Autumn 1 2026

READING: THE NEWS

Springfield Primary Reading news!

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Thank you for supporting our Scholastic Book Fair: Autumn 2026

A huge thank you to all our staff and families for your wonderful support of our Scholastic Book Fair. It was lovely to see so many of you visiting the fair and to hear the fantastic conversations about books and authors. Most importantly, it was wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm the fair created among the children!







We are also delighted to share some fantastic news: thanks to the sales made during the fair, Scholastic has awarded **our school £619.74 in book vouchers** to spend on new books for our school library.

We can't wait to use the vouchers to add even more exciting and engaging books to our shelves for our children to enjoy.

Thank you once again for helping us to nurture a love of reading across our school community!

Book Fair Bunting Competition.

In the lead-up to our book fair, Miss Button and Mrs Pycroft set the children a creative challenge: to design and make a piece of bunting to display at the fair.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part. We were so impressed by the creativity, imagination and effort that went into each entry. It was so difficult to choose the winners! The bunting looked fantastic, and it was wonderful to see all the different designs together at the book fair.

We had five £5 book vouchers to give away, and our winners were chosen from Reception, Year 1, Year4, Year 5 and Year 6. Congratulations to all of our winners, who were able to spend their vouchers at the book fair!

Well done to everyone who entered- your colourful creations helped to make our book fair look even more special!











Introducing our Reading Ambassadors



Before the summer holidays, Miss Button and Mrs Pycroft invited the children in Upper Key stage 2 to apply to become reading Ambassadors. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the response and we were delighted to receive so many thoughtful and enthusiastic letters of application. It was wonderful to see how passionate our children are about reading and how keen they are to encourage others to enjoy books too.

We are delighted to announce that we now have two groups of Reading Ambassadors, who will share this important role throughout the year.

Our Reading Ambassadors will:

- Support our Reading leaders in managing and maintaining the school library areas.
- Promote a love of reading and reading for pleasure across school.
- Read with younger pupils and support them on their reading journey.
- Gather pupil voice and find out what children think about reading in our school.
- Create exciting and encouraging reading displays in the library.
- Contribute to our school Reading Newsletter.

We are incredibly excited to see our Reading Ambassadors take on their new responsibilities and look forward to seeing the ways they will help to inspire a love of Reading across our school.



Let's hear from some of our Reading ambassadors...

My name is Leea. I am a Reading ambassador. I chose to be a reading ambassador because I really love reading, especially comics. Reading makes me really calm and it helps my writing and my English. When I read, I love to sit on my bed and cover myself with a blanket because I like to read in cozy places.

My name is Sarah. I love reading comics because of their art style. I enjoy reading books in my cozy beanbag and be covered with a heated blanket.

My name is Muhammad. I love reading non-fiction books and books about History. When I am tired in my bed, I listen to songs whilst I am reading.

I am Farah, a Reading ambassador. My favourite type of books are diaries or comics. I especially like Dork Diaries, Diary of a wimpy kid and Bunny Vs Monkey. I like to read in bed when it is nearly my bedtime so I can go to sleep easier.

I am Rukan. I love reading comic books because the art style is nice and they're funny to read. I enjoy reading in my bed under my blanket and I like reading especially when I am sick.

My name is Mariam. Two facts about me that makes me enjoy reading are:

1. That I love reading books while I'm on holiday because I enjoy reading whilst I'm at swimming pools in the morning.

I am Omoefe. I love reading comics and the Dork Diaries. I like books that talk about someone or something. I like to read on a bus or sitting in my bed before sleeping.

My name is Adam. I love reading Horrid Henry books and the Diary of a Wimpy kid. I enjoy reading when I am bored to keep my mind active.

Vocabulary Talk: Teaching Vocabulary in School

For our new families joining us this term, this is a recap on how we teach Vocabulary in school. To introduce new vocabulary, we use the Word Aware STAR approach:



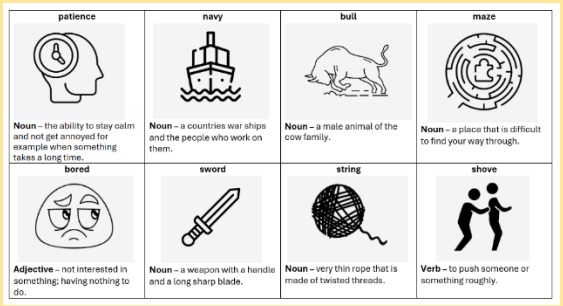
Select new vocabulary.

