

# St Anthony's



Autumn 2 2025

## READING NEWSLETTER

### Welcome

Welcome to the final edition of our Reading Newsletter for this year!

There has been lots of wonderful reading happening across the school, and as we begin the countdown to Christmas, we hope this newsletter gives you some great ideas for reading over the holiday break. Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey throughout the year—we wish you all a happy, restful break filled with stories to enjoy together.

### What is in this term's issue?

- School library revamp
- Reading ambassadors
- Katherine Rundell
- Hertfordshire libraries

## Our School Library is ready to explore

We are delighted to share that our newly revamped non-fiction library is now open and already proving to be one of the most exciting places in the school. With a wonderful collection of new books, refreshed spaces, and inviting reading areas, children have enjoyed exploring the library over the last couple of weeks and discovering plenty of exciting reads.



# Meet our Year 6 Reading Ambassador

This term, we are excited to introduce our Year 6 Reading Ambassadors—enthusiastic pupils who have been chosen to help inspire a love of reading across the school. They spend time reading with younger pupils, sharing their favourite books, and encouraging everyone to explore new stories. Their role is all about making reading fun, engaging, and motivating, and we are thrilled to see how they are helping to build a strong, school-wide reading community. The reading ambassadors are: Benjamin, Jack, Samanyu, Zuri, Chanelle, Francesca, Levi, Joshua, Riya, Alice, Melissa and Riley.

## Interview with a reading ambassador

Name: Samanyu

Favourite author: Michael Morpurgo

Favourite illustrator: Quentin Blake

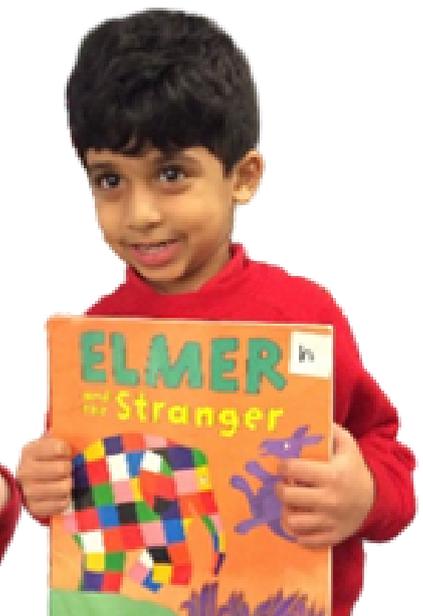
Favourite book: War horse

Favourite character: Albert (War horse)

The best thing about reading: How it calms and relaxes you.



Some of our Reading Ambassadors have been spending time in Early Years discovering the children's favourite books. They asked the little ones about the stories they love most, and this is what they found!



# Meet the Author



Katherine Rundell is a much-loved children's author who writes exciting adventure stories full of courage, friendship and a little bit of magic.

In September she released her new book *Impossible creatures: The poisoned king*. This is the second book in her fantasy series *Impossible Creatures*. The story returns to a hidden world where magical animals – like griffins, dragons and sea-serpents – still exist. Two children are swept into another dangerous adventure as a mysterious sickness spreads through the magical creatures' lands. On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January the year 5 and 6 pupils will be taking part in a Q&A session with the author through the British Library.



## Spotlight on Supporting Reluctant Readers

1. Let them choose - Give your child freedom to pick books they enjoy, whether it's comics, joke books, or magazines. Choice builds motivation.
2. Keep it short and sweet - Short, frequent reading sessions are more effective than long, pressured ones.
3. Read together - Take turns reading aloud or read at the same time. Hearing someone else read can make it less daunting and more enjoyable.
4. Make it fun - Use funny voices, sound effects, or act out parts of the story to bring it to life.
5. Talk about the story - Ask questions like "What would you do?" or "Why do you think that happened?" to encourage thinking and conversation.
6. Celebrate successes - Praise effort rather than perfection. Even finishing a page or a short story is worth celebrating.
7. Mix it up - Try audiobooks, e-books, or interactive story apps alongside printed books to keep things interesting.

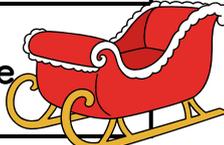
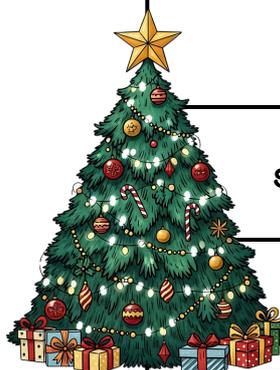
## Advent Books

In the run-up to Christmas, our pupils have been enjoying some festive reading activities! EYFS and KS1 have been unwrapping a different picture book each day, which has then been shared during their class story time. Meanwhile, KS2 have been following the Reading Rockers Advent Calendar, with a daily video from a different author recommending books and setting fun mini-tasks for the children to enjoy.



# Christmas Reading Challenge

Challenge: Can you find these words written at home in your local area over the Christmas holidays?



tree	star	snow
gift	light	candle
snowman	santa	sleigh
carol	gingerbread	snowflake

Each time you spot one of those words in a book, magazine, shop sign or even on a Christmas card, make a note of it. Bonus point if you spot it in a story, song lyric or even a label! Try to find as many words as possible in one day or over several days. Bring your list to Amy or Megan to feature in our next newsletter!

## Library Winter Reads

We would also like to encourage families to join one of our local Hertfordshire libraries, such as Watford Central Library or Croxley Green Library. Libraries are a wonderful free resource, offering a wide range of books to suit all ages and interests. Over the winter period, Hertfordshire libraries are running their Winter Reads Challenge, which is available until the end of January. This is a fantastic way to keep children motivated to read during the colder months, with fun challenges and activities to enjoy along the way.

## Winter Reads

1 November 2025 –  
31 January 2026

Complete 6 fun challenges through the winter months for a chance to win prizes, including an iPad!

Sign up for the challenge at your local library.