



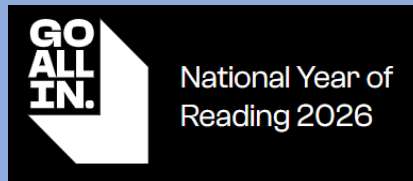
Autumn 1 2026

(Issue 26)



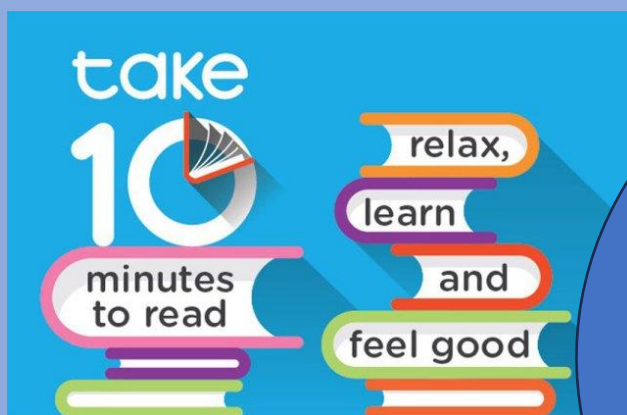
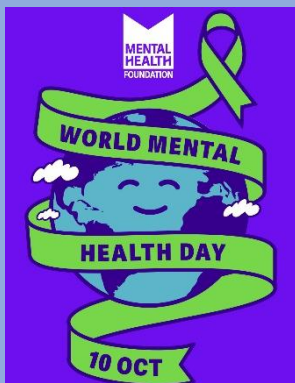
Preston Primary

Reading Matters



We are supporting the National Year of Reading. This campaign is designed to help people of all ages re-discover the joy of reading.

Whatever you're into... read into it! This year we're celebrating reading in all its forms and helping every child discover how reading can support their interests, hobbies, and dreams



Drop everything and take 10 minutes to read.

One of the National Year of Reading strategies is to spend at least 10 minutes of reading something that interests you each day. Reading is very good for our wellbeing and mental health.

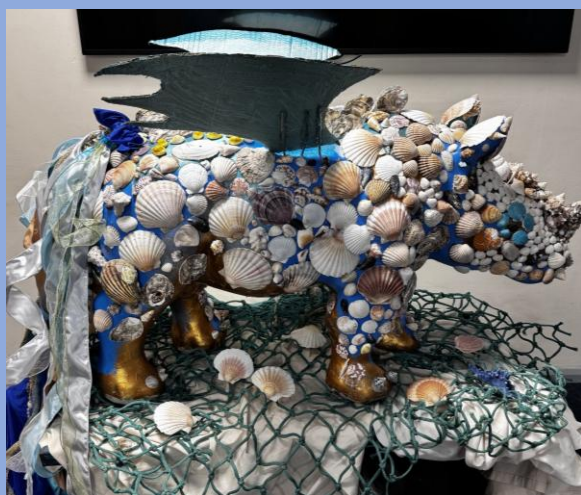
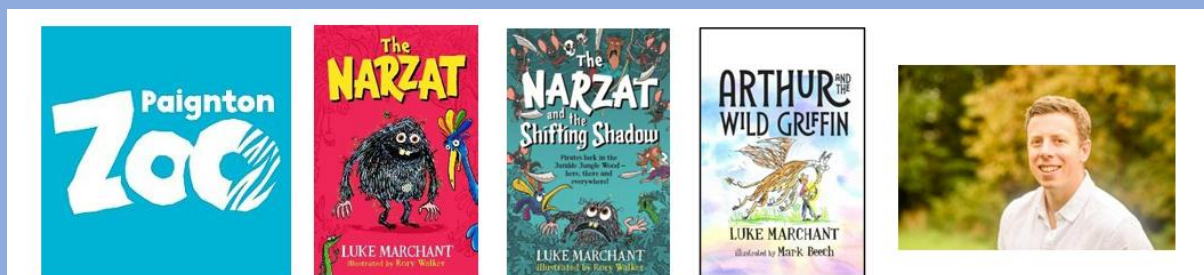
A Magical Visit from Author Luke Marchant!

