



Summer 1 2026 (Issue 24)

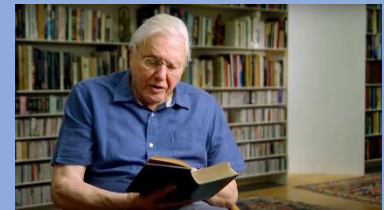


Preston Primary

Reading Matters

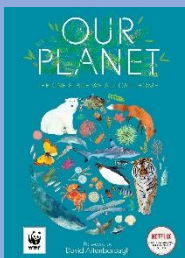
David Attenborough – 100 Years!

Sir David Attenborough has spent his life helping people all over the world discover the beauty and importance of nature. Through his documentaries and books, he has taken us to incredible places - from deep oceans to tropical rainforests - and introduced us to amazing plants and animals. His work has inspired generations to care more about the environment and understand how everything in nature is connected. He has also helped people realise how important it is to protect our planet for the future.



To celebrate his 100th birthday, here are some book recommendations that will help you explore the natural world just like the amazing David Attenborough.

“No one will protect what they don’t care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.”

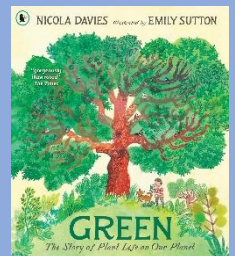


Our Planet the One Place We All Call Home by Matt Whyman

This non-fiction book is an excellent guide to helping you care for Earth and its living things. This book links to David Attenborough's 'Our Planet' documentary.

Green: The Story of Plant Life on Our Planet by Nicola Davies

A beautifully illustrated book which takes a magnificent scientific look at how plants help life on Earth.



The Big Book of Blue by Yuval Zommer

This vibrant book celebrates the wonders of the ocean, showcasing incredible sea creatures and helping us understand why protecting marine life matters.

Easter Reading Challenge



Read in an unusual place (take a photo to prove it!)

In our Spring 2 Reading Newsletter, we challenged our readers to take part in an Easter reading challenge. One of the tasks was to read in an unusual place - and James in Swifts certainly rose to the challenge! Here he is enjoying a book about the Romans while visiting the Roman Baths. How fantastic!



National Year of
Reading 2026

Website:

[National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In](#)

This year is the **National Year of Reading**, shining a spotlight on the importance of developing a love of reading

The National Year of Reading website offers helpful ideas for parents, including simple tips, activities, and advice to support children's reading at home. It also provides children with engaging features such as recommended book lists, reading challenges, and inspiration to help them discover books they'll enjoy. Together, these resources help build a positive reading culture and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

Accelerated Reader Millionaire Club

Children, who no longer have RWI lessons, move onto Accelerated Reader. Accelerated Reader is a platform where children can track what they have read, complete comprehension quizzes on books and it gives pupils a ZPD score which tells them which books are best to select from the library that challenge them appropriately. Class teachers use Accelerated Reader to give pupils a reading target for each half-term which they can achieve by reading and quizzing regularly. In addition to this, Accelerated Reader also tracks the word count of each book which has been quizzed on.

With one half-term to go, we currently have 10 pupils who have reached over a million words read! **Well done to: Freddie R, Elliot M, Tabitha C, Bella-May L, Joseph R, Gideon D, Oshi D, Alfie R, Evelyn H, Reef P.** What fantastic determination and a love of reading you have all displayed. **A special congratulations to Elliot M who has read the most words in the whole school with over 2,149,000!**

Hopefully, we will have more children join this outstanding club by the end of the school year!

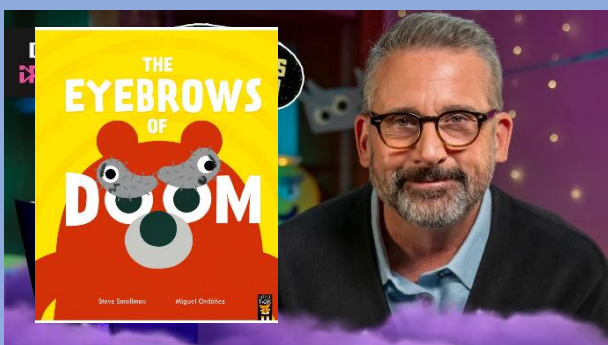


Celebrity Read Aloud Videos

Some well-known people reading some wonderful children's books aloud. Watch these calming videos at the end of the day and see how these stories come to life.

