

STA NEWSLETTER



The... art of reading



ST. ANNE'S
CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

The Library Newsletter

SUMMER TERM 2026

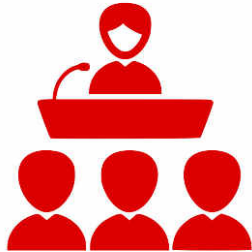
What We Have On at the Library!

Clubs

Debate Club

Thursday Lunchtime (Week A)

Learn how to confidently voice your opinions at Debate Club! Each session, students will be discussing a different question based on a debate topic. Over the past year we have debated: *Should homework be allowed? Is it OK to use AI? Should social media be banned?*



Creative Writing Club

Friday Lunchtime (every week)

Unleash your imagination at the Creative Writing Club, where we work on our stories through world building, character development and descriptive writing. Previous activities at the club have included map making, character creation and world generation.



Origami Club Tuesday Breaktime (every week)

Having a slow breaktime? Come over to the Library and indulge in the joys of folding paper into a variety of things. Everything will be provided for you — all you need to do is show up!

Thank you to our **Library Ambassadors** who have done an absolutely amazing job at making the Library neat, tidy and a good environment for everyone!

Thank you also to **everyone at St. Anne's** for showing such love and respect for the Library!

Activities

Have Fun & Earn Achievement Points at the EC Library!

Tier One - 1 Achievement Point

- Crosswords
- Word Searches
- Sudoku
- Logic Games
- Display Board

Tier Two - 2 Achievement Points

- Word of the Week
- Bible Challenge
- Maths Challenge
- Bunting
- NEW! **Review Bookmarks.** Don't know what to read? Get recommendations from bookmarks left in the books by the people who read them before!

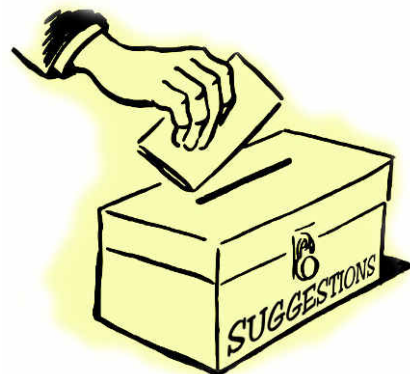
Tier Three - 3 Achievement Points

- Build-a-Newspaper
- Build-a-Book
- Book Review
- Poem Challenge
- NEW! **Finish the Story Challenge** - didn't like how a book ended? Simply rewrite the ending!

Just for Fun!

- Mindful Colouring
- Make a Bookmark
- Read a Newspaper

Suggestion Box



Remember that we have a suggestion box at the Library!

Please use it to let us know about anything new you may want at the Library.

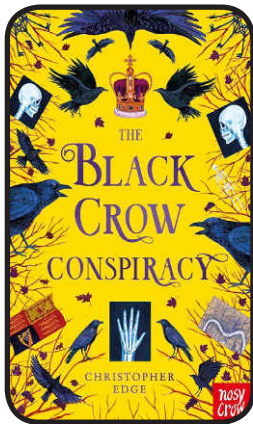
New books? New Challenges? An event?



Librarian Recommendations

Some of the best books we have at the Library. Something for everyone!

A Ms. Jazuk Favourite

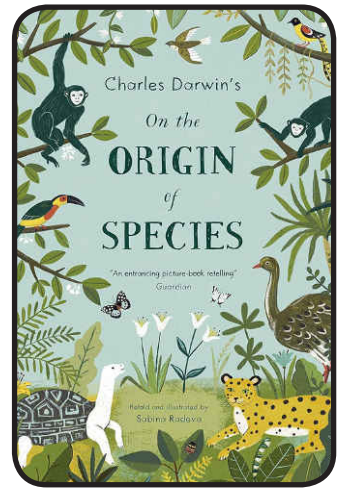


'**The Black Crow Conspiracy**' by **Christopher Edge** is a brilliant choice. This gripping story pulls you in straight away with secrets, hidden clues and a strong sense of intrigue running throughout. As the plot unfolds, each discovery adds more layers to the mystery, making it increasingly difficult to guess what will happen next.

