



Spring 2 2026 (Issue 23)



Preston Primary

Reading Matters

**HAPPY
WORLD
BOOK DAY**

World Book Day

This half term, our school had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day on Friday 6th March. With reading at the heart of our curriculum, it was wonderful to see children arriving dressed as their favourite book characters. Thank you to parents and carers for supporting the day and helping the children look brilliant and encouraging them to talk about reading!

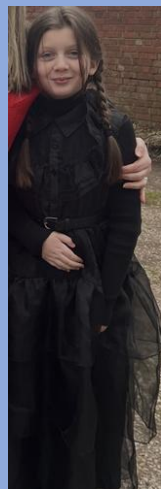
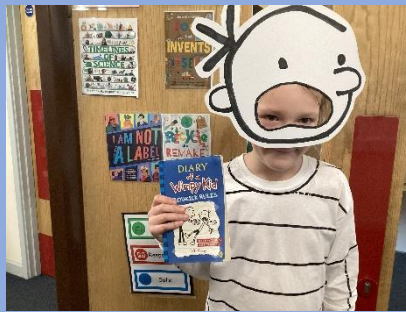
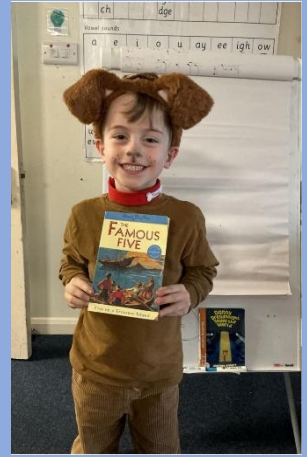
The day began with a whole school assembly, followed by time in class where each class focused on a chosen author. Children enjoyed listening to stories and taking part in reading activities, helping them explore new books and celebrate their love of reading.

In the afternoon, pupils joined together in their house groups and took part in a range of activities, including shared reading, quizzes, scavenger hunts and book-themed crafts. This gave children the chance to collaborate, mix across year groups and enjoy reading in a fun, interactive way.

To finish the day, classes watched a selection of masked reader videos created by staff. The children loved guessing who each masked reader could be - a highlight that always brings plenty of smiles and excitement.

It was a joyful celebration of books, stories and reading, and a wonderful reminder of the strong reading culture within our school community.





BBC Live Lesson – World Book Day!



Starlings had the exciting opportunity of taking part in a BBC World Book Day Live Lesson. They submitted thoughtful questions to some fantastic, well-known authors and celebrities – including Matt Lucas and Onjali Q Rauf – which has been listened to many people across the UK. The children were thrilled to see their questions featured and to be part of a national celebration of reading. Watch the live lesson with Starlings here: [World Book Day 2026 – Live Lesson – BBC Teach](#)

Rock up and Read Sessions



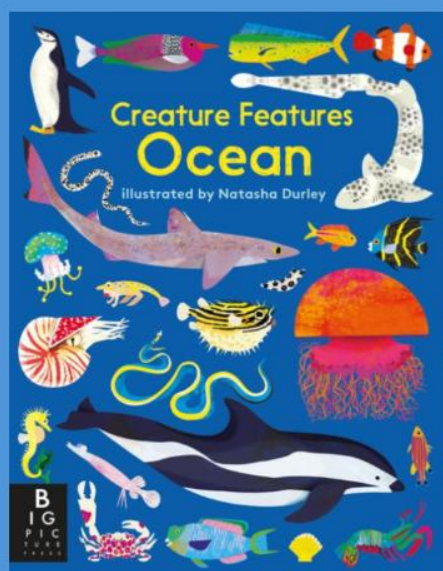
This half term, we welcomed families into school for our Rock Up and Read sessions. It was wonderful to see so many parents, carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles join us to share stories with the children. The children were thrilled to show their adults a range of books – from stories and poetry to magazines and non-fiction – as well as the different spaces where they love to read.

These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for adults and children to read aloud together, talk about books and enjoy the pleasure of reading side by side. Reading aloud continues to be hugely beneficial for children of all ages, including those who are already fluent readers.

We are committed to fostering a love of reading in every child, and reading aloud alongside informal book talk plays a key role in promoting reading for pleasure. We hope you enjoyed the Rock Up and Read sessions as much as we did, and we look forward to welcoming you back for more in the Summer term.

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.



