

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School

Celebrating Reading!



“Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are.”

- Mason Cooley

“There is no friend as loyal as a book.”

- Ernest Hemingway

This is our first library newsletter of the academic year! Each half term, a newsletter is published with the aim of sharing with you what we are getting up to in our two wonderful libraries (EYFS/KS1 and KS2), as well as imparting awareness of audiobooks, podcasts and other resources which will hopefully help your child develop an interest in reading and literacy further.

Welcome to our Year Six Librarians

We have a fabulous team of 10 librarians this academic year. Their letters of application for this role showed great maturity and demonstration of a fantastic passion for sharing their love of reading with others. Over the course of this academic year, my new team will work across both libraries. As well as encouraging others to choose books that they will hopefully enjoy reading, the team will also be given the opportunity to develop and enhance skills such as: writing book reviews, generating displays, assisting with library questionnaires/competitions and getting to grips with the library electronic book borrowing system.

St Thomas' Bookopoly & Reading Brick Road

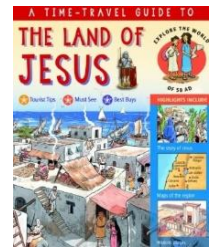
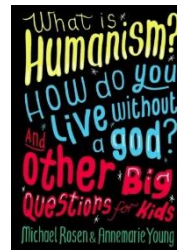
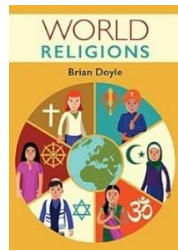
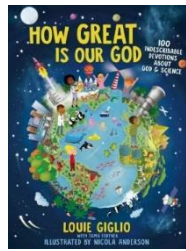
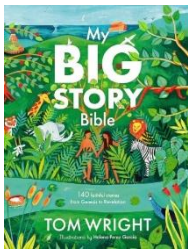
This year, reading scheme awards will continue for all children in our Primary School. Children in KS2 are reading their way across a 'Bookopoly' Board, where familiar colours and railway stations correspond to book genres, including new for this year 'Spirituality & Religion'. This half term, in KS2, we have awarded **63 Bronze Awards**, **10 Silver Awards** and **5 Gold Awards**!



In EYFS and KS1, children have the opportunity to read/share books according to author surname, collecting awards as they go. We have awarded **36 Bronze Scarecrow Awards**, **7 Silver Tin Man Awards**, **2 Gold Lion Reading Awards** and **1 Ruby Reading Awards** !

Spirituality & Religion

At the start of the academic year, we were very fortunate to be able to add to our Spirituality & Religion collections in both of our libraries. Children are enjoying reading these books as part of their St Thomas' Bookopoly challenge in KS2.



Gift a Book at Christmas Scheme 2025

After its success last year, we will again be launching our 'Gift a Book at Christmas' initiative for both of our libraries. Parents and carers will be given the opportunity to donate a small amount of money which will cover the cost of a book. We purchase the majority of our stock from Peter's Bookshop, who provide a plastic protective cover, which ultimately prolongs the life of each book. More information will follow after half term.

Book Reviews, Audio Books and Author Chats

Audio Books for our EYFS/KS1 Readers

There's a wonderful selection of **classic short stories for children** written by a number of well-known authors including **Beatrix Potter** www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07h1f8c/episodes/player

Our Favourite Authors display in the KS1 library features stories written by Lynley Dodd featuring Hairy Maclary and friends. There's a fantastic animated version of **Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy** on YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWywAk67wqA

Audio Books for our KS2 Readers

Fans of E. Nesbit's **The Railway Children** will enjoy this complete and unabridged re-telling of the story on YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3MZmKXBlak.

FunkidsLive is a popular digital radio station for children. I was delighted to discover recently that they have a superb podcast '**Fun Kids Book Worms**', where Bex chats with our favourite authors, finding what makes them tick. We're sometimes lucky enough to hear them reading an excerpt from their latest book! www.funkidslive.com/podcast/fun-kids-book-worms

The UKS2 History topic for this term is **Ancient Greece** and National Geographic Kids have produced an awesome Podcast (available from the usual outlets) '**Greeking Out**' for the whole family retelling stories of Ancient Greece. www.nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/greeking-out



Mrs C. Emery, School Librarian