It's especially ideal for mystery fans who enjoy piecing together puzzles as they read. Fast-paced, atmospheric and full of surprises, this book keeps you guessing right until the final page and never really lets you relax (in the best way possible).

All Around the World

If you've ever wondered about the many different theories on how animals (including us!) came to be the way they are, '**Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species**' retold by **Sabina Radeva** is a great introduction to the concept of evolution.

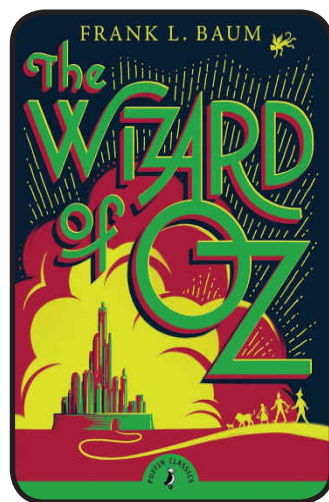


It explains big scientific ideas in a way that is really easy to digest, making it perfect for all readers. Sabina's new illustrations are fun and engaging, helping bring these ideas to life. An enjoyable, accessible book that shows how fascinating science can be.

An Ultimate Classic

'**The Wizard of Oz**' by **L. Frank Baum** is

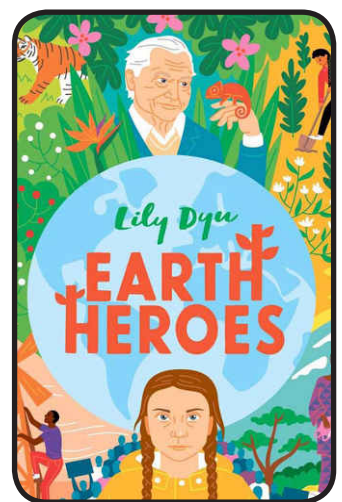
a timeless classic that I grew up with and still love today. It follows Dorothy's unforgettable journey through the magical Land of Oz, and tells of the strange and wonderful characters that she meets along the way. While many people know the film version, it really doesn't do the book enough justice, as the original story is even richer and more imaginative. Reading it for yourself lets you fully experience the magic, adventure and charm that makes it so special.



When L. Frank Baum (1856-1919) was writing *The Wizard of Oz*, he got the name 'Oz' from his filing cabinet! One drawer was marked 'A-G', another was 'H-N' and the last was 'O-Z'. Strange but true!

Inspiring Stories

'**Earth Heroes**' by **Lily Dyu** is a non-fiction collection of inspiring true stories about a wide variety of well-known figures, real people like Greta Thunberg and Sir David Attenborough (who recently celebrated his centenary!) to lesser-known innovators and activists taking action to protect the planet and combat climate change.



Each story shows a unique approach to helping the environment. The book blends engaging narrative and striking illustrations to make environmental issues accessible and empowering. Reading it left me feeling inspired and motivated to do more myself. It's a great choice for anyone who cares about environmental stewardship and the future of our planet. In this book you will read practical examples of people making a difference in the world.



A Book in the Spotlight

'Women in Art: 50 Fearless Creatives Who Inspired the World' by Rachel Ignatofsky

In honour of the National Year of Reading, I would like to focus on one of my favourite books in the Library and explain to you why I like it so much.

- The author is fantastic!



Rachel Ignatofsky is an American illustrator and author best known for creating visually engaging non-fiction books that celebrate science, history and influential women. Her works, including *Women in Science* and *The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth*, combine colourful artwork with accessible storytelling to inspire readers of all ages to explore STEM and the natural world. Through her educational illustrations and books, Ignatofsky has become a prominent voice in promoting diversity, curiosity and creativity in learning.

