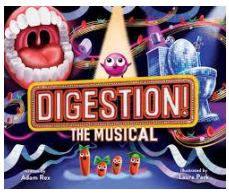
Reading at Elmstead

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.

British Science Week

British Science Week celebrates curiosity, questions and the urge to find things out. Some children are drawn to science through facts and experiments. Others through stories, pictures or big questions.



Digestion! The Musical by Adam Rex is a humorous and educational picture book that explains how the human digestive system works. The story follows a piece of candy who dreams of being eaten and finally gets her big break inside the human body. Along the way, she meets different organs and experiences each stage of digestion, from mouth to stomach and beyond. This book combines science, comedy and colourful illustrations to make learning about digestion fun and engaging.

Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist by Jess Keating is an inspiring children's non-fiction picture book about marine biologist Eugenie Clark. As a child, Eugenie loved sharks even when others feared them. She followed her curiosity, studied science, and eventually became a pioneering shark researcher. Through determination and passion, she helped change how people understand these misunderstood animals. The book celebrates curiosity, courage, and the power of following your dreams.

World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March, Elmstead celebrated World Book Day. The day began with a special assembly led by the reading ambassadors who confidently shared their favourite books and explained why others should read them. It was wonderful to hear their enthusiasm for reading and to see pupils recommending texts to their friends.

Throughout the day, every class visited the library for dedicated reading sessions, giving pupils the chance to explore different books and enjoy some quiet reading time together. Each class was also gifted brand-new books to open and share, helping to build excitement around stories and encouraging a lifelong love of reading.

It was a lovely day to see the whole school community celebrating the joy of reading together.

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

UNESCO World Poetry Day – Friday 21st March 2026

Shakespeare Week – 23rd – 29th March 2026

National Poetry Day – October 2026 – Specific Date TBC

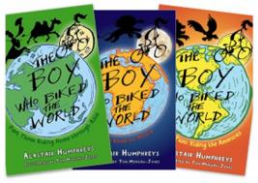
Graphic Novels

A graphic novel is a type of book that tells a story using both words and pictures, similar to a longer, more detailed comic book. Graphic novels are a perfect option of text for reluctant readers and can make reading less intimidating and more engaging.

When the rare Agave flower goes missing from Bearona's botanic gardens, it's up to super-sleuth Ivy and her grandpa Bearlock Holmes to crack the case. But with multiple suspects and a trail that's starting to run cold, can they catch the culprit before the flower is lost forever?

Genius inventor Skunky has just designed a brand-new creation... a robot called Metal Eve! She needs to learn everything there is to know about life, so it's probably not the best idea that she's surrounded by Bunny, Monkey, Weenie, Pig and the gang. The only thing she's going to learn from them is that life in the Woods is very, very silly indeed!

Teacher Recommendation



'The Boy Who Biked the World' by Alistair Humphreys

The Boy Who Biked the World is one of my favourite series because it combines adventure with my love of geography. The story follows a boy named Tom who decides to cycle around the world, visiting places such as Europe, Africa and Asia and experiencing different cultures, landscapes and challenges along the way. As Tom travels, he learns about deserts, mountains, villages and busy cities. Throughout the books, author Alastair Humphreys includes short diary-style sections from his own real cycling expeditions, describing the people he met and the places he explored. This mix of fiction and real travel makes the series exciting and educational.

Mrs Harmer