Steve Backshall – The Ugly Five [BBC iPlayer - CBeebies Bedtime Stories - A-E: Steve Backshall - The Ugly Five](#)

Steve Carrell – The Eyebrows of Doom [BBC iPlayer - CBeebies Bedtime Stories - A-E: Steve Carrell - Eyebrows of Doom](#)



Our Protected Characteristics

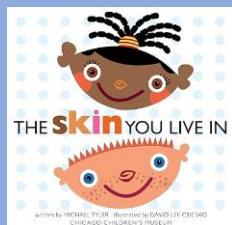
At Preston, we are committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, valued, and included. We teach children about the protected characteristics in a way that is appropriate for their age and understanding. Through this learning, children begin to understand that everyone is different, and that these differences should be respected and celebrated.



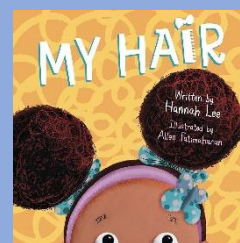
In this half term's Reading Newsletter, we are zoning in on our protected characteristic of race. Race includes things like skin colour, culture, heritage, and the languages people speak. Books are a powerful way of learning about such meaningful topics for both helping us understand ourselves and to offer a view and understanding into the lives of others.

Here are some great age-related book recommendations about race:

EYFS and KS1:



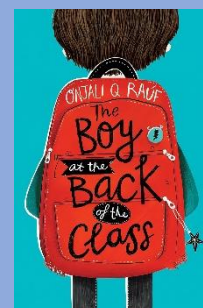
The Skin You Live In by Michael Tyler – Celebrates all skin colours using simple and poetic language.



My Hair by Hannah Lee – A positive story celebrating Black hair and building confidence in personal identity.



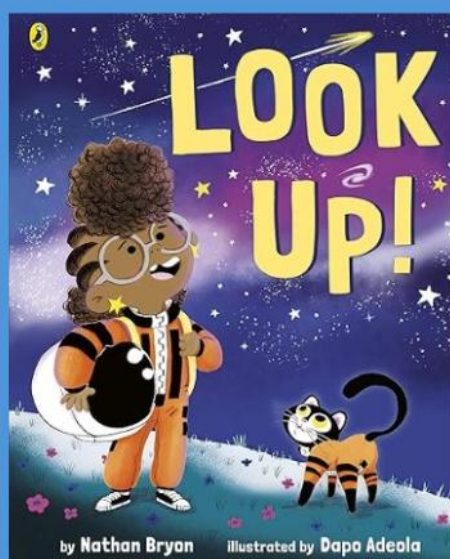
Coming to England by Floella Benjamin – Focuses on migration, racism and belonging.



The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf – Explores the refugee experience in a child-friendly way.

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 could recommend further reading.



Fiction

Title: Look up!

Author: Nathan Bryon

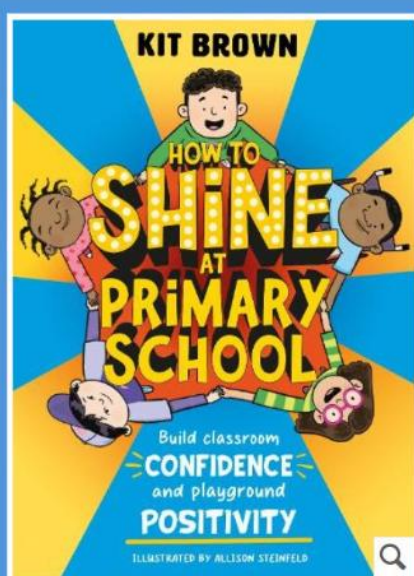
Aimed for: KS1 children

Why would I recommend this book?

Nathan Bryon's book Look Up! Is a charming picture book about a character called Rocket who wants to be the greatest astronaut, star catcher and space traveller who has ever lived, just like Mae Jemison, the first African- American woman in space.

The book is sprinkled with facts about meteors and space, and this wonderful picture book is a lovely representation of family, sibling relationships and one girl's infectious enthusiasm.

Recommended by Mrs Oliver



Non-Fiction

Title: How to Shine at Primary School

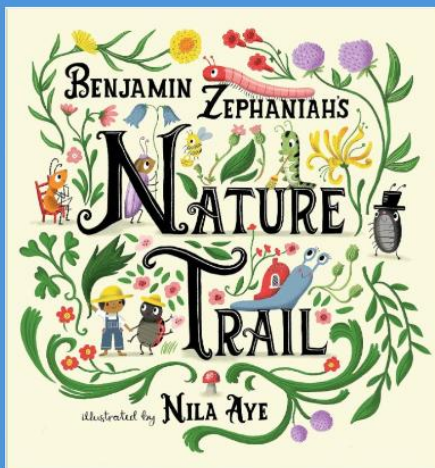
Author: Kit Brown

Aimed for: Ks2 children and beyond

Why would I recommend this book?