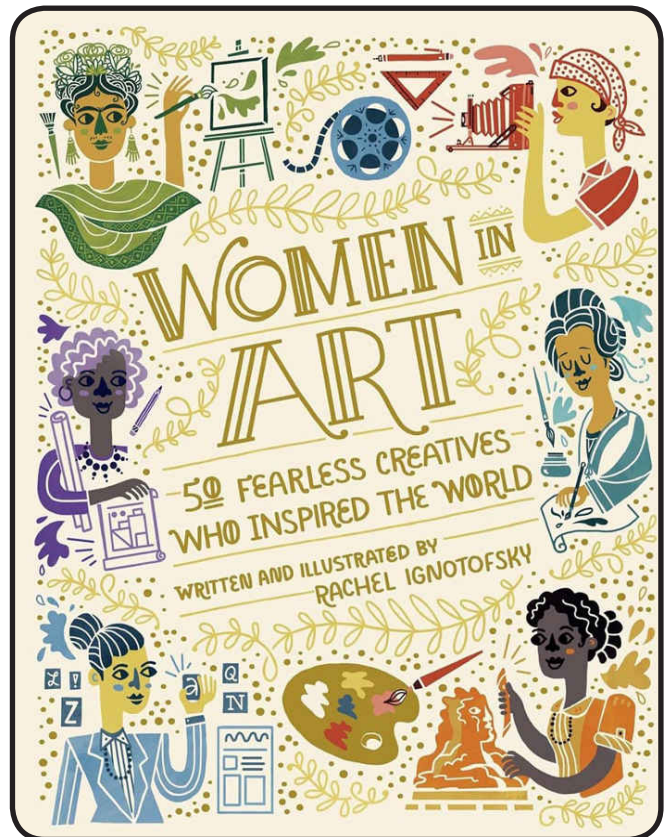
She often fills her illustrations with tiny hidden details, patterns, and visual jokes inspired by vintage scientific posters and field guides. She has said that she loves making educational art feel playful and approachable, which is why her books are packed with colorful diagrams, maps and quirky facts that reward careful readers.

- The illustrations are incredible!

The illustrations in *Women in Art* feature a bright, playful colour palette which is filled with warm tones, soft pastels and bold accents, making each page feel lively and inviting.

Ignatofsky uses detailed, hand-drawn artwork inspired by vintage posters and infographics, combining decorative patterns, expressive portraits and carefully labelled designs to create an educational yet whimsical style.

The pages are carefully organised with colourful borders, diagrams and typography that help readers explore, in a fun and visually engaging way, the lives and achievements of the 50 artists who are featured in this remarkable book.

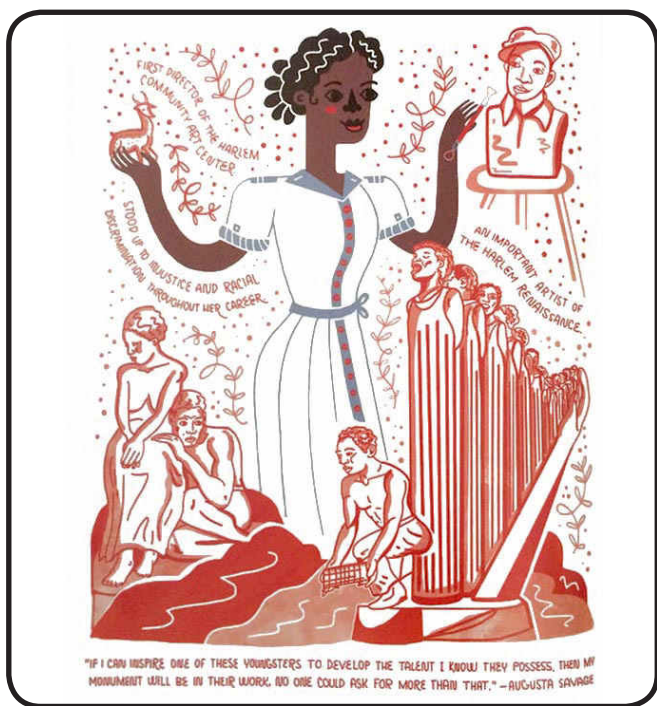


- **It talks about one of my favourite artists!**



Among many others, the book talks about Augusta Savage, an American sculptor and teacher who was born in Green Cove Springs, Florida, in 1892. She was not only an advocate for Civil Rights but she also was a leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance. She spoke up and represented marginalised Black artists in the USA.

The studio at which she taught is recognised as being of crucial importance to the careers of a generation of artists who would become nationally known.



- **There is such a variety of information**

With more than fifty people being written about in this book, you will almost certainly learn something new.