We were delighted to welcome author, Luke Marchant, to Preston Primary School to introduce his exciting new book, *Arthur and the Wild Griffin*.

The children had a wonderful opportunity to hear about Luke's journey as an author, discover the inspiration behind his story, and learn more about the magical world of mythical creatures. His visit sparked lots of curiosity, imagination, and creativity, inspiring our children to develop their own storytelling ideas. Thank you, Luke, for also holding a book signing event after the talk.

It was wonderful to introduce Luke to our very own mythical creature – Shelby the Rhinagon! He is half rhino half dragon. You can meet Shelby at Paignton Zoo where he will be displayed for the half term. Maybe you could write your very own book about Shelby over the half term!

A huge thank you to Luke for taking the time to visit us and share his passion for reading and writing. What a fantastic way to inspire our young readers and budding authors!



World Mental Health Day Reads

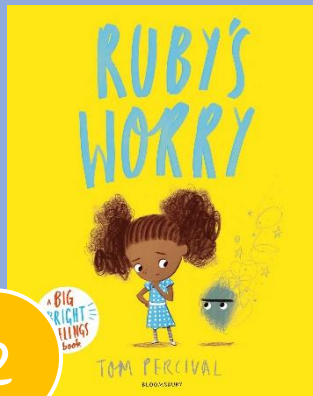
As part of our Personal Development assemblies this half term, the children have been learning about World Mental Health Day and the importance of looking after our mental wellbeing. Mental health is about how we think, feel, and cope with everyday life. Just like we look after our bodies by eating well, exercising, and getting enough sleep, it is important that we take care of our minds too. Learning about mental health helps children recognise and understand their emotions, build resilience, develop healthy relationships, and know where to seek support if they are worried or struggling.

One of the ways we can support positive mental health is through reading. Books help children understand emotions, develop empathy and realise that everyone experiences different feelings and challenges.

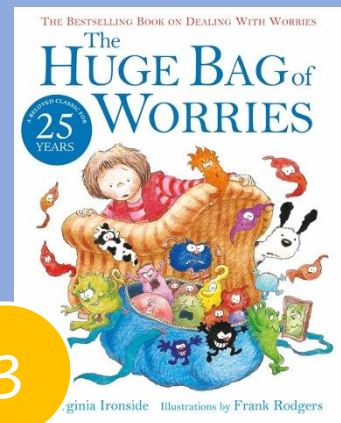
EYFS and KS1



1



2



3

1) The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas

A friendly monster experiences lots of different emotions all at once. Through colours and simple language, children learn to identify and talk about their feelings.

2) Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival

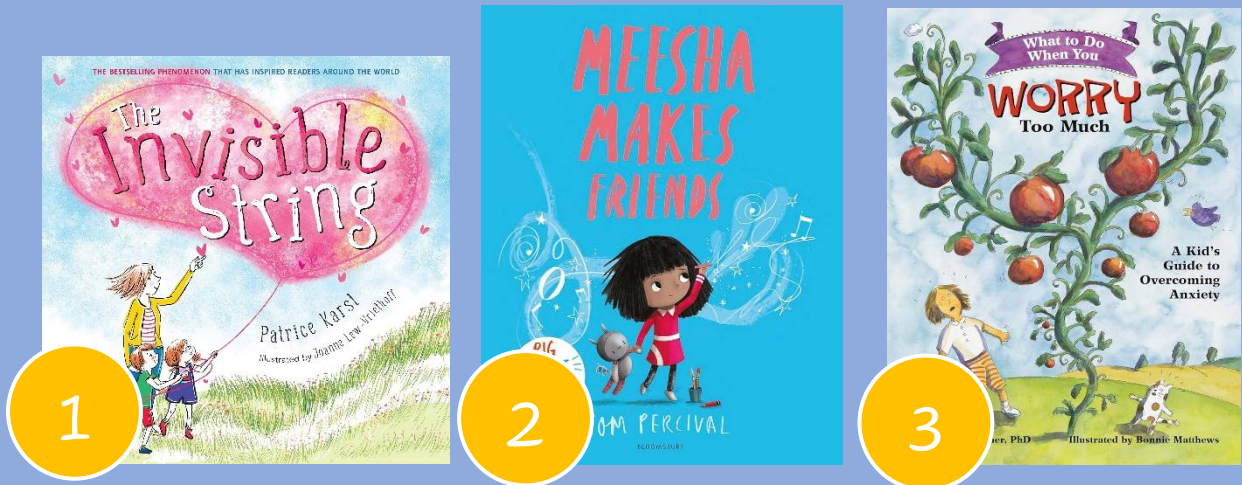
Ruby discovers that worries can grow bigger when we keep them to ourselves. The story encourages children to talk about their concerns and seek support from trusted adults.

