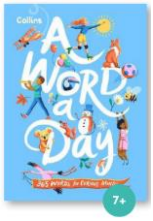
Reading at Elmstead

As a school, we are committed to promoting an ethos of reading for pleasure in our pupils. As part of this belief, we feel it is important that parents are involved in this process. We understand that parents may feel unsure about the best way to support their children to develop a positive attitude towards reading. In order to help with this, we would like to encourage parents, carers and guardians to read the information on this sheet and to speak to your child's teacher if you require further advice.

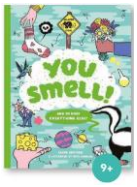
Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in a classroom and around school. It is taught in specific guided or whole class reading lessons as well as part of our English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects, too.

Non-fiction November

National Non-Fiction November is a month-long celebration, launched by the Federation of Children's Book Groups, that highlights the value of factual books and encourages children to enjoy reading non-fiction for fun. It's a wonderful opportunity for young readers to explore the world of information books beyond what they encounter in the classroom, diving into topics that captivate their curiosity.



A year's worth of intriguing words, including ones that reflect the changing seasons and link to the date or month on which they appear. Beautifully illustrated, it explains what the words mean, how to say them and where they came from. Never be lost for words again.

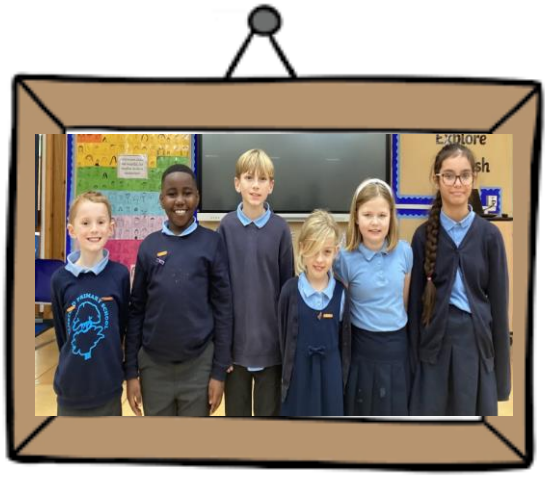


Everyone smells! The sense of smell plays a crucial part in survival, communication, and taste! Despite all this, it's the sense we often know least about. This hilarious and fact-packed book puts that right. Find out everything you could ever want to know about stinks, whiffs and pongs!

Reading Ambassadors

This year, we have continued with our ambassador roles and the new reading ambassadors could not wait to get started! They have already met and completed their first project of the year: the reading advent calendar!

Our reading ambassadors are Daniel (4), Mia (4), James (4), Mila (5), Grace (5) and Solomon (6).



Projects for the year:

- World Book Day
- Audiobooks

Useful Websites

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

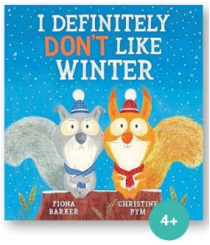
- https://www.booksfortopics.com/
- https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/

Upcoming Reading Events

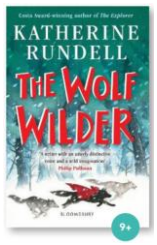
National Story Telling Week – February 2026
World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2025
National Poetry Day – October 2026 – Specific Date TBC

Christmas Reads

As the festive season approaches, there's no better time to embrace the magic of Christmas through reading. Christmas-themed books offer a wonderful way to bring the warmth and joy of the holidays into your home, with stories that capture the spirit of kindness, togetherness, and wonder.

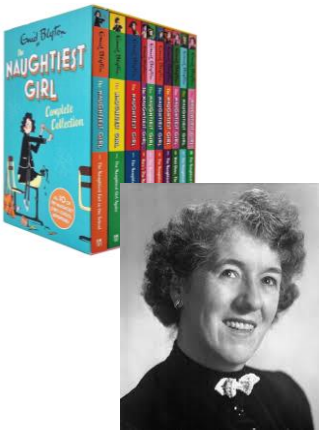


Hank and Hoog are best friends – they do EVERYTHING together. Until one morning, when a single, crisp, brown leaf falls to the ground... Hank is so annoyed! Falling leaves mean winter is coming, and Hank definitely does not like winter. But Hoog is overjoyed! Hoog loves winter – the snow, the snuggles, all of it! Will these two friends learn to put their differences aside? You bet they will!



Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia, in a house full of food and fireplaces. Ten minutes away, in a ruined chapel, lives a pack of wolves. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. When the murderous hostility of the Russian Army threatens her very existence, Feo is left with no option but to go on the run.

Teacher Recommendation



'The Naughtiest Girl in the School'

The story follows Elizabeth Allen, a very spoilt girl who is sent to boarding school and is determined to be as naughty as she possibly can, so she'll be sent home again. But as the story unfolds, Elizabeth begins to learn the value of friendship, kindness and we see her character change in surprising and heart-warming ways.

I loved this book because it made me laugh, but it also made me think. Elizabeth wasn't perfect—she made mistakes, got into trouble and sometimes said the wrong thing but through her adventures, she showed that people can grow, learn and become better versions of themselves.

Miss Penwill