The digestible information, the illustrated notes on the side and the colourful images really makes this book impossible to put down.

You simply want to learn more, especially given the fact that so many of the women represented within these pages have been unfairly forgotten in the history of art and in history more generally.



- **Rachel Ignotofsky's book focuses on one of my favourite subjects**

The content of **Women in Art** explores the lives, achievements and creative styles of influential female artists from different time periods and cultures.

Ignotofsky writes in a clear and engaging way that makes historical information easy to understand, while still including meaningful details about each artist's life and impact.

The writing style is informative yet conversational, encouraging readers to feel inspired by the creativity, determination and accomplishments of the women featured in the book.



Mr. Egan

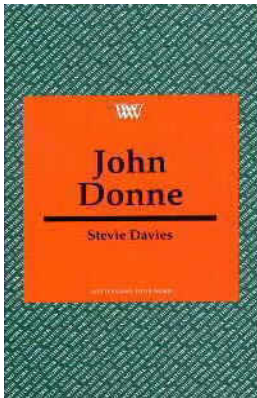


• What book are you currently reading?

I am currently reading a biography on the poet John Donne by Stevie Davies. It is a really interesting biography about a really interesting guy. Donne, initially, led quite the life! Back then, he would have been known as a rake, or a man who wastes his fortunes away and is a bit morally ambiguous, which is seen especially in his poetry. His poetry had some misogynistic undertones, and was frankly quite mean. However, he later came to change his life around completely, leaving behind his rakish ways and using his skills as a poet for good, becoming a rector and writing sermons and poems that reflected more positivity and encouragement.



What I like about his work is the consistent passion we see in his writing, that spark never fades throughout his time as a poet and rector.



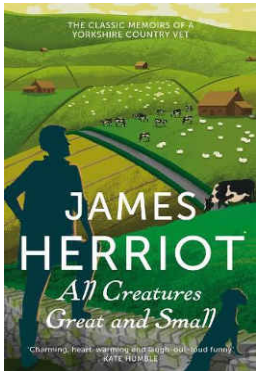
• Which book would you recommend for students to read over the summer?

It would have to be **All Creatures Great and Small** by James Herriot. It is such a great read. I'd say it's particularly good for those who live in the city and don't have much exposure to country life. The writing is easily digestible and is packed full of references and allusions to other literature, folklore and culture and you get a good understanding of what it is like to live out in the countryside.



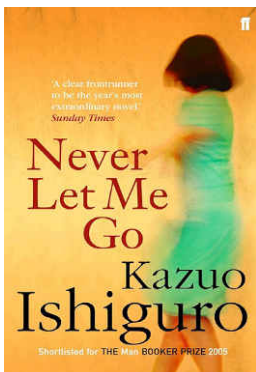
• If you could be a fictional character for a day, who would you be?

It would have to be Matt Coulthorn from **The Wheel of Time**. He is such a jack-the-lad and desperate rogue, something I am definitely not. His catchphrase is 'time to toss the dice', which is a mindset that I think we can all benefit from! What I also like about him is that despite his unpredictable nature, he is still a responsible person.



• What would you say is your favourite book of all time?

Tricky! It would have to be between **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen, the Karla series by John le Carre (including **Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy**) and the **All Creatures Great and Small** books by James Herriot. **Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro is a close contender too. These books are classics for a reason.



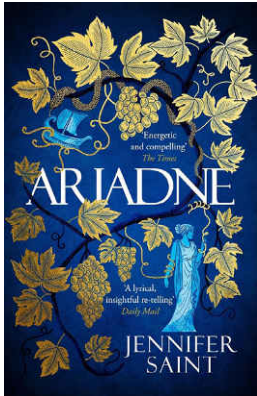
• Why do you think reading is so important?

It's because reading opens up the world. It is so important that we keep ourselves educated and curious. It is a sure fire way to make your life interesting. The more you read the more you know! It is also a great way to become more sociable and conversational because of all the new words, phrases and facts that you can learn. It really is the best thing!

