our learning. These words are taught in class.



We encourage children to use these words in their speaking, oracy, drama work and in their writing, helping them to understand their meaning and remember them. Talk frames are used to help us structure our sentences and to be able to use these new words.



Our new words are displayed on our word walls. They are then revisited, often, so that we remember their meanings.



These words are added to our Word Aware Jar and explored through stories, conversations and activities. You can support your child at home by asking them about the words they have been learning. Encourage them to explain what the words mean, use them in a sentence, or see if you can spot them together in books or during everyday conversations. Building a rich vocabulary is an important part of developing confident readers, writers and communicators.

Year 3's Word Aware Jar



Word Aware Games to Play at Home

Playing with words is a great way to build your vocabulary.

Here are some simple games you can try at home:



Guess the Word

Choose one of your Word Aware words and describe it without saying the word itself. For example, if the word is *enormous*, you might say, "It means something is much bigger than usual." Can your child/you guess the word? Take turns being the clue giver and the guesser.

Word Detective

Challenge your child to become a "Word Detective" and spot one of their Word Aware words during the week. They might find it in a book, hear it on television, notice it in a conversation, or even see it on a sign. Each time they find a word, talk about what it means and how it has been used.

Describe and Guess

Take turns describing an object without saying its name. For example: "It's round, red and grows on a tree." Can your child guess it's an apple? Encourage them to use interesting describing words.

Synonym Challenge

Can you think of different words that mean the same thing? For example, instead of *happy*, try *cheerful*, *delighted* or *joyful*. See how many alternatives you can find.

Odd One Out

Say four words, with one that doesn't belong. For example: *apple*, *banana*, *carrot*, *orange*. Ask your child which word is the odd one out and explain why.

Story Builder

Choose three random words (for example: *dragon*, *umbrella* and *sparkly*) and challenge each other to make up a short story using all three.

Word of the Day

Pick one exciting new word each day and challenge everyone in the family to use it as many times as possible in conversation.

These quick games help children understand new vocabulary, remember it for longer, and become more confident using ambitious words in their everyday conversations.

Just 5–10 minutes of playing with words each day can make a big difference to your child's confidence in speaking, reading and writing.

Summer Reading challenge



Every year, libraries across the country, supported by The Reading Agency, run the Summer Reading Challenge to inspire children to discover the joy of reading.

This year's 2026 theme is **Read to the Beat**. In partnership with Universal Music Group UK, the challenge encourages children to explore the exciting connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music can spark imagination and creativity.

Award-winning author and illustrator Harry Woodgate has brought the theme to life with vibrant illustrations featured throughout the challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge begins on **4 July**. Children can sign up **free of charge** at their local library. Speak to your local library for more information, or visit The Reading Agency website to find out more.

<https://readingagency.org.uk/read-to-the-beat-2026-book-collection/>

We would love to hear all about how you have completed the reading challenge and which books you chose to read when you return to school in September!

OUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

Calling All Year 5 Pupils – Your School Needs You!

Do you love reading? Would you like to inspire others to enjoy books too? If so, we are looking for a team of enthusiastic **Reading Ambassadors** to join us next academic year!

We are looking for pupils who:

- Love reading and enjoy sharing books with others.
- Can recommend exciting books to children across the school.
- Have creative ideas for eye-catching reading displays.
- Are keen to support younger pupils with their reading.
- Would enjoy helping Miss Button and Mrs Pycroft look after our school library.

If this sounds like you, we would love to hear from you!

Please write a letter explaining:

- Why you would like to become a Reading Ambassador.
- What qualities and skills you would bring to the role.
- How you could help inspire a love of reading throughout our school.

Please hand your letter to **Mrs Pycroft or Miss Button by Friday 4th September.**

We can't wait to read your applications and welcome our new team of Reading Ambassadors!



Blue Peter Badges

Did you know there is now a Blue Peter badge for reading?

If you are interested in completing the challenge to gain a Blue Peter badge, the Blue Peter Book badge application rules are as follows:

- You must be between 5-15 years old.
- You apply for your Book Badge online using 'My Blue Peter'- ask your parent to set up a BBC child account so you can use 'My Blue Peter'.
- In your application, tell the Blue Peter team about a book you have read and what you think of it. Maybe you liked the characters, or perhaps you enjoyed going on exciting adventures in faraway places.
- Upload an illustration of a character or a scene from the story. This could be a drawing, painting or even digital artwork.
- Tell the Blue Peter Team which other books and authors you have enjoyed reading and why.

Find out more about how you can achieve a Blue Peter Badge for Reading here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>

Book Amnesty

WANTED!

YOUR OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS



Please search under beds, behind the sofa and in cupboards for any books belonging to Springfield Primary School.

If you find any books at home, please return them before the end of the summer term, so other children can enjoy them. Thank you.

It's that time of year again when we ask families to have a good search at home for any school reading books that may have found their way onto bookshelves, under beds or into toy boxes!

Our reading books are a valuable resource and are organised into carefully matched sets, which are used daily for teaching guided reading and phonics. When books are missing, it means that sets are incomplete, making it difficult for us to teach groups of children effectively.

We would be very grateful if you could return **all school reading books** to school by **Wednesday 15th July**.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our reading resources complete for all of our children.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Pycroft & Miss. Button