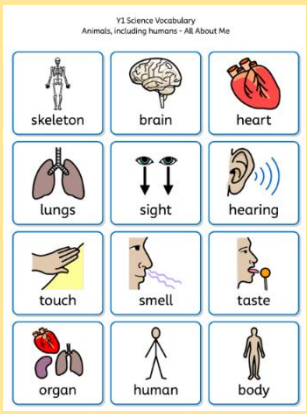
Teach new vocabulary.

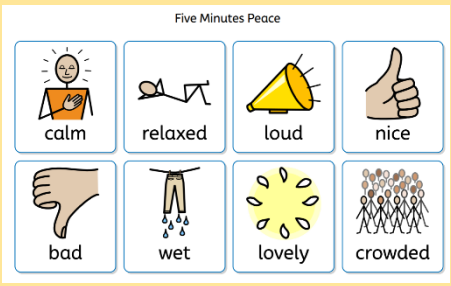
Activate: using the new words in sentences and in our writing.

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 explicitly taught in class, with **Word mats and knowledge organisers** helping children to encounter and understand new vocabulary in context.







We encourage children to use these words in their **speaking, oracy, drama work and in their writing activities**. This helps them to develop a deeper understanding of each word and, importantly, to remember and use it confidently. **Talk frames** are also used to support children in structuring their sentences and incorporating new vocabulary into their spoken language.

New and taught vocabulary are added to our **class 'Word Walls'** and stored in our **Class Word Jars**. The words in our word jar are regularly revisited and used so that children have opportunities to practise and apply their new vocabulary, helping to ensure that it becomes embedded in their language and learning.

As a school, we are continuing to 'grow' our **Sparkling Vocabulary tree**, with new words we are learning in class.



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:

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.

Paint chart Thesaurus

Using old paint charts, or by colouring and making your own. Using a regularly used word, children explore and find more interesting synonyms for the word, add these on to the charts where the darkest colour on the chart is the most interesting of the words they have discovered.



20 Questions

One person think of an object. Others try to guess what it is by asking questions. The original player can only answer yes, no or maybe. Give a clue if they are on the wrong track. Can they guess it in 20 questions?

What's the same and what's different?

Select two related words from a topic that your child is interested in and together talk about what is the same and different about two things:

Book or film characters: e.g batman and Superman
Sports: e.g Basketball and football.

We hope you have fun trying these Vocabulary games at home.
Can you make up and share your own Vocabulary game?

Reading challenges and reading at home.

We hold reading in huge regard at our school. Reading is an essential life skill and opens the door to learning, helping children to develop their knowledge and understanding across the wider curriculum.

In school, children are taught to read through Guided reading and Shared reading sessions. Books that have been read and taught with an adult in school are then sent home, giving children the opportunity to practise their reading and build confidence and fluency.

We encourage all children to read at home, ideally five times a week. Regular reading practice helps children to embed their reading skills and develop greater fluency and confidence when recalling words. It also provides valuable opportunities to develop key reading behaviours, including good phrasing, intonation and expression. Regular reading and re-reading of texts support comprehension skills too.

To encourage and celebrate regular reading at home, we have introduced class reading challenges. The number of reads completed by each class is collated and tracked along a special 'Reading journey' in each classroom, with milestones along the way. Each milestone is celebrated with a class reward.

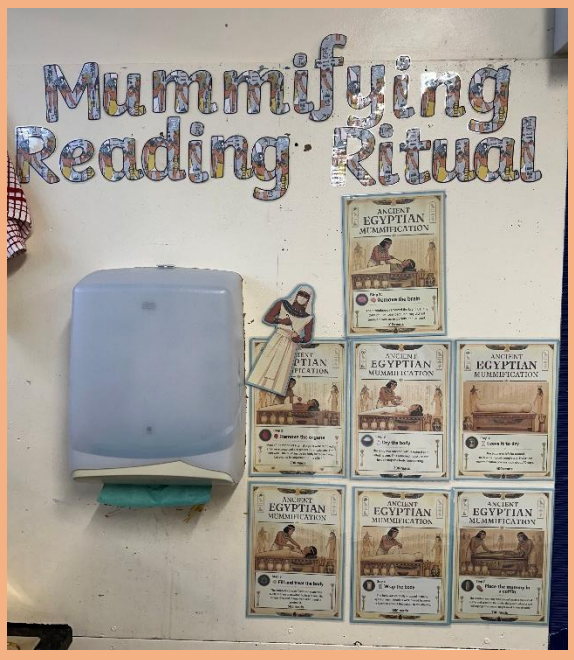
Class rewards are age- and -stage appropriate and are discussed and agreed with the children in each class. We are excited to see the children working together to reach their reading milestones and celebrate their shared achievements.

