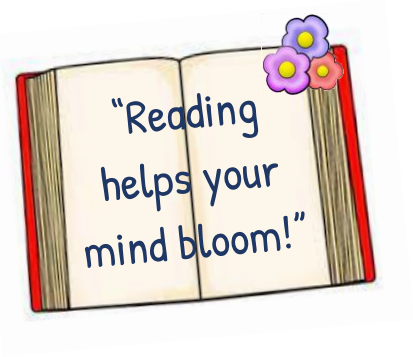
Reading at Elmstead

As a school, we are committed to promoting an ethos of reading for pleasure in our pupils. When children choose books they enjoy, they build confidence, vocabulary and imagination—often without even realising they're learning. Just as importantly, it helps them develop a lifelong love of reading, which supports success across all areas of the curriculum.

As part of this belief, we feel it is important that parents are involved in this process. Sharing stories, talking about books, reading together, or simply showing enthusiasm for reading at home all make a huge difference. When children see reading as something enjoyable and valued by the adults around them, they are far more likely to engage and thrive as readers.



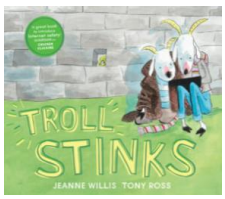
Welcome to the Year of Reading!

2026 has been named the Year of Reading across the UK, and it feels like a lovely opportunity to enjoy stories, ideas and imagination in ways that suit every family. Reading takes many forms, and children experience it differently as they grow. Some are drawn to stories, some dive into facts, and many enjoy a mix of both.

Internet Safety Day

Safer Internet Day is an event which reminds us how important it is to help children use the online world safely, kindly and responsibly, both at school and at home.

Covering important e-safety topics including cyberbullying and social media messaging, this is an essential book to help older children to know how to protect themselves in the digital world. Find out how online interactions can affect friendships, why cyberbullying is so dangerous and how image-sharing can get out of control. Suitable for UKS2.

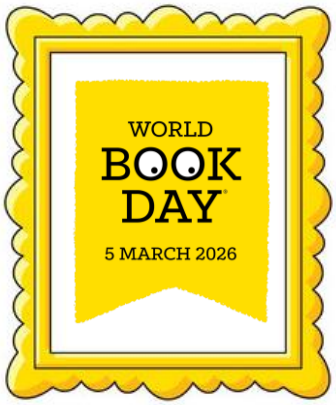


Billy the Goat and his friend are playing with a phone when they decide to send mean messages to the troll living under the bridge. Soon, the two friends discover that their online actions have had a significant impact on the troll's feelings and that their messages were not such a fun idea after all.

Reading Ambassadors

Our reading ambassadors completed their first project of the year in the Autumn Term – creating their very own reading advent calendar! The ambassadors were great at thinking of creative ideas to encourage their friends to read over the Christmas period. Well done!

Next comes their biggest project of the year – World Book Day! This year, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March where everyone is invited to come dressed up as their favourite book character. Our reading ambassadors will open the day with an assembly they would have created as well as leading library sessions for younger peers.



Useful Websites

Below are some website links which recommend books that link to topics and are appropriate for specific age ranges.

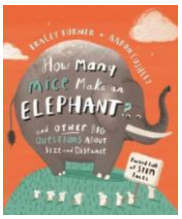
- https://www.booksfortopics.com/
- https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/

Upcoming Reading Events

National Story Telling Week – February 2026
World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2025
National Poetry Day – October 2026 – Specific Date TBC

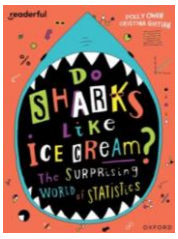
Maths-Themed Reads

This year, we are focusing on **maths and basic number facts**, which are the building blocks for all future maths learning. The books below link to maths by helping children see numbers, patterns and problem-solving in fun, different contexts.



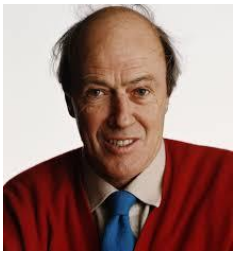
This book is a fun and engaging way to explore maths in everyday life. Each page asks a curious question—like "How many swimming pools in the sea?"—and shows step-by-step calculations, helping children practise number facts and problem-solving. Bright illustrations and fascinating facts make it perfect for sparking curiosity, showing that maths isn't just numbers—it's a way to explore the world!

When the Digits start squabbling over whether odd or even numbers are best, Ten challenges everyone to a football match to settle the argument. Ideal for understanding odds and evens – you can count on the Digits to make numbers fun! This playful picture book series about a group of number friends is ideal for developing early maths skills.

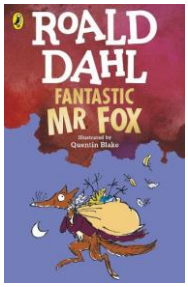


Can sharks really be linked to ice cream? In this fun and thought-provoking text, the book shows how numbers can be used to explain ideas, solve problems and influence opinions. Readers will discover fascinating moments from history, clever probability tricks and how information spreads online. With 'Job Focus' features throughout, the book also sparks curiosity about future careers.

Teacher Recommendation



'Fantastic Mr Fox' by Roald Dahl

As a child, I loved reading Fantastic Mr Fox. I liked that fact that Mr Fox outsmarted the bad farmers. It showed that being brae, smart and a little cheeky was more powerful than being unkind and cruel.

Mrs Garrett