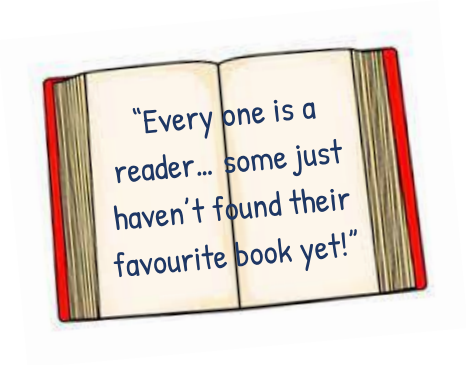
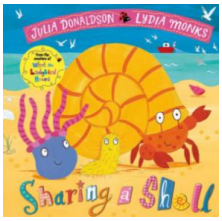
Reading at Elmstead

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.



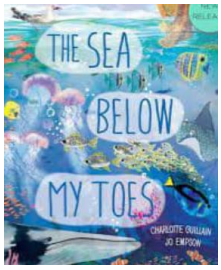
As part of this belief, we feel it is important that parents are involved in this process. Sharing stories, talking about books, reading together, or simply showing enthusiasm for reading at home all make a huge difference. When children see reading as something enjoyable and valued by the adults around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

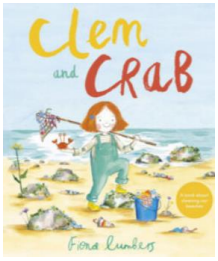
'Summer' Themed Reads



A seaside favourite written by Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks. When Crab finds a new shell, he doesn't want to share it with anyone - especially not a blobby purple anemone and a tickly bristleworm. However, life in the rock pool proves tougher than Crab thinks and he soon finds he needs his new housemates. With brilliant rhythmic verse, bright and distinctive illustrations, this is a great story for young readers.

This illustrated concertina book explores the ocean from surface to seabed. Readers journey past sea otters, sea lions, mackerel, and orcas, discovering diverse marine life at each depth. It also introduces underwater technology like scuba gear, pipelines, and submarines. Reaching the dark "twilight zone," the book reveals unusual creatures such as lanternfish and luminous sharks. Alongside its visuals, it highlights human impact on ocean ecosystems. This book offers an engaging and educational look at the underwater world, combining science and environmental awareness.



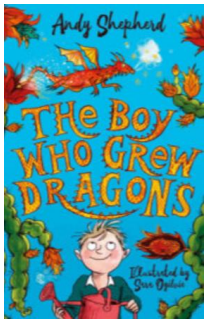


Clem is an explorer, a collector and a protector of the seas. Treasure hunting on her beloved beach, she stumbles across Crab, his claw stuck in a plastic bag. Crab will be much safer and happier in the city with Clem, but doesn't he belong on the beach? A stunningly illustrated timely tale of cleaning up our beaches, with the message that every small action helps.

Series Recommendation

"The Boy Who Grew Dragons" by Andy Shepherd

Tomas is busy in the garden with Grandad, planning which fruits to grow that might be turned into delicious jams or tarts. When Tomas stumbles across a strange tree with curious-looking fruit, he never expects that what might emerge from the fruit is a real live dragon! This is an adventure that is humorous at every turn, but also full of heart. Tomas is a great positive role model for showing how young people can apply curiosity and creativity to the process of growing and nurturing plants and see 'magic' in the course.



Useful Websites

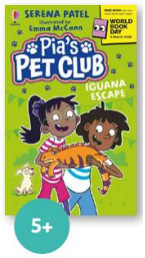
Below are some website links which recommend books that link to topics and are appropriate for specific age ranges.

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

Upcoming Reading Events

National 'Share-a-Story' Month – May 2026
National Poetry Day – October 2026 – Specific Date TBC
World Book Day – Thursday 4th March 2027

Chapter Books



Pia' Pet Club – Iguana Escape

Meet Pia, the girl who loves pets but isn't allowed one of her own. Pia and her best friend are thrilled to spend the day with the Pet Club gang at the community fair but chaos strikes when the star of the, Iggy the Iguana, vanishes! With the clock ticking, Pia and her friends must work together. Can they track down the mischievous Iggy in time to save the day?

Amari and the Metalwork Menace

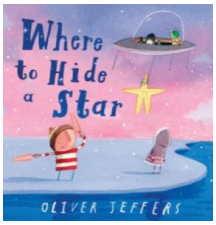
Now a Junior Agent, Amari is trying to prove she belongs, even though some people don't trust her powers. When strange and dangerous magical objects start causing trouble, Amari and her friends must solve the mystery before anyone gets hurt. Along the way, she faces tricky challenges, makes brave choices, and learns what it really means to be a leader.

A perfect for readers aged 8+ and fans of Skandar, Percy Jackson and Nevermoor!

Teacher Recommendation

Author Recommendation: Oliver Jeffers

Oliver Jeffers is a highly-recommended author and illustrator whose picture books are loved for their warmth, humour and thoughtful storytelling. His stories combine simple, engaging language with beautiful artwork, making them perfect for primary-aged readers.



Once there was a boy who would often play hide-and-seek with his friends the star and the penguin. The star was always easy to find, but one day it went missing. So, the boy radioed the Martian for help and soon found himself on an exciting spaceship rescue mission to the North Pole! But there, he discovered that he wasn't the only one who had always dreamed of having a star as a friend...

Mrs Harmer