3) The Huge Bag of Worries by Virginia Ironside

Jenny carries around a bag that grows larger with every worry she has. A reassuring story that shows how sharing worries can help them feel more manageable.

World Mental Health Day Reads

Year 3 and 4:



1) Meesha Makes Friends by Tom Percival

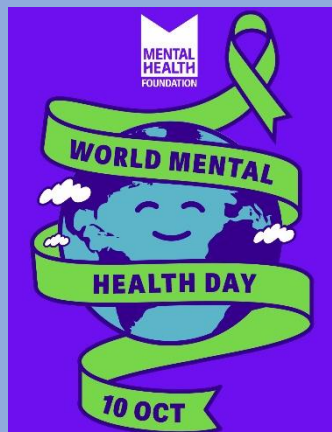
A heartwarming story about friendship, loneliness and finding confidence in social situations. Perfect for discussing belonging and self-esteem.

2) The Invisible String by Patrice Karst

This comforting book explores the idea that we are always connected to the people we love, even when we are apart. It can help children who experience separation anxiety or worry.

3) What to Do When You Worry Too Much by Dawn Huebner

A practical guide with child-friendly strategies to help children understand and manage anxious thoughts.



World Mental Health Day Reads

Year 5 and 6:



1) The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf

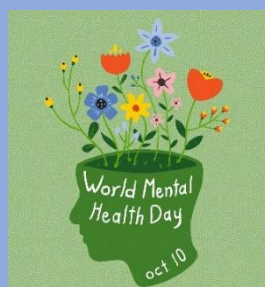
A powerful story about friendship, empathy and kindness. It encourages children to consider the feelings and experiences of others.

2) A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll

Written from the perspective of an autistic girl, this story celebrates individuality, acceptance and resilience while encouraging understanding of neurodiversity.

3) The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

A thoughtful story exploring anxiety, friendship and overcoming fears. It shows how courage can help us face challenges and connect with others.



Our Reading Ambassadors

This half term the new Reading Ambassadors were announced. Every class from Unit 2 to Unit 4 has a representative. Being a Reading Ambassador is about sharing a deep enjoyment of reading and being a role model. The Reading Ambassadors are excited to share their love of reading with the rest of the school.

Introducing themselves are our Reading Ambassadors along with their favourite book...

**Finlay – Starlings:
Diary of a Wimpy
Kid**

**Bay – Kestrels:
The Owl Who Is
Afraid of the
Dark**

**Grace – Eagles:
The Ickabog**

**Elliot – Hawks:
Who Let the
Gods Out**

**Freddie –
Sparrows:
Adventure
Mice Series**

**Aston – Tawny
Owls: Bunny vs
Monkey**

**Isla-North –
Snowy Owls:
Granny Gruffalo**

**Polly –
Sparrows:
Polly the Party
Fairy**

**Rupert –
Little Owls**



BBC 500 Words Competition 2026/27

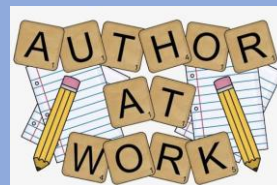
We're excited to share that the BBC 500 Words Writing Competition is back, offering a great opportunity for children to showcase their creativity!

The competition is open to children aged 5-11, with two categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. They just need to write a story they would love to read, in 500 words or less. It's all about imagination—spelling, punctuation, and grammar won't be marked.

