



Reading Newsletter

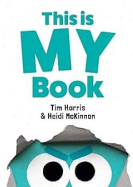
Summer
2026

We're delighted to begin a new term full of stories, imagination and opportunities to inspire a love of reading across Nursery to Year 4. In this edition, you'll find a selection of exciting new children's books, plus an important date for families to pop in the diary, as we move into the brighter months ahead.

What's New in Children's Books?

A curated selection of wonderful new and upcoming titles for Nursery to Year 4, drawn from Spring 2026 book release lists and children's literature previews.

Nursery



• **This is My Book—Tim Harris & Heidi McKinnon**

A playful, imaginative picture book full of humour and creativity — a perfect spark for storytelling and talk.

Reception



Is it Spring?—Kevin Henkes

A beautifully illustrated picture book perfect for exploring nature and early inference.



Rock and Roll—

Ruby Amy Thompson

A bright, energetic picture book exploring difference, friendship and identity — ideal for read aloud sessions.



The Royal Request—Monika Singh Gangotra & Mirna Imamovic

A joyful adventure about delivering a special birthday cake to a queen's palace, touching on teamwork and family traditions.



The Polar Bear Day—Park Jihee

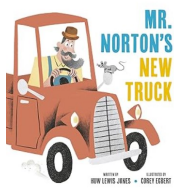
A gentle, visually stunning story told entirely through illustration.



The Blanket—Marie Dorleans

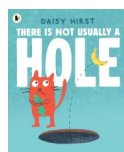
A joyful adventure about delivering a special birthday cake to a queen's palace, touching on teamwork and family traditions.

Year 1



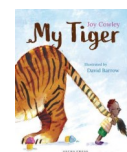
Mr. Norton's New Truck—Huw Jones & Corey Egbert

A lively, funny adventure about Mr Norton's very large, very chaotic new truck. Packed with humorous mishaps and bold illustrations, it's perfect for engaging Year 1 readers and encouraging prediction and discussion.



There is not Usually a Hole—Daisy Hirst

A wonderfully quirky and charming picture book full of simple, funny text and distinctive artwork. Great for building confidence, inference skills and a love of playful language.

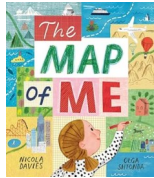


My Tiger—

**Joy Cowley
illustrated by David Barrow**

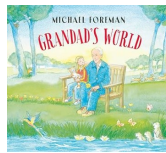
A warm, imaginative story celebrating friendship and bravery.

Year 2



The Map of Me—Nicola Davies & Olga Shtonda

A beautifully written, emotionally rich story about moving somewhere new and finding your place.



Grandad's World—Michael Foreman

A warm, beautifully illustrated story about a child exploring the countryside with their grandad, noticing wildlife, seasons, and the world around them.



The Heart of the Storm—Teresa Heapy & Kate Read

A lyrical, imaginative story ideal for encouraging inference and discussion.



Once I was a Giant—Zeno Swords

A beautifully illustrated, thoughtful story about growing up and seeing the world differently. Gentle, imaginative, and perfect for developing inference skills.

Year 3



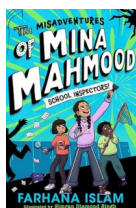
The Last Wolf—Rob Bidulph

A longer, atmospheric adventure with mystery, fantasy, and over 100 illustrations,



Tiny Hercules—Jon Lock & Nich Angell

A lively, funny, full colour graphic novel about a tiny but mighty hero on mythical quests.



The Misadventures of Mina Mahmood: School Inspectors! — Farhana Islam

A funny, fast paced school adventure in which Mina and her friends try to impress visiting inspectors — until the class tarantula goes missing and chaos unfolds. Perfect for confident Year 3 readers who enjoy humour and mystery.

Year 4



The Night I Borrowed Time— Iqbal Hussain

A mysterious, atmospheric adventure suitable for confident Year 4 readers who enjoy suspense without anything too dark. Engaging, immersive, and great for developing stamina.



The Rare Bird—Elisha Cooper

A beautifully imaginative picture narrative in which a house cat dreams of becoming a "rare bird." Lyrical, creative and rich in visual storytelling — ideal for developing inference and writer's craft discussions.