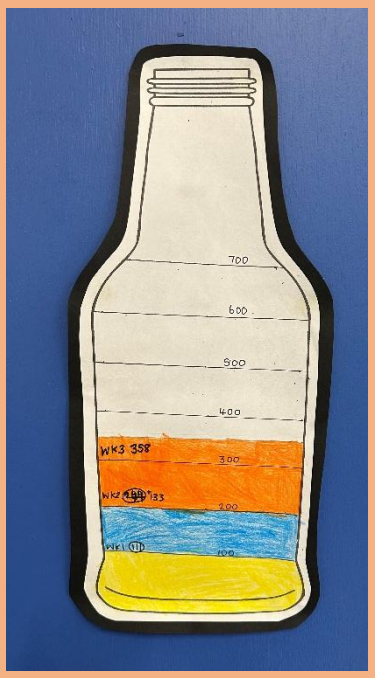
Here are some examples of the Reading Journeys from our classes:

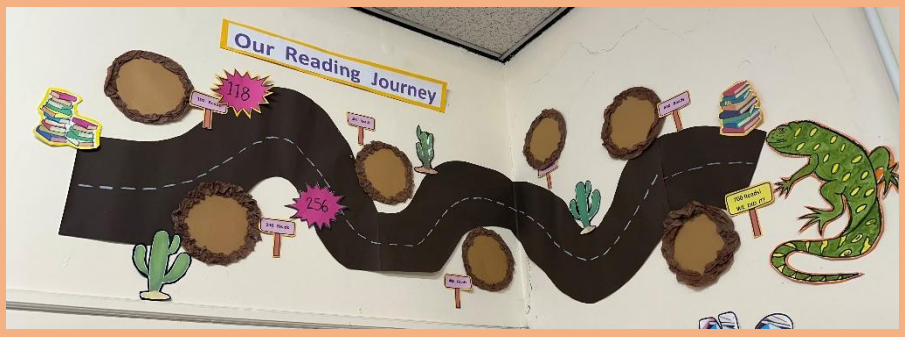



Great Wall of China
Petra
Colosseum
Chichen Itza
Machu Picchu
Christ the Redeemer
Taj Mahal


START
FINISH


Mummifying Reading Ritual
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MUMMIFICATION


700
600
500
400
300
200
100
WK3 358


Our Reading Journey
118
256





Our improved library space

Our Key stage two library area has had a little makeover, and we are delighted with how it has come together! We have created a cosy, welcoming reading space for our Key stage 2 children to enjoy.

As a school, we have purchased additional shelving to provide more space for our fiction and non-fiction collections. The new shelving has also created room for us to expand out library with even more books, which we will be purchasing using some of the vouchers donated to us by Scholastic following our recent book fair. The remainder of the vouchers will be spent on books for our children in Reception and Key stage 1.

Our wonderful Reading Ambassadors have also been busy helping to remove books from the previous shelving, making way for the new furniture. We really appreciate all their hard work and support.

We are now looking forward to seeing our Reading ambassadors get creative and design some exciting book displays on our new library shelving over the coming months!

We hope our children will enjoy spending time in this lovely new space and, most importantly, continue to develop a love of Reading.







Reading Opportunities in the local area.

Sheffield Children's Library and Central library events:



Story time: These are weekly sessions, aimed at pre-schoolers/toddlers and their parents.
When: Mondays 11am-12pm
Where: central library
Cost: free

Baby time: Rhymes, songs and sensory play, designed for babies and their parents.
When: Fridays 11am-12pm
Where: Central library
Cost: free

Chatterbooks: Reading and discussion groups for older school-aged children, to talk about their favourite books
When: Saturdays 11am-12pm
Where: Central library
Cost: Free

We aim to keep families informed of any future local events within the local area, as we hear about them.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Pycroft & Miss. Button