Key details:

All 500 Words stories **must**:

- **Be 500 words or fewer** (title is not included in the number)
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be a child's own original idea
- Be prose, not rap or poem
- Deadline: Friday 6th November 2026 at 9pm



Stories **must not**:

- Give any personal details of the child, including their name
- Recount an historical event (but they can use a real person or historical character as a source of inspiration)
- **Be created, written, or developed by AI**
- Contain unsuitable material, such as; **graphic violence or offensive content**. They must be suitable for a primary aged audience.

Prizes:

- 50 finalists will have their work published on the 500 Word website.
- Winners book vouchers and their stories to be illustrated by famous illustrators.

Parents and carers will need to sign their children up for the competition via the dedicated website and submit the entry. Visit the BBC 500 Words Competition website for more details: [The ultimate guide to 500 Words 2026/27 - BBC Teach](#)

Please encourage your child to get creative and submit their stories!



Accelerated Reader Word Count!

Over the school year, children who have completed phonics take part in Accelerated Reader. Each half term they are given a reading target to achieve. Every quiz completed for each book read contributes to the children's word count which they accumulate over the year. See below what our classes are achieving with their word count read so far this academic year. What great determination!

Class	Word Count
Kestrels	3,227,645
Eagles	2,375,171
Hawks	2,095,164
Starlings	1,155,341
Sparrows	1,587,932
Swifts	1,423,032
Big Readers (KS1)	162,594

This is a fantastic achievement. Regular reading helps children discover new interests, explore different worlds, and develop a lifelong love of books. Collectively, our pupils have now read over 12 million words this academic year through Accelerated Reader. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, commitment and determination to keep reading. Keep up the fantastic work, everyone!

(Collective total: **12,026,879** words)

Reading is not just books...



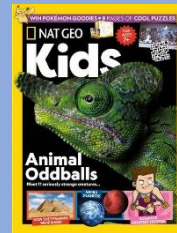
As part of the National Year of Reading, we are encouraging children to read about the things that interest and inspire them. Reading doesn't just mean sitting down with a novel. Children can enjoy reading in many different ways and through a wide range of texts linked to their hobbies, passions, and curiosities. Take a look at what else you could be reading...



Song Lyrics



Recipes



Magazines



Match Report



Maps



Instructions



Museum Board



Encyclopaedia



Leaflets

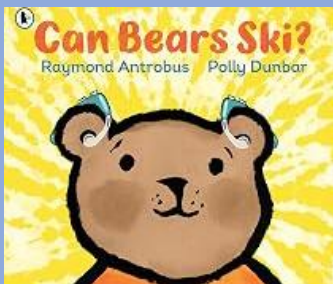
Email in a photo of you reading a text which is not a story. We'd love to see all of your interests and feature your photo in our next Reading Newsletter!

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 Disability. Through carefully chosen texts, pupils develop an understanding that disability is a natural part of human diversity. Books can challenge stereotypes, promote empathy and inclusion, celebrate achievements, and help children recognise the strengths, experiences, and contributions of people with disabilities.

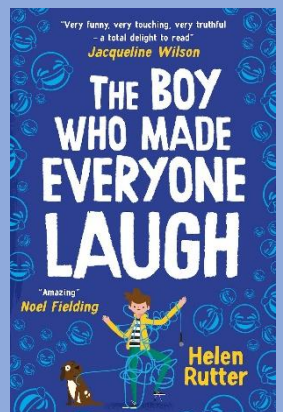


Can Bears Ski? By Raymond Antrobus (disability focus: hearing impairment)

This story helps children understand that some disabilities are not immediately visible and explores the challenges that can arise when communication needs are not understood. It promotes empathy, inclusivity and an appreciation of different ways people experience the world.

The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh by Helen Rutter (disability focus: stammer)

This novel follows Billy, a boy with a stammer who dreams of becoming a comedian. It challenges stereotypes about disability, highlights resilience and self-belief, and helps pupils understand the importance of respecting and valuing individual differences.



Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper (disability focus cerebral palsy and non-verbal communication)

This powerful book challenges assumptions about disability by showing that a person's physical or communication difficulties do not define their intelligence or potential. It encourages pupils to consider issues of accessibility, equality and inclusion while celebrating achievement and determination.

Torquay Library Information

TORQUAY LIBRARY

Events for Children and Families

Stories ★ Activities ★ Creativity ★ Fun for Everyone!