There is so much to learn at Primary School but sometimes things can get tricky. Kit Brown is known for TikTok but has some really helpful top tips to help children navigate this. It delas with friendships and developing resilience in practical ways. A boost of confidence is helpful at any time.

Recommended by Mrs Blatchford



Poetry

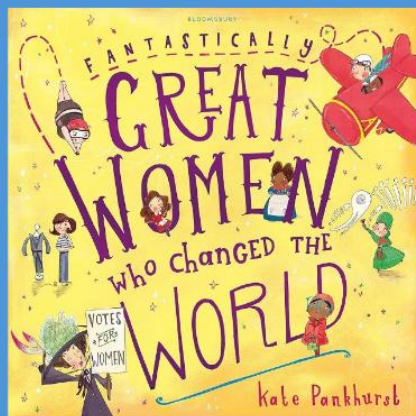
Title:

Author: Benjamin Zephaniah
Aimed for: EYFS and Above

Why would I recommend this book?

Benjamin Zephaniah's poetry resonates with many across the United Kingdom. His poems often portray life's everyday experiences and Nature Trail is one of those poems. In Nature Trail, we are taken on a journey to explore our own outdoor spaces and discover what creatures and living things are out there around us. Nila Aye's illustrations are also beautifully drawn throughout the book and each time you read you spot something new and interesting.

Recommended by Mr Mealy



Non-Fiction

Title: Fantastically Great Women who Changed the World

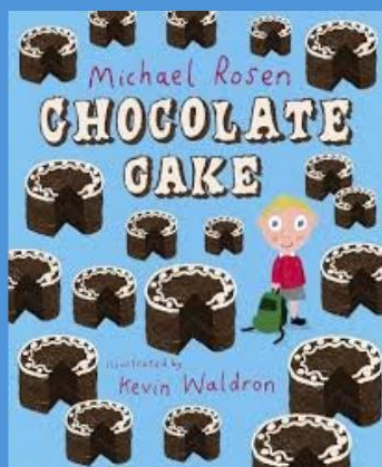
Author: Kate Pankhurst
Aimed for: 5+ years

Why would I recommend this book?

I recommend this book as I found it so interesting to learn more about some of the great women pioneers who have had an impact on our world today.

I loved recognising the names as I flicked through the pages and choosing which of the pioneers I'd like to find more about! It was fascinating to find out more about their lives and the timelines behind their successes!

Recommended by Miss Farmer



Poetry

Title: Chocolate Cake

Author: Michael Rose
Aimed for: age 4+

Why would I recommend this book?

If you love a good laugh and yummy chocolate cake, then this poem is perfect for you! *Chocolate Cake* by Michael Rosen tells the funny story of a boy who sneaks into the kitchen in the middle of the night to eat a delicious chocolate cake. Michael's poem is filled with excitement, humor, and mouth-watering descriptions that will make you hungry!

The way Michael reads the poem in the YouTube video is full of silly sounds and expressions, which makes it extra fun. You'll love how he captures the excitement (and the trouble!) of sneaking a treat when no one's watching. Great for kids who enjoy a giggle and love sweet treats!

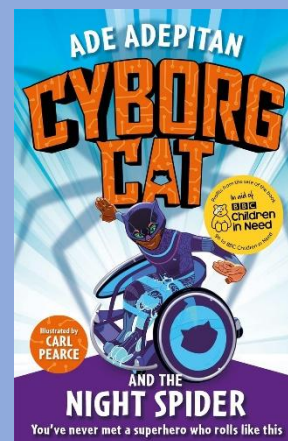
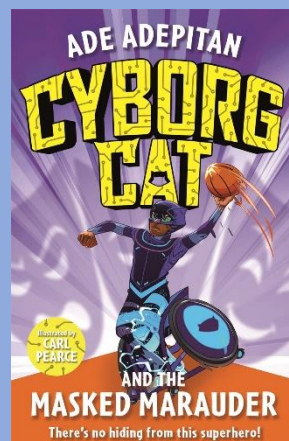
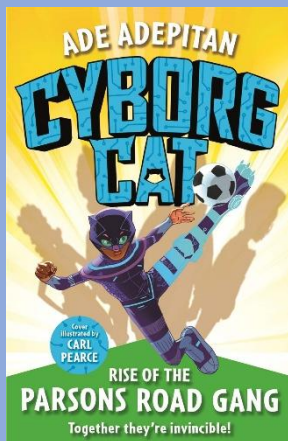
Recommended by Mrs Stevenson

Author Spotlight: Ade Adepitan



Ade Adepitan is a **British Paralympian, TV presenter, and children's author**. He is best known for his achievements in wheelchair basketball and for sharing inspiring stories through his books.