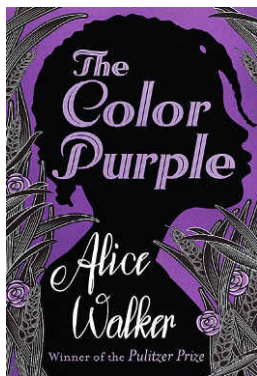
Q&A

Your Teachers Talk Books

Ms. Gregory



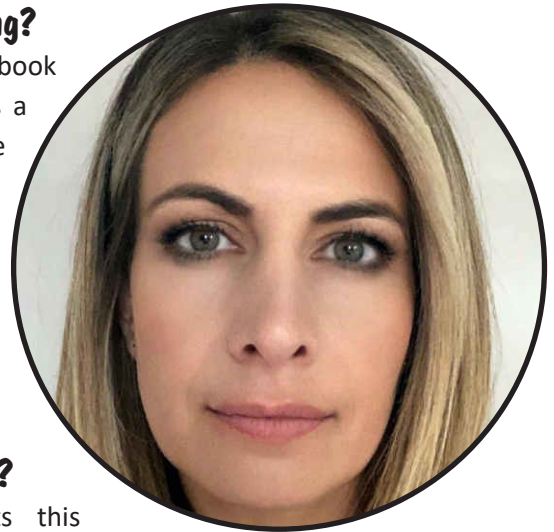
JENNIFER SAINT



LOIS LOWRY

- **What book are you currently reading?**

As of right now I am reading a wonderful book called **Ariadne** by Jennifer Saint. It gives a fresh voice to the overlooked women in one of the most famous Greek myths, showing their strength while dealing with the chaos caused by the gods. It is beautifully written and totally absorbing. An amazing debut novel.



- **Which book would you recommend for students to read over the summer?**

My recommendation for KS3 students this summer is **The Giver** by Lois Lowry. It is a powerful and thought-provoking novel that encourages young readers to reflect on freedom, individuality and the importance of human emotion. It is an engaging read that stays with you long after the final page and is an excellent choice for developing both imagination and critical thinking skills over the summer break.

- **If you could be a fictional character for a day, who would you be?**

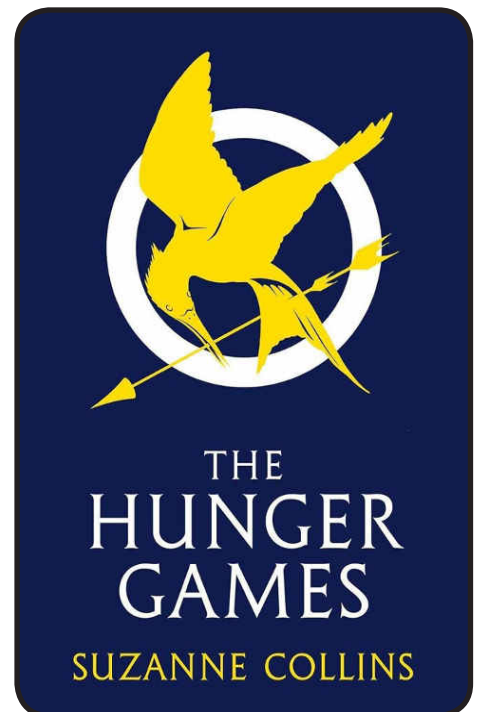
I would probably like to be Katniss Everdeen from **The Hunger Games**. I admire her strength, both mentally and physically, as well as her perseverance and courage in the face of adversity.

- **What would you say is your favourite book of all time?**

Wow, there are just so many to choose from. However, if I had to choose, then it would be **The Color Purple** by Alice Walker. It is an absolute classic.

- **Why do you think reading is so important?**

Reading opens doors. It builds imagination, confidence and understanding of the world around us. A child who reads regularly gains not only knowledge, but empathy, curiosity and the ability to think independently. Reading also has a huge impact academically, it strengthens vocabulary, improves writing, develops concentration and supports learning across every subject. In a world full of distractions, reading remains one of the most powerful tools we can give our children for success in school and in life.