This Half Term and Beyond!

A WELCOMING SPACE FOR ALL ♥

READ
LEARN
EXPLORE
BELONG

Teddy Tales (Under 5s)



Mondays (Term Time)
11:00am – 11:45am

Stories, songs, crafts and bubbles for younger children.
Booking recommended.

Bounce & Rhyme (Babies & Toddlers)



Wednesdays
11:00am – 11:30am

A fun session of nursery rhymes, songs and actions for babies and toddlers.
Booking recommended.

Lego Club (Ages 3+)



Saturdays
2:30pm – 3:30pm

Create, build and let your imagination run wild with Lego challenges and free play.

Throughout Half Term

- ★ Reading challenges and seasonal activities
- ★ Children's book displays and recommendations
- ★ Family-friendly events and crafts
- ★ Thousands of books to borrow for all ages
- ★ A welcoming space to read, learn and explore together

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! ♥



Torquay Library
Lymington Road, Torquay, TQ1 3DT
 01803 714452
 www.torbaylibraries.org.uk
 Follow Torquay Library for the latest news and events

Library membership is FREE! ♥

Please check with Torquay Library or the Libraries Unlimited website for the latest event dates and booking information.

Books ♥ People ♥ Communities

Torbay Libraries

Libraries Unlimited



Winter Quest!

Between 1st October and 1st March, children can pick up a leaflet, complete six activities from the grid, and for each completed activity they get a star sticker to add to their leaflet. When they have six stars, they get a certificate and a Libro sticker, plus entry into a prize draw. Children can do the winter quest and enter the draw as many times as they like.



Green Libraries Week, led by CILIP, is the national, annual celebration of libraries, across all sectors – from public libraries on the high street to national, health and academic libraries – where we focus on libraries leading climate and sustainability initiatives for their users and communities.

The week is a showcase of the very best that libraries have to offer, where they explore and celebrate inventive and inspiring activities engaging with local communities and the media to highlight the diverse ways that they are working with users to build skills and confidence at every stage of their lives.

Borrowbox

Your library card entitles you to thousands of free eBooks and eAudiobooks through the Borrowbox app.

Social Media
@TorquayLibrary
@torquaylib
@torquay.library



Opening Hours

Monday	09:30-18:00
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



Room hire is available at affordable rates.

Torquay Library, Lymington Road,
Torquay TQ1 3DT
01803 714452

torquay.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk
discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk

Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 1170092.

To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk

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Libraries
Unlimited

Climate Facts

**Green
Libraries
Week**

24th - 30th October

**TORQUAY
LIBRARY**

for a greener future



Navigating mis-
and disinformation
in libraries

CILIP The library
and information
association

Free Bike Safety Checks

Saturday 24th October, 10:00-12:00

Need help repairing your bike? Just bring it along to visit Dr Bike for repairs and maintenance support.

Smoothie Bike

Saturday 24th October, 10:00-12:00

Free smoothies for anyone who likes to burn some calories first!
All ages

FAMOUS PEOPLE AND HOUSES OF TORQUAY

Saturday 24th October, 14:00 - 15:00

Talk with Gordon Oliver
Includes refreshments and Q&A.

£2 for library members, £4 non-members

Zine Making Workshop

Monday 26th October 11:00-12:00

Make a zine to keep on your favourite topic.
Materials supplied. Learn new crafting skills,
Ages 5+ £2 for Library Members, £4 for non-members. **Pre-booking required.**

Junk Modelling

Tuesday 27th October 10:00-12:00

Make anything you like to keep from our enormous collection of recycling.
Ages 5+ £2 for Library Members, £4 for non-members. **Pre-booking required.**

Nature Explorers

Wednesday 28th October

Bug Hotels 10:00-10:45 & 11:00-11:45

Aged 3+

Bird Boxes 14:30-15:30

Aged 8+ Family groups

Come and learn all about nature and how to attract it even in the smallest of places.

Pre-booking required.

CATS PROTECTION TALK

Thursday 29th October 11:00 - 12:00

A 30 min talk and Q&A and cat crafts using recyclable materials.

£2.00 for library members, £4.00 Non-Members

All aged but best for 5+

Proceeds will be split between Libraries Unlimited and the Cats Protection.