Ade Adepitan draws on his own life experiences to inspire his writing, particularly through his **Cyborg Cat** series. Growing up and going on to become a Paralympian required resilience, determination, and a belief in overcoming challenges - qualities that are reflected in his adventurous, problem-solving characters. Through stories like Cyborg Cat, Ade creates exciting, action-filled narratives that encourage children to be brave, keep trying, and believe in themselves, just as he has throughout his own life.



[Ade Adepitan introduces Cyborg Cat | Words for Life](#)

Click on the Virtual School Library link to listen to Ade's story behind his creation of Cyborg Cat. As well as to access a free sample of one of the Cyborg Cat series books and for some fun reading-related activities!

Local Library Information

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

Paignton Library Opening Hours W/C 25th May

Monday – Closed

Tuesday – 09.30 – 18.00

Wednesday – 09.30 – 13.00

Thursday – 09.30 – 18.00

Friday – 09.30 – 17.00

Saturday – 09.30 – 16.00

Sunday - Closed

Torquay Library Opening Hours W/C 25th May

Monday – Closed

Tuesday – 09.30 – 13.00

Wednesday – 09.30 – 18.00

Thursday – 09.30 – 13.00

Friday – 09.30 – 18.00

Saturday – 09.30 – 16.00

Sunday - Closed

Torquay Library Events:



EVERY DAY DURING OPENING HOURS

TORQUAY LIBRARY

Stay & Play



MAY

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FAKE NEWS DETECTIVE AGENCY WORKSHOP

Learn to spot fake news, investigate images, and navigate the media safely with fun activities aimed for children age 7+ with an adult. Booking essential.

Torquay Library 10:30-11:30

Click on the link to see more events happening at your local library.

[What's On - Libraries Unlimited](#)

Libraries Unlimited Summer Book Quest

Libraries unlimited are busy finalising the details for this years **Summer Book Quest** and they have given us exclusive details of this year's theme.

Hello Preston Primary,

The Summer Book Quest sees beloved characters Pip, Zena, and Libro head off on a new adventure themed around transport. They are joined by new character Pixie the pigeon and they all go on a mission to help a famous explorer fix her plane. Types of transport in the story include a narrowboat, a solar-powered tuk-tuk, rollerblades, an electric bus, a train, a catamaran, a rock giant called Nigel, and eventually a plane.



The aim of the summer book quest is to encourage reading for pleasure. It enables children to choose how they read (time or books) and how much - and we are here to celebrate whatever they choose to do. We want everyone to get involved.

How it works:

1. There is no charge to join the quest or to join the library. Children need to register their library card then they will receive a quest booklet.
2. On the front-page of the booklet children will be required to write their name and their reading aim, they will get their first sticker at this point.

3. They will get further stickers for completing one or more of the activities inside the booklet.

4. The final sticker will be given when they have finished the quest. Hopefully they will achieve their reading aim but if they don't, they will still be able to complete the challenge. This year Torbay Libraries are offering a free toy aeroplane for all who take part!

We will also run the Book Review prize draw too!

We hope to get as many children involved as possible. Last year Preston Primary had the most children registered for the quest – over 100 children! Let's see if we can get even more this year.

Kind Regards

Torquay Library

Bring your library card to school to register for the quest

Last year Preston Primary supported the summer book quest by helping register children for the scheme and handing out quest booklets in exchange for library card numbers. We would like to offer the same support again this year.

Dates for your diary!

On **Monday 22nd June** we will set up a table on the school drive for children to register their library cards (we will record the card number) in exchange for a quest booklet.

This opportunity will also be available during 'Rock Up and Read' sessions. If you bring your child's library card to the 'Rock Up and Read' session detailed below we will register the number and provide a quest booklet.

Tuesday 23rd June – Unit 4

Wednesday 24th June – Unit 3

Friday 26th June – Unit 1

Wednesday 1st July – Unit 2



If you have any queries, please speak to a class teacher. We encourage as many children as possible to bring their library card and register for the summer book quest.