

Reading Newsletter - Spring 2026

Welcome to our Spring Term Reading Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading it!

Book Week

During book week the children took part in a range of activities. They did some buddy reading with children from a different year group, took part in some live lessons, guessed some the teachers' favourite books after listening to them read a short section of their book, guessed the books from the Book in a Jar entries and listened to stories read by some of the senior leadership team. The children had the choice of dressing up as a book character or wearing a clue for a character on World Book Day. We saw a fantastic range of characters across the school and some wonderful costumes. The PTA also set up tables in the ICT suite with lots of book donations the day after World Book Day. The children took turns, class by class, to visit and choose a book to take home. These are some of the finalists from the Book in a Jar competition.



Everyone at Arunside has been very busy reading and logging the number of pages read as part of the March into Reading event that Tanbridge House school has organised. As of Monday 16th March Arunside had read an amazing 16,746 pages and we still have until the end of March to add to that total!

Year 1 had a visit from some year 8 pupils from Tanbridge House school. They bought some books with them to share with the children and our year 1 children also enjoyed showing them some of their favourite books. The year 1

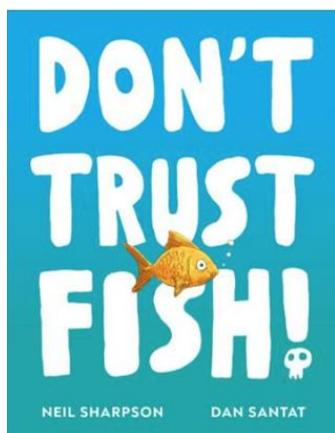
children showed great enthusiasm and enjoyment when listening to the stories.



West Sussex Picture Book Awards

Each year we take part in the West Sussex Picture Book Awards with other schools across the county. The whole school takes part and reads four different picture books which have been shortlisted by the Library service. We read and discuss them and then each class votes for their favourite. The votes are collated and sent to the West Sussex Library service. The overall winner is announced on World Book Day. The winner this year was 'Don't Trust Fish' by Neil Sharpson and illustrated by Dan Santat. Here are the shortlisted books that we all enjoyed.

WINNER!



School Easter Reading Challenge

Children in Early Years, Year 1, 2 and 3 will be given an Easter reading challenge to complete during the Easter holidays to encourage them to read at home during the holiday. They are also available on our school website.

Easter Reading Challenge for year 4, 5 and 6

This Easter we would like the children in year 4, 5 and 6 to choose a book from the recommended lists below, read it and then complete a book review about it. This is attached to this email. The children who complete a book review should bring it into school during the first week back after Easter. They will then be given a raffle ticket. A draw will happen and a winner will be chosen from year 4, 5 and 6. The winners will be able to choose a book as a prize. The recommended lists are can also be found here:

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/recommended-reads/>

Books for Topics

50 Recommended Reads for...
Year 4 (ages 8-9)

2025-2026 Booklist

Call Me LION
BRAND NEW BOY
MEET MATILDA
AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD
DIRTY OF A FUTURE BILLIONAIRE
FRANK POTTERELL ROYCE
IMAGINATION ISLAND
SHIPWRECKED
LAND
INTO THE VOLCANO
TERRY DEARY
TERRIBLE TRUE TALES ROMANS
Smile
Bertie
BUNNY MONKEY
THE GREAT CHOCOLATE
Town Is by the Sea
THE SUMMER DOLPHIN
COBWEB
THE GREAT FARM RESCUE
I AM THE SEED THAT GREW THE TREE
The Queen's Nose
SOLVE YOUR MYSTERY
MR. WOLF'S CLASS
BOY BACK TO CLASS
TURTLE MOON
CRESSIDA COWELL
DRAGON
HOW TO BRIDGE WATER
Enoch's Land
BEASTS

SCAN ME

Or visit www.booksfortopics.com/year-4 to find the online booklist, book pack, reviews and resources

Find booklists by age or topic at [booksfortopics.com](https://www.booksfortopics.com)

