



Spring 1 2026 (Issue 22)



Preston Primary

Reading Matters

National Year of Reading 2026

The National Year of Reading 2026 is the biggest campaign in a generation designed to help more people (re)discover the joy of reading and make it part of their everyday lives.

Reading expands our world and sharpens our minds, yet fewer people are making time to read. A Department for Education initiative, in collaboration with [the National Literacy Trust](#), the campaign aims to tackle the profound [decline in reading enjoyment in the UK](#) and reconnect people of all ages with reading as a relevant and immediately rewarding activity. The campaign asks the nation to 'Go All In' on their passions and interests for 2026 and discover how reading can unlock the things they already love – be that music, football, baking, family-time, sci-fi, or ... anything.

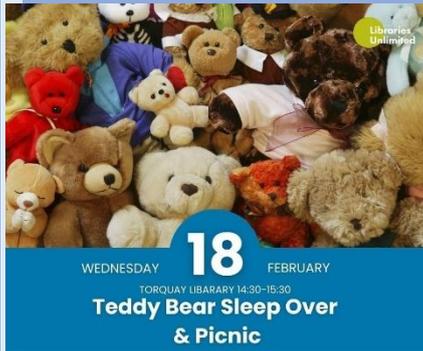
At school, we will be fully supporting this exciting initiative. Throughout the year, children will take part in a range of reading-focused activities designed to build confidence, enjoyment, and curiosity. The Reading Ambassadors are busy planning a timetable of activities for across the year.

Here is a link to how families can get involved [Families | National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In](#)

We warmly encourage all families to get involved. One way is by making time to read together at home and by visiting your local library, where children can discover a wide range of exciting books, take part in free activities and develop a lifelong love of reading. Libraries are wonderful community spaces that support children's learning and imagination, and we strongly recommend regular visits throughout the year. There are lots of activities happening in the library during half term.



Torquay Half Term Library Activities



Teddy Bear Sleepover and Picnic

Wednesday 18th February 14.30 – 15.30

Bring a cuddly toy for a story & craft session then leave it overnight to see what mischief it gets up to! Bring snacks for an indoor teddy bear picnic. £2 per child. Ages 2+

Pre-booking required 01803 714452 or torquay.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk



Create a Creature

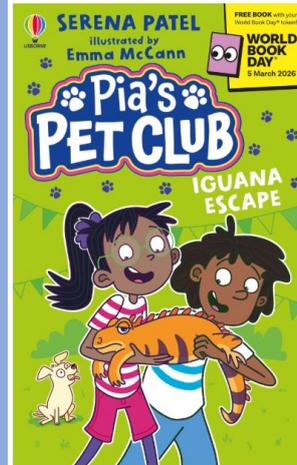
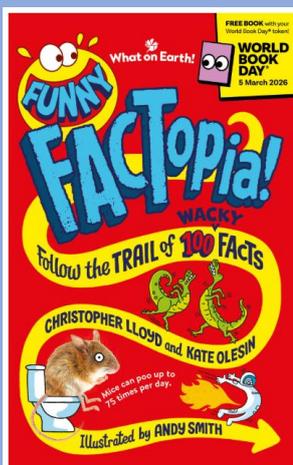
Friday 20th February 14.30 – 15.30

Come and be inspired by this magical workshop where we will be creating amazing creatures based on our favourite animals. Perfect for creative kids who love mythology. £2.50 per child. Ages 5+

Pre-booking required 01803 714452 or torquay.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Torquay Library World Book Day Activities

On Friday 6th March, children will receive a World Book Day voucher from school. These can be taken to Torquay Library and exchanged for a free World Book Day Book. If you can't wait until then, Torquay Library are also giving out World Book Day vouchers if you would like to collect one over half term.



Torquay Library Family Fun Reading Activity Day

Please support Torquay Library and author Claire Barker



Story time & Craft with Claire Barker

Saturday 7th March

10:30–11:30 & 14:30–15:30

Celebrate[®] World Book Day with the popular children's author Claire Barker and her lovely story about Hetti Nettle. Claire will read and craft with you.

Take the opportunity to purchase your very own signed copy for £14.99 too or bring a copy of a Claire Barker book and get it signed.