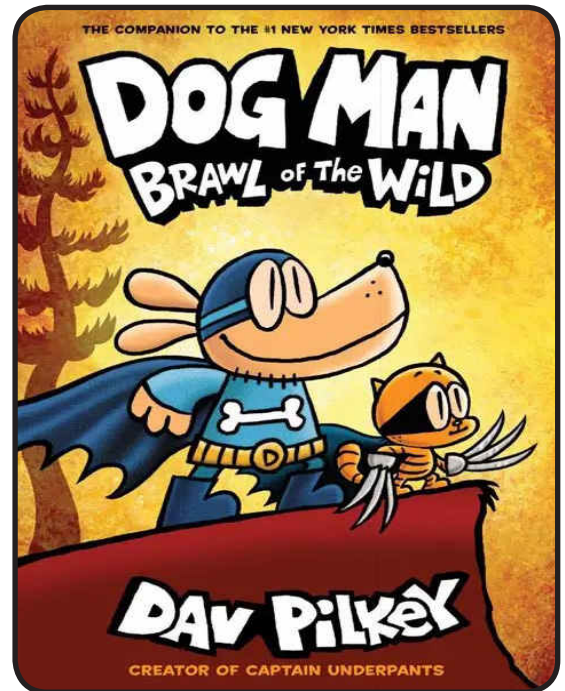


If You Like That... Read This!

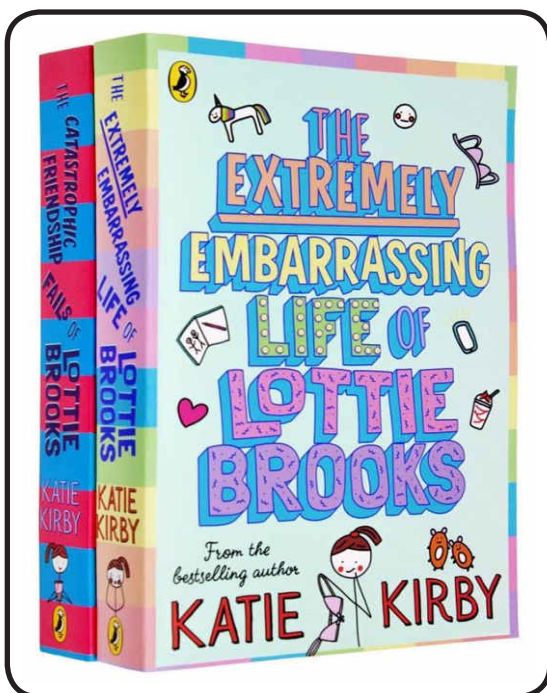
We've all been there... You've just finished a good book and simply don't know how to move on! Here are suggestions for your next reads based on books that you already love and enjoy!

Like 'Dog Man'? Try These...

- **Cat Kid Comic Club** - silly humour, comic style, chaos.
- **Captain Underpants** - fast-paced comedy and ridiculous adventures.
- **Bunny vs Monkey** - wild cartoon humour and quick laughs.
- **The Bad Guys** - funny anti-heroes and lots of action.
- **InvestiGators** - detective alligators in graphic novel form.
- **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** - doodles, jokes and relatable disasters.
- **The 13-Storey Treehouse** - outrageous comedy and illustrations everywhere.
- **Barry Loser** - goofy humour and cartoon-style drawings.
- **Mega Robo Bros** - comic-book action with heart.
- **Hilo** - colourful graphic-novel adventures and friendship.

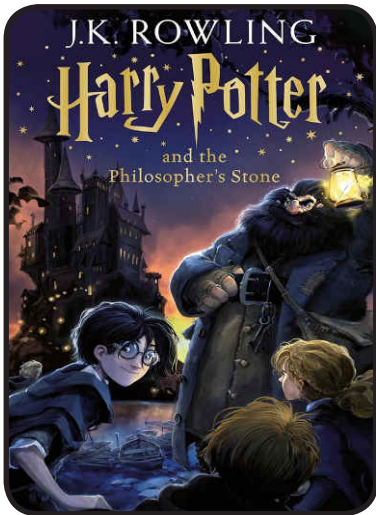


Like 'The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks'? Try These...



- **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** - awkward school moments and diary-style humour.
- **Tom Gates** - doodles, school chaos and funny observations.
- **Dork Diaries** - friendship drama and hilarious diary entries.
- **Amelia Fang** - quirky humour and lovable characters.
- **The