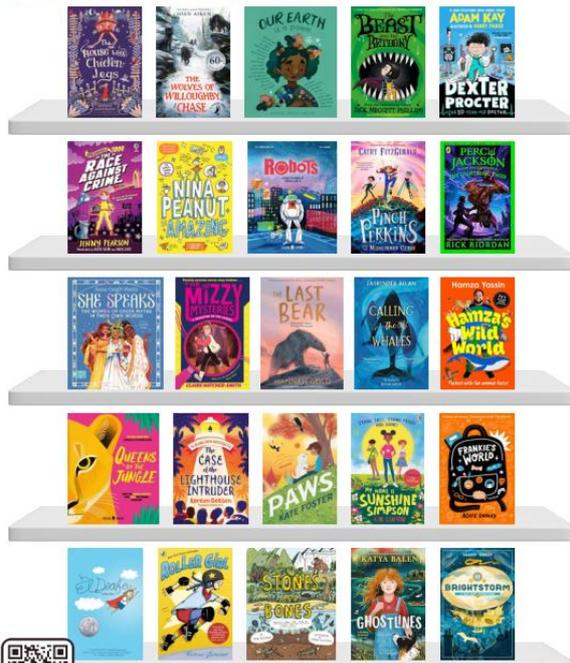
Books for Topics



50 Recommended Reads for...

Year 5 (ages 9-10)

2025-2026 Booklist



SCAN ME

Or visit www.booksfortopics.com/year-5 to find the online booklist, book pack, reviews and resources

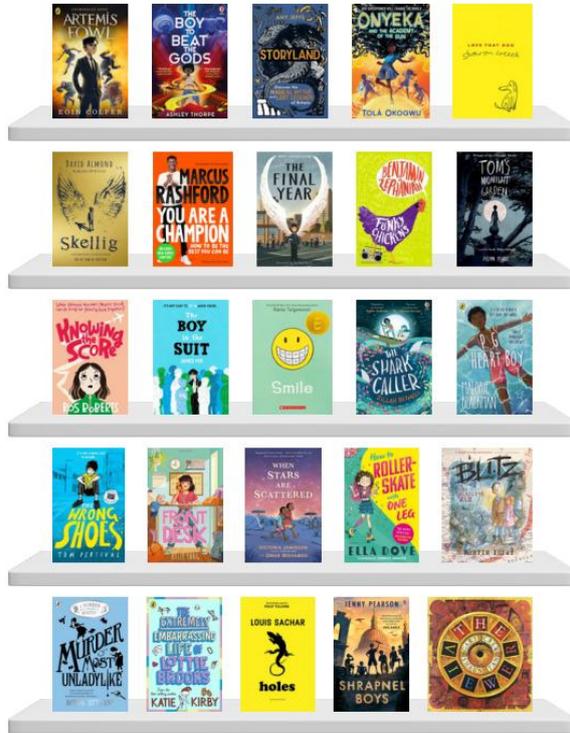
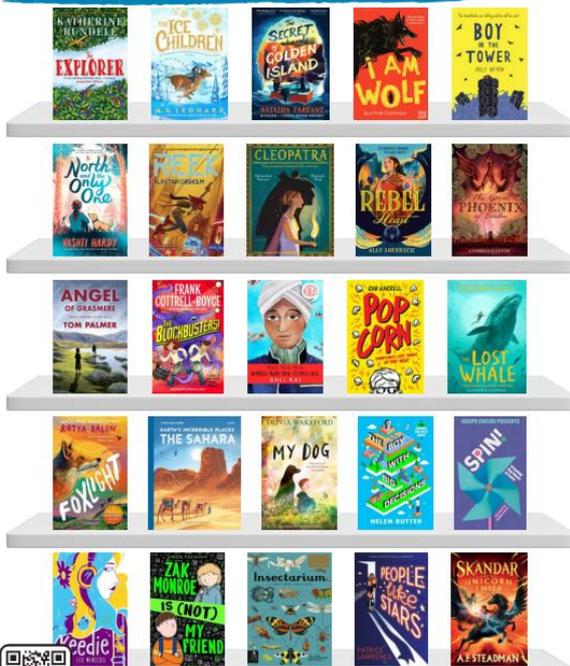
Find booklists by age or topic at booksfortopics.com



