

National Year of Reading 2026



PSHE week commencing 23rd February

What is the National Year of Reading?



While you watch,
consider:

- Why might there be a national push on reading this year?
- How does reading benefit us?
- What was the last book you read for pleasure?

The National Literacy Trust has reported:

Children and young people's reading for enjoyment is at an all-time low

The report, taken from the results of 114,970 children and young people in the UK aged 5 to 18 who completed our **annual literacy survey**, shows a continued decline in children and young people's reading enjoyment, albeit at a slightly slower pace than **reported in our 2024 research**.

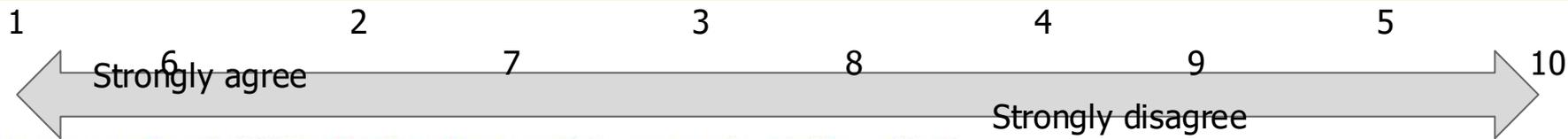
- Only 1 in 3 (32.7%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 say they enjoy reading in their free time
- Only 1 in 5 (18.7%) say they read something daily in their free time

Both these statistics are their **lowest levels in twenty years** since we began tracking reading enjoyment and daily reading habits.

Why might reading for pleasure be at an all time low?

Challenge: what could this mean for your generation?

The National Literacy Trust suggests the following strategies might help more students gain a love of reading. To what extent do you agree that these would help encourage you to read more? Take a class vote!



How can we support children and young people to grow a love of reading?

The findings from our 2025 report suggest a need to align reading with children and young people's personal interests and media habits in order to encourage a love of reading in their free time. Insights highlighted the following key motivators for those who took part in the survey:



Books tied to films or TV series.



Books with visually appealing covers.



The freedom to choose what they could read.



Hearing recommendations from friends, family or teachers.



Encouraging reading through a variety of formats.



Consider using digital formats.

What are the dangers of not reading for pleasure?

- Long term economic hardship.
- Higher risk of involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Poorer health management.
- Perpetuating the cycle of poverty.
- Loss of independence and social withdrawal.
- Preventing progress in all stages of education.
- Limiting your vocabulary.
- Reduced empathy and poorer emotional wellbeing.

What do we do, as a school to encourage you to read for pleasure?

- We offer a wide range of texts in your lessons - think of what books and extracts you've read in English and across the curriculum.
- You have access to the library.
- There are often events and competitions running in the library: Wednesday book group, library bingo, Friday quizzes.
- We share a monthly calendar of reading events.
- We have had author visits.
- We have a library Google Classroom: [67pwwph](#)
- We have a Google Classroom to share competitions: [lcjkkun](#)
- There are displays and posters around the school, offering recommendations.
- KS3 classes all have a fortnightly reading lesson.
- KS3 phonics and reading intervention groups.

Student voice:

Get your form representatives to collect ideas on how to combat the following issues that children face when it comes to reading for pleasure:

1. Children's reading declines as they get older – particularly following transition into secondary school
2. Understanding what motivates children to read can help us to engage reluctant readers
3. Boys are increasingly reading less
4. There is a persistent gap in reading frequency, linked to socioeconomic background.

Once your form has written down your feedback, please deliver it to Miss Hassell in F21!

How to get involved in the National Year of Reading:

- It sounds obvious but... **READ BOOKS!**
- Visit the library.
- Talk to your teachers/friends/parents about what they are reading.
- Visit Art Club to take part in the World Book Day book token competition (prizes on offer!)
- Use your World Book Day tokens!
- Keep your eyes peeled for our World Book Day events next week.

March Reading Calendar:

03

MARCH

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 	3 LIBRARY: TRANQUIL TUESDAYS (BY INVITE)	4 LIBRARY: Y7&8 READING GROUPS (READERS ONLY)	5 WORLD BOOK DAY	6 LIBRARY: QUIZ	7 
8	9 BOOK SWAP DROP OFF	10 LIBRARY: TRANQUIL TUESDAYS (BY INVITE) BOOK SWAP DROP OFF	11 LIBRARY: Y7&8 READING GROUPS (READERS ONLY) BOOK SWAP DROP OFF	12 BOOK SWAP DROP OFF	13 LIBRARY: QUIZ BOOK SWAP DROP OFF	14
15	16 BOOK SWAP TRADE IN	17 LIBRARY: TRANQUIL TUESDAYS (BY INVITE) BOOK SWAP TRADE IN	18 LIBRARY: Y7&8 READING GROUPS (READERS ONLY) BOOK SWAP TRADE IN	19 BOOK SWAP TRADE IN	20 LIBRARY: QUIZ BOOK SWAP TRADE IN	21 
22	23 	24 LIBRARY: TRANQUIL TUESDAYS (BY INVITE)	25 LIBRARY: Y7&8 READING GROUPS (READERS ONLY)	26	27 LIBRARY: QUIZ	28
29		31				

Let's revisit our first few questions:

1. Why might there be a national push on reading this year?

1. How does reading benefit us?

1. What was the last book you read for pleasure?