Non-Fiction

Title: Creature Features Ocean

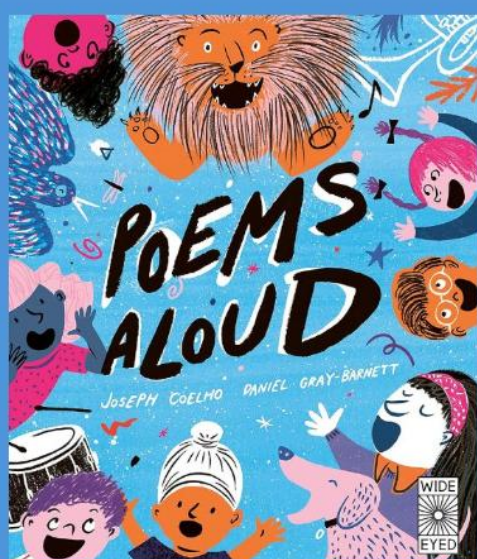
Author: Natasha Durley

Aimed for: KS1

Why would I recommend this book?

This is a beautifully illustrated book about all the creatures that live in our oceans. Each section is about a characteristic each creature has in common, from fantastic fins to glowing jellyfish, to sharp teeth! It is a bright and interesting book to look at and some of the creatures have some very funny sounding names. Which creature of the ocean will be your favourite?

Recommended by Mrs Light



Poetry

Title: Poems Aloud

Author: Joesph Coelho

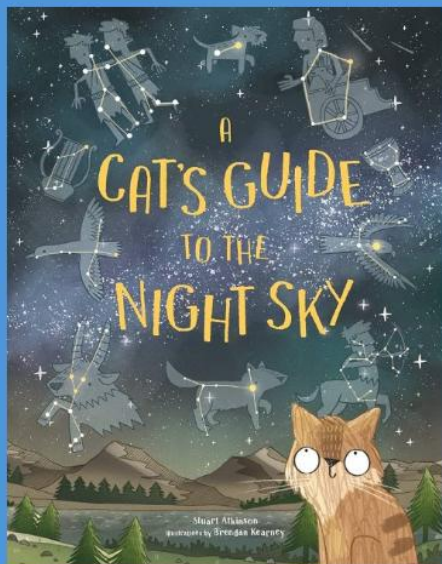
Aimed for: 5-11 year olds

Why would I recommend this book?

Poems Aloud is a brilliant collection of poems that are so much fun to read aloud! The book has 20 poems, all designed to help you become a confident performer. Each poem comes with tips on how to perform it. Whether you want to make your voice louder, use funny expressions, or add movements, this book teaches you how to bring the poems to life!

I love *Poems Aloud* because it is not just about reading – it is about performing! You can get creative and use your voice in so many different ways. The poems are great to practice with friends, family, or in school. It is the perfect book if you want to have fun with poetry and build your confidence as a performer.

Recommended by Miss Treleaven



Non-Fiction

Title: A Cat's Guide to the Night Sky

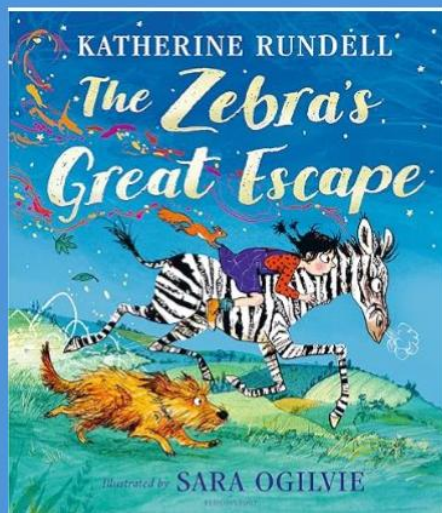
Author: Stuart Atkinson

Aimed for: age 6+

Why would I recommend this book?

If you love cats and looking up at the stars, then A Cat's Guide to the Night Sky is the perfect book for you! This fun guide is full of amazing facts about space, stars, and planets. A clever cat named Felix takes you on an adventure through the night sky, teaching you how to spot constellations and understand what's happening above us. There are cool pictures, tips on using a telescope, and even a guide on how to safely stargaze. It's a great way to learn about space while having fun!

Recommended by Mrs Stevenson



Fiction

Title: The Zebra's Great Escape

Author: Katherine Rundell

Aimed for: KS1

Why would I recommend this book?

Katherine Rundell's The Zebra's Great Escape is a heartwarming and enchanting adventure perfect for young readers who love stories filled with imagination, friendship, and animal magic. The story follows a young girl named Mink who stumbles upon a lost zebra named Gabriel in her town. When she discovers that he has escaped from a cruel circus, Mink teams up with a motley crew of animals—each with their own unique talents—to help Gabriel return to his home in the wild. The book not only offers a rollicking adventure but also touches on important themes like kindness, bravery, and the importance of standing up against cruelty. With delightful illustrations by Sara Ogilvie, this book is a visual treat as well.

Recommended by Mrs Braddon



Fiction

Title: Finn Family Moomintroll

Author: Tove Jansson

Aimed for: Key Stage Two

Why would I recommend this book?