Escape from the Child Snatchers— Sufiya Ahmed

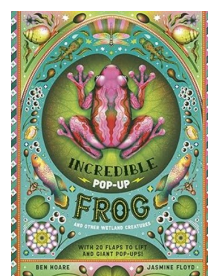
A gripping Victorian adventure where two boys travel to London to find a missing brother and uncover a dangerous plot.

New & Noteworthy Non-Fiction



Blast Off!—Ben Alcomb

An interactive STEM title exploring rockets and spacecraft through detailed illustrations and accessible explanations. Designed to ignite curiosity about space and engineering with strong visuals to engage the reluctant reader.



The Incredible Pop-Up Frog: And Other Wetland Creatures

An award-winning (Children's Non-Fiction Book of the Year 2025) interactive non-fiction book featuring pop-up engineering alongside rich scientific content about wetland ecosystems.

Friday 10th July 2pm

Summer Booknic

The sun has pencilled us in—let's hope it saves the date too! Pack a blanket and a favourite book, and join us for a laid-back Booknic with tea, biscuits, and cosy reading with your child.



Supporting Every Child as a Reader

Children learn to read at different rates, and it's completely normal for confidence and enthusiasm to grow gradually. At school, we focus on building strong reading foundations while also helping children see reading as something enjoyable, meaningful and shared. At home, small positive reading moments really do make a difference. The tips below are based on current Department for Education guidance on early reading and supporting reading at home, and are intended to help reading feel manageable and enjoyable for the whole family.



- **Rereading is a good thing**

Children learning to read often benefit from reading the *same book several times*. Familiar texts help children recognise words, read more fluently and grow in confidence — even if it looks like they already know the story.

- **Little and often works best**

Short, regular reading times are more effective than long sessions and help keep reading positive.

- **The right book matters**

Books that match your child's reading level, including decodable books, help reading feel manageable and successful.

- **Reading doesn't have to be a story**

Reading signs, labels, instructions, shopping lists or recipes while cooking together all count as reading and help children see how reading is used in everyday life.

- **Choice builds motivation**

Let your child choose what to read. Comic books, fact books, joke books and favourite stories all count.

- **Reading together really helps**

Reading aloud to your child, or taking turns, supports vocabulary and understanding — even once children begin to read independently.

- **Talking is part of reading**

Chatting about pictures, characters, instructions or what might happen next helps children make sense of what they read.

- **Praise effort, not speed** Celebrate trying, sounding out words and choosing to read. Confidence grows best when children feel encouraged, not rushed.

What's On Locally: Stories On Stage

Looking for ways to bring books to life? These upcoming family friendly theatre shows are all inspired by much loved children's stories:



The Enormous Crocodile - The Musical

Newcastle Theatre Royal - May 2026

[The Enormous Crocodile | Newcastle Theatre Royal](#)

Roald Dahl's story brought to life with music and laughter, ideal for EYFS and KS1 families.

My First Ballet: Cinderella

Newcastle Theatre Royal—May 2026

[My First Ballet: Cinderella | Newcastle Theatre Royal](#)

Tales From Acorn Wood

Northern Stage—May 2026

[Tales from Acorn Wood | Northern Stage](#)

Based on the favourite stories by Julia Donaldson and Alex Scheffler

Horrible Histories

Northern Stage—June 2026

[Horrible Histories: Terrible Tudors | Northern Stage](#)

[Horrible Histories: Awful Egyptians | Northern Stage](#)

The Dinosaur That Pooped

Whitley Bay Playhouse—August 2026

[The Dinosaur That Pooped - PLAYHOUSE Whitley Bay](#)

Adapted from the number 1 best-selling books by Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter. A high-energy show packed with silliness, rhymes and songs.

Finally...

Reading grows through many small moments. Sometimes it's sharing a favourite story again and again, sometimes it's reading instructions while cooking, discovering a new book together, or seeing a familiar character brought to life on stage. All of these experiences help children build confidence, understanding and enjoyment as readers.



Thank you for the support you give your child every day, often without even realising it. By reading together, talking about stories and making time for books in everyday life, you are playing a vital role in your child's reading journey.

We're looking forward to continuing to celebrate reading with you over the coming months, both in school and through shared experiences like our upcoming Summer Booknic.