FREE

Pre-booking essential

Age 5+

01803 714452

torquay.library@librariesunlimited.org

Devon
County Council

TORBAY COUNCIL

World Book Day[®] is a registered
charity, company and trademark

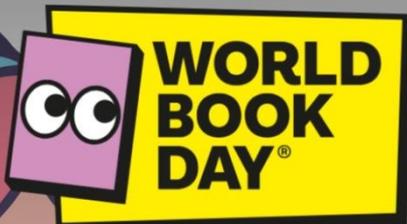
Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 1170092. Every penny raised supports local library services.
To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk





Fun Family Reading Activity Day

CELEBRATING WITH



MAR 07 **9:30-10:15 FAMILY READING ACTIVITIES**
 Read & craft with your children. We provide the books, toys & crafts. Children can collect stickers & sticker book by Free activity. Just come & enjoy! Age 2+

MAR 07 **10:30-11:30 CLAIRE BARKER AUTHOR EVENT**
 Popular children's author reads her book ' Hettie Nettle' and crafts with you . Includes book signing. Free event . **Booking required.** Age 5+

MAR 07 **11:45-14:15 FAMILY READING ACTIVITIES**
 Read & craft with your children. We provide the books, toys & crafts. Children can collect stickers & sticker book by Free activity. Just come & enjoy! Age 2+

MAR 07 **14:30-15:30 CLAIRE BARKER AUTHOR EVENT**
 Popular children's author reads her book ' Hettie Nettle' and crafts with you . Includes book signing. Free event . **Booking required.** Age 5+

0345 155 1001
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Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 1170092. Every penny raised supports local library services. To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk

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Foundation Stage visit Torquay Library with our Reading Ambassadors

Every child in Puffins and Penguins has had the opportunity to visit Torquay Library this half term. The children enjoyed browsing, sharing, and talking about books. Our pupil leadership group, the 'Reading Ambassadors,' also joined the visits and supported the Foundation Stage children. This was a great opportunity for them to share and encourage their love of reading.

One of our School Aims is 'Love to Learn'. We want every child that joins Preston Primary to visit a local library. These reading experiences allow children to enjoy reading for pleasure and develop into lifelong readers.

Additionally, it is part of our Trust-wide initiative to ensure that all children in our eight schools have the opportunity to visit a local library, as part of our '30 Ways to Connect'.

30 WAYS TO CONNECT

2 Visit a museum or library



Rock up and Read Sessions – Save the Date



Unit 1 (Puffins and Penguins) Monday 30th March

Unit 3 (Swifts, Starlings, and Sparrows) Tuesday 31st March

Unit 4 (Hawks, Eagles, and Kestrels) Wednesday 1st April

Unit 2 (Snowy Owls, Little Owls, and Tawny Owls) Thursday 2nd April

All starting at 2.50pm

After half term, every Unit will be holding a 'Rock Up and Read' session. This is an opportunity for parents, carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles to come into school and read with children.

During the session there will be a variety of books and magazines available. This is a time where adults can read aloud to children, talk about books, and share a love of reading. Reading aloud to children of all ages is hugely valuable, even fluent readers.

We strive to motivate every child to enjoy reading for pleasure. One important element of promoting reading for pleasure is reading aloud and informal book talk. We hope you can join us for the 'Rock Up and Read' sessions.



World Book Day – Friday 6th March



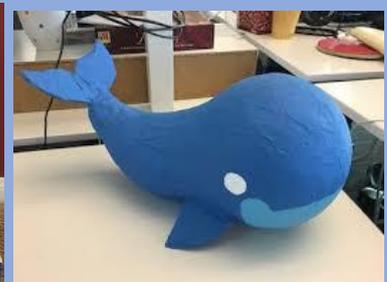
Reading is at the heart of our curriculum. As a school, we will be celebrating **World Book Day on Friday 6th March**. This year, we are giving children the choice to either **come to school dressed as a character from a book or wear their pyjamas/onesie for World Book Day**. There will be various activities throughout the day, enabling children to share and talk about their love of books. Each class will enjoy a cosy story time with milk and cookies and be treated to a mystery reader.

We will be celebrating World Book Day with a range of fun reading activities. The day will begin with a whole-school assembly, followed by time in class where each unit will focus on a chosen author and enjoy stories and activities linked to their work. In the afternoon, children will work in their house groups and take part in shared reading, quizzes, scavenger hunts, and book-themed craft, giving pupils the chance to mix across age ranges. To finish the day, classes will watch a selection of masked reader videos created by staff, which the children always enjoy guessing.

If you would like more information about World Book Day for families, please follow this link: <https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

Please note: If children are wearing pyjamas to school, please ensure they are clean and provide appropriate coverage. Wearing a dressing gown would be advisable. Appropriate footwear is essential (no slippers).

Half Term Challenge -



We would like to update some of the sculptures displayed in our main corridor. If you would like to make a story character sculpture over half term we would be delighted to see your creations. You may want to shape the design using wire then cover it in plaster of Paris – an adult may need to help you. <https://youtu.be/BYWB4BYlbJQ>

If you have any wire or cardboard you could donate to school, we would like to create sculptures in school as well.