The Moomins are so much fun! This book is a lovely one to share at home with your family. The chapters are all different adventures that the Moomins go on in the gorgeous Moominvalley. A magical top hat is found that transforms objects and Moomins into new and different things. My favourite character is Moomintroll followed closely by Little My. Moomintroll always tries hard to do the right thing. There are so many different Moomin adventure books there really is something for everyone!

**Recommended by
Miss Pettitt**

Easter Holiday Reading Challenge!

Have a go at our Easter Holiday Reading Challenge Bingo by trying lots of fun reading activities that promotes reading for pleasure and helps children enjoy stories in new ways. Please send us your reading photos to admin@preston.torbay.sch.uk –they may be featured in our next reading newsletter!

 <p>Take it in turns to read a page aloud with someone else</p>	<p>Read in the garden</p> 	<p>Read to a pet or an animal</p> 
<p>Read in your pyjamas</p> 	<p>Read a book that makes you happy</p> 	<p>Read a book about your class topic</p> 
<p><i>I Have a Little Frog</i></p> <p><i>I have a little frog, His name is Ting Tim, I put him in the bathtub, To see if he could swim, He drank up all the water, He gobbled up the soap, And when he tried to talk, He had a BUBBLE in his throat.</i></p>  <p>Read a poem or nursery rhyme</p>	<p>Listen to someone read you a bedtime story</p> 	 <p>Read in an unusual place (take a photo to prove it!)</p>



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:

Monday – Closed

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

Monday – Closed

Tuesday 9.30am – 6pm

Wednesday 9.30am – 1pm

Thursday 9.30 – 6pm

Friday 9.30am – 5pm

Saturday – 9.30 – 4pm

Sunday Closed

Both Paignton and Torquay Library will be closed on April 3rd, 5th and 6th for Easter weekend. Opening hours do vary – please check the website for more details.

[Opening hours - Libraries Unlimited](#)

Torquay Library Half Term Activities



Cake Sale – Baking Up a Century of Stories – 13th-18th April

To finish our 100 years of the children's library celebrations, cakes and other baked goods will be made by staff and sold to raise money for the children's library. On Saturday Steve Darling MP will be cutting our main celebration cake at 09:45 to bring the celebrations to a close. 9.30-4pm



Ready... Aim... DRIVE! – Wednesday 15th April

Join us at Torquay Library for a day packed with active fun and big smiles. Please book in advance. Enjoy crafts plus...

10:30-12:00 Archery Adventures for safe, beginner-friendly archery

14:00-17:00 Library Grand Prix. Hop on a car and race around our indoor Grand Prix circuit. Who will cross the finish line first?

Paignton Library Half Term Activities



C.R.E.W Club – Every Saturday – 10-12pm

A Saturday morning club with a different focus every week. Join the library for Lego building, board games or a craft (check our Facebook events page for details for this session). Free.



Art Club – Thursday 9th April 4.30-5.30pm

Every second Thursday of the month. £5 per workshop.

Join local artist Lou Chapman every month for a fun after school art workshop. Kids aged 4 to 16 can dive into a world of colour, mastering nifty techniques and crafting cool creations.

Please book each session. Call or come in to book
01803 714460



Stay and Rave – Hello Kitty Cat – Saturday 11th April 10-12pm

Join us at Paignton Library for a fun children's party. Popular party music, dress up and play stations plus games and crafts based around Sanrio characters with your chance to win fun prizes.

All age children welcome and their adults. Call, come in or got to Ticketsource to book.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/librariesunlimited/t-xdmngke> 01803 714460



Community Events over Easter

Families are invited to join the Easter Egg Hunt at St. Paul's Church on Saturday 4th April, with a morning filled with crafts, games, and fun activities. As part of the National Year of Reading, there will also be a special Book Swap for children to enjoy over Easter, supported by the generous book donations from children at Preston.



COME AND JOIN OUR

Easter
EGG HUNT

10AM - MIDDAY

SAT 4TH APRIL

Soft Archery, Face Painting, Crafts, Hook a Duck,
Photo Booth, Easter Egg Trail & Family Fun for All!

As part of the National Year of Reading, join our Book Swap.
Take a book on the day to enjoy over Easter!

FREE ADMISSION
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

SCAN ME!



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, PRESTON, PAIGNTON, TQ3 2DH

Scouts
14th Torbay Scout Group

CHRIST CHURCH PAIGNTON AND ST PAUL PRESTON
PROCLAIMING CHRIST

The poster features a central illustration of a large, colorful Easter egg with a yellow top, teal and yellow zig-zag patterns, and a red and yellow zig-zag bottom. Two white rabbits with pink ears are peeking from behind the egg. The background is decorated with hanging colorful Easter eggs. Logos for Scouts and Christ Church Paignton and St Paul Preston are included. A QR code is provided for booking, with the text 'SCAN ME!' and a curved arrow pointing to it. The event details and activities are listed in a clear, readable font.