The GIANT Books, Books & More Sale!

Friday 30th - 31st October

A giant sale of former library books, records, stamps and more. Come and rummage, browse and bag yourself a bargain!

Libraries
Unlimited

MINI-BOOK CHALLENGE!

PART OF GREEN LIBRARIES WEEK

Got a big imagination? Put it in a mini-book! Grab a sheet of paper, fold your own pocket-sized book, and fill it with your own green-themed story, nature drawings, wildlife comic, or planet-saving facts.

Age Categories:

- Under 4s
- Ages 4-10
- Ages 11+

Winner &
Runner-Up
prizes for every
age group!

How to Enter:

- When: 5th – 31st October
- Where: Drop your completed mini-book into any of our Torbay Libraries.

Need folding help? Scan the QR code to watch our video tutorial!

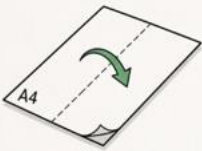
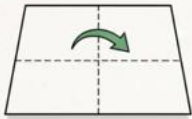
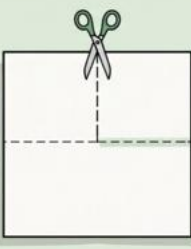
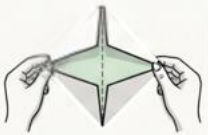
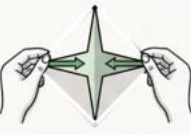
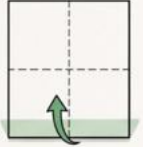
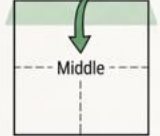


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info@librariesunlimited.org.uk

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



How to Make a Mini-Book

1. Start & Long Fold  <p>Fold the paper in half lengthwise. Open it flat again.</p>	2. Short Fold  <p>Fold it in half in the other direction. Open it flat again.</p>	5. The Snip!  <p>Fold in half horizontally and cut a slit towards the middle.</p>	6. Make a Diamond  <p>Holding each end, push them together so you can see through the slit. (Make a diamond shape.)</p>	7. Plus Sign  <p>Push the ends in further until it looks like a plus sign.</p>
3. Bottom to Centre  <p>Fold the bottom up to meet the middle. Open it flat again.</p>	4. Top to Centre  <p>Fold the top down to meet the middle. Open it flat again.</p>	8. Fold  <p>Flatten it so you have two pages on each side.</p>	9. Final Fold  <p>Fold it in half. You can tape the edges to make it more sturdy, if you want.</p>	

Paignton Library Information

PAIGNTON LIBRARY

Events for Children and Families

Stories ★ Activities ★ Creativity ★ Fun for Everyone!



This Half Term and Beyond!

A FRIENDLY SPACE FOR ALL ♥

READ

LEARN

EXPLORE

BELONG

Bounce & Rhyme (Babies & Toddlers)



Wednesdays
11:00am – 11:30am

A fun, free session of songs, rhymes and actions for babies and toddlers.

Booking recommended.

Lego Club (All Ages)



Saturdays
2:00pm – 3:00pm

Build, create and let your imagination run wild with Lego challenges and free play.

Drop in – no need to book!

Code Club (Ages 7+)



Thursdays
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Explore coding, problem-solving and creativity in a fun, supportive environment.

Booking recommended.

Holiday Crafts (All Ages)



During School Holidays

Join us for seasonal craft activities, with different themes each holiday.

Drop in – no need to book!

Throughout Half Term and Beyond

- ★ Children's book displays and recommendations
- ★ Reading challenges
- ★ Family-friendly events and activities
- ★ Thousands of books to borrow for all ages
- ★ Free computer and Wi-Fi access
- ★ A welcoming space to read, learn and explore together

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

SHARE

DISCOVER

IMAGINE

CREATE

MAKE MEMORIES



Paignton Library & Information Centre

Great Western Road, Paignton, TQ4 5AG



01803 714460



www.torbaylibraries.org.uk



Follow Paignton Library for the latest news and events

Library membership is FREE!

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Books ♥ People ♥ Communities

Torbay Libraries

Libraries Unlimited

Read ♥
Grow
Belong