50 Recommended Reads for...

Year 6 (ages 10-11)

2025-2026 Booklist



SCAN ME

Or visit www.booksfortopics.com/year-6 to find the online booklist, book pack, reviews and resources

Find booklists by age or topic at booksfortopics.com





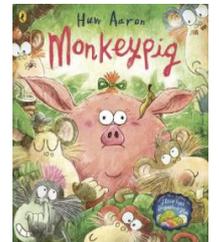
Drop into a Storytime session at [Horsham Library](#) to help your child develop their imagination, every Saturday 2.00 - 2.30pm. Suitable for under 7s, but open to everyone!

New releases

Monkeypig by Huw Aaron

Release date – 26.03.26

From the creator of *Sleep Tight Disgusting Blob* comes a hilarious adventure with a twist in its curly tail... Molly lives in the jungle with all the other monkeys, dancing and playing and being silly among the treetops. But Molly has a secret.

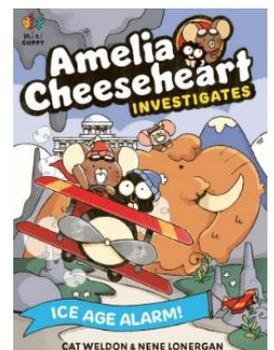


Molly is a pig. When Norman becomes suspicious that an imposter has infiltrated the monkeys, he sets them all some monkey tests. Will Molly be discovered?

Amelia Cheeseheart investigates: Ice Age Alarm by Cat Weldon

Release date – 02.04.26

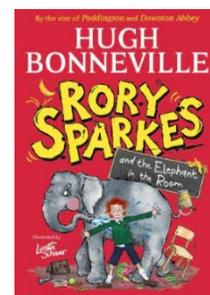
Amelia and Webster are off on their third adventure behind the doors of the museum where they live. Cute, funny and informative, these brilliant books are the perfect stepping stone for children who are ready to move on from picture books.



Rory Sparkles and the Elephant in the Room by Hugh Bonneville

Release date – 26.03.26

Rory Sparkles is a boy with a head full of dreams. He might become a strongman and travel the world with the circus. Or he might try to make it as a cowboy – that would be a fan-tas-tic second best. Although at the moment he'd settle for missing his maths lesson and making his torch work properly.



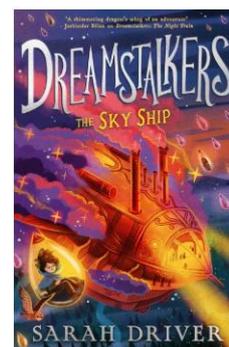
As he plots to help his best friend, Guy, earn enough money to buy the latest top-of-the-line model boat (so they can set sail for South America), the circus rolls into town and everything spirals out of control. With Guy needing help doing odd jobs for the terrifying Madame Lowe, and with Clare, Rory's annoying older sister, planning a dastardly prank, will Rory's plans ever work out? Let's see ...

Dreamstalkers: The Sky Ship by Sarah Driver

Release date – 09.04.26

Bea Grimspuddle may not be a dreamstalker yet, but she's already a hero in the magical city of Silvervein after she and her friends defeated the terrifying Queen of Nightmares. And now she's about to begin her dreamstalking apprenticeship and prove she can be part of the secret dream-crafting guild for real...

The dreamstalkers have taken to the skies, basing themselves a giant air ship in a bank of clouds. Aboard the Sky Ship, Bea finds a marvellous world of technology, magic and secrets - but there's also a lot to learn, and some students are resentful of her star status. And Bea soon has even bigger worries... when dreamers begin to disappear, dangerous creatures leak into the waking world and a strange boy falls out of a dream, refusing to speak a word, the disasters and chaos are blamed on Bea, and she is excluded from her guild before she can prove herself.



As a dark power closes in, and with her guild refusing to listen, Bea and a small crew of friends are forced to undertake their own race through the skies. But can they reach the ancient dragon scrys in time... or will a familiar enemy get there first?