World Book Day Costumes

Celebrate World Book Day sustainably with Torquay Library's Costume Swap! From 16th February to 8th March, you can donate, swap, or pick up pre-loved book-themed costumes. It's a fun, eco-friendly way to get ready for World Book Day!



The poster features a light blue background with a yellow banner at the top right. The main title 'WORLD BOOK DAY COSTUME SWAP' is written in large, bold, yellow letters on the left. Below it, the text 'DONATE, SWAP OR REHOME PRE-LOVED COSTUMES!' is in dark blue. The 'TORQUAY LIBRARY' logo is in yellow. A yellow box contains the dates '16TH FEB- 8TH MARCH' in dark blue. At the bottom, the words 'REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE' are spaced out. On the left, a cartoon boy with a black eye patch and a yellow striped shirt holds a yellow sword. On the right, a cartoon girl with glasses and a green dress waves. The bottom section contains three logos: 'COMMUNITY FUND' with a hand icon, 'Libraries Unlimited' with a yellow circle, and 'Recycle Devon' with a green flower icon.

WORLD BOOK DAY
5 MARCH 2026

WORLD BOOK DAY COSTUME SWAP

DONATE, SWAP OR REHOME PRE-LOVED COSTUMES!

TORQUAY LIBRARY

16TH FEB- 8TH MARCH

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

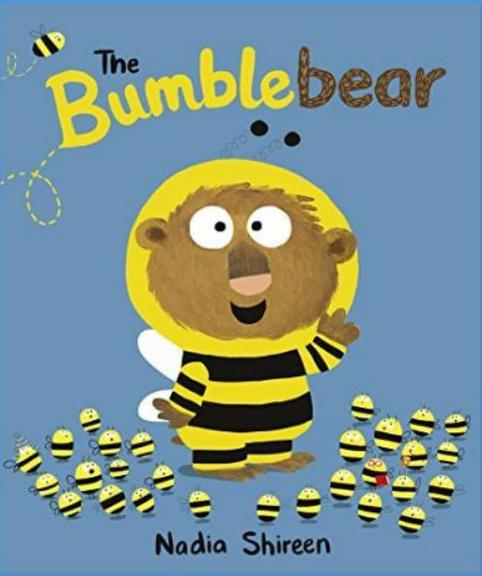
COMMUNITY FUND

Libraries Unlimited

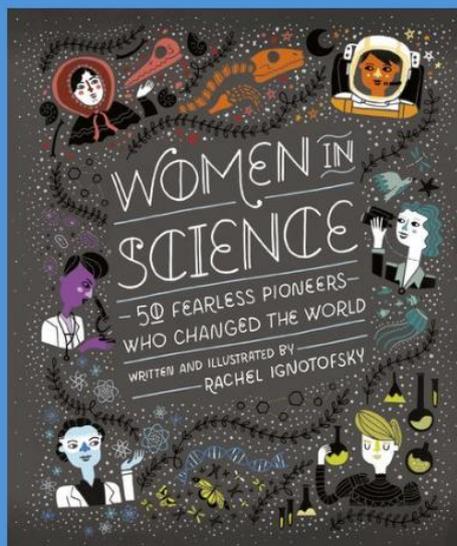
Recycle Devon

Recommended Reads

The teachers would like to share their passion for reading by recommending some great books to read. After you have read one of these book recommendations please come and talk to us about it. We would love to hear your thoughts and if you enjoyed it, we can recommend further reading.

 <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Title: The Bumblebear Author: Nadia Shireen Aimed for: KS1, 2 and 3.</p>
	<p>Why would I recommend this book?</p> <p>I love reading this book to children as it's a funny book. I love how the bear pretends to be a bee. Initially they don't want the bear around as he's not one of them but eventually, they accept him, as a "bumblebear."</p> <p>It's a nice story about accepting others who aren't necessarily the same as you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Recommended by Mrs Barton</p>

 <p>Poetry</p>	<p>Title: Pick and Mix Poetry Author: Julia Donaldson Aimed for: KS1</p>
	<p>Why would I recommend this book?</p> <p><i>Pick and Mix Poetry</i> by Julia Donaldson is a delightful collection that introduces children to the joy of poetry. Known for her engaging rhymes and playful language, Donaldson brings together a variety of poems that are perfect for young readers to explore and enjoy. The book includes a mix of humorous, thoughtful, and whimsical verses, allowing children to experience the fun and creativity of poetry in different forms. The vibrant illustrations add to the charm, making each page come alive. With themes ranging from everyday moments to fantastical adventures, this collection encourages imagination and language play. Perfect for reading aloud or independently, <i>Pick and Mix Poetry</i> fosters a love for words and rhythm in an accessible, enjoyable way for children.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Recommended by Mrs Fox</p>



Non-Fiction

Title: Women in Science

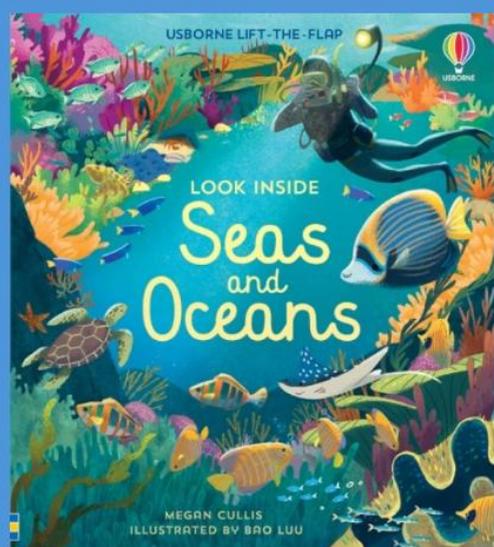
Author: Rachel Ignotofsky

Aimed for: KS2

Why would I recommend this book?

I recommend this book as it is an inspiring collection of biographies that highlights achievements of women in science. This book provides children with role models and something to aspire towards. I like the way it is written and how the illustrations have different colours for each Scientist. This book is a reminder that with hard work, determination and passion you can achieve anything.

Recommended by Mrs Glover



Non-Fiction

Title: Look Inside: Seas and Oceans

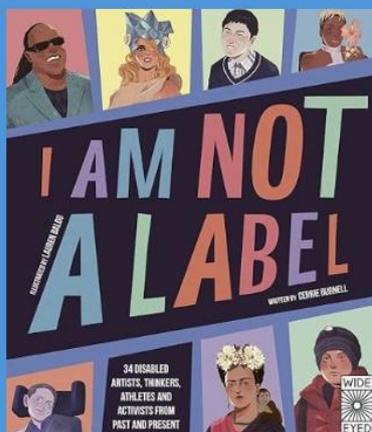
Author: Megan Cullis

Aimed for: KS1 & KS2

Why would I recommend this book?

An interactive, informative book with colourful illustrations that appeals to a wide audience. Pockets of information are hidden underneath the flaps keeping children and adults engaged. A great book to have and share, learning all about our seas and oceans particularly when living so close to the sea ourselves. This book will teach you a lot about sea life as well as the habitats they live in and how we can keep them safe. It also introduces you to unknown sea creatures, so it is bound to teach everyone something new. A great book for all ages which I highly recommend!

Recommended by Mrs Gebhard



Non-Fiction

Title: I Am Not a Label

Author: Cerrie Burnell

Aimed for: 6-11 year olds

Why would I recommend this book?

I recommend this book because it gives us a message of hope, showing that even in the face of adversity, it is possible to create a meaningful and fulfilling life even with facing hard challenges.

Recommended by Miss Dark

Local Library Information

We encourage every family to visit a local library over half term. Joining the library is completely free and gives access to a wealth of books, magazines, music, e-books, and audio books. There are libraries in Brixham, Churston, Torquay, and Paignton.

Torquay Library

Opening hours week commencing 16th
February

Monday – 9.30am – 6pm

Tuesday 9.30am – 1pm

Wednesday 9.30am – 6pm

Thursday 9.30 – 1pm

Friday 9.30am – 6pm

Saturday – 9.30 – 4pm

Sunday Closed

Paignton Library

Opening hours week commencing 17th
February

Monday – 9.30am – 5pm

Tuesday 9.30am – 6pm

Wednesday 9.30am – 1pm

Thursday 9.30 – 6pm

Friday 9.30am – 5pm

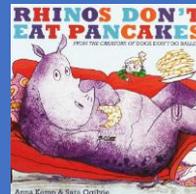
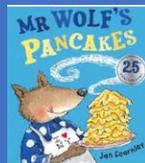
Saturday – 9.30 – 4pm

Sunday Closed

Opening hours do vary – please check the website for more details. [Opening hours - Libraries Unlimited](#)

Staff Videos

Staff have recorded themselves reading from some of their favourite books. This includes fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Here is a selection for you to enjoy.



Mr Wolf's Pancakes by Jan Fearnley. Read by Mrs Bastin - <https://youtu.be/kuXpv5To1xQ>

Mrs Noah's Garden by Jackie Morris. Read by Mrs Wenman <https://youtu.be/Z52tViaLhaA>

Rhinos Don't Eat Pancakes by Anna Kemp. Read by Mrs Coombe [Rhinos don't eat pancakes](#)