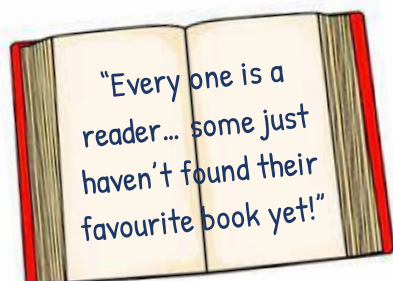




Reading at Elmstead



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.



Summer Reading Challenge



This year's Summer Reading Challenge will inspire children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity.

The challenge runs from **Saturday 18 July to Saturday 5 September** in all Essex libraries and mobile libraries.



There are six stickers for children to collect over the summer and they can earn them by telling the librarians about the books they have read or through related activities. Children can read any library book of their choice; fiction, non-fiction, picture books or books they share with parents and carers – they all count. After collecting six stickers, they earn their certificate and medal. A ribbon to show off their medal can be bought from the library (while stocks last) for 50p each.



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 Poetry Day - October 2026 - Specific Date TBC

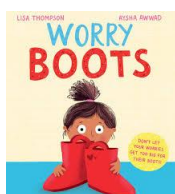
World Book Day - Thursday 4th March 2027



Books to Support Transition



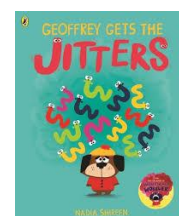
Worry Boots



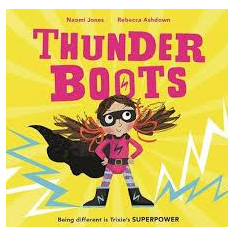
Worry Boots by Lisa Thompson is a warm and reassuring picture book that helps children explore the feelings that often come with change and new beginnings. The story follows Connie as she prepares for her first day at school. Like many children, her worries begin to grow, making everything seem much bigger and scarier than it really is. With the help of her special "worry boots" and the caring adults around her, Connie discovers that it is okay to feel nervous and that she is braver than she thinks.

Geoffrey Gets the Jitters

Geoffrey Gets the Jitters is a delightful story that explores the butterflies and worries children can experience when facing something new. Geoffrey is feeling nervous, and his "jitters" seem to follow him wherever he goes. As the story unfolds, he learns that feeling anxious is something everyone experiences from time to time and that these feelings become much easier to manage when we talk about them and face challenges one step at a time.



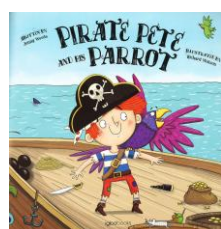
Thunderboots



Thunderboots by Naomi Jones is an uplifting picture book that celebrates confidence, resilience and the importance of embracing our differences. Trixie is full of energy and excitement as she starts school, earning the nickname "Thunderboots" because of the joyful way she stomps through life. However, when reading and writing prove more challenging than she expected, her confidence begins to fade. With the support of her family and teachers, Trixie discovers that everyone learns in different ways and that asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.



Teacher Recommendation



Try to choose my favourite childhood book was tricky so, instead, I have chosen two books that I most loved reading with my children and now enjoy sharing with my grandchildren.

Pirate Pete and His Purple Parrot - A fun-filled pirate adventure with lively illustrations, humour and plenty of excitement that captures children's imaginations and makes story time an adventure. When their ship is attacked by rival pirates, Pete and his crew must rely on the mischievous parrot, whose unexpected actions help turn the adventure around.



The Very Hungry Caterpillar - A timeless classic with beautiful illustrations that introduces counting, days of the week and the life cycle of a butterfly.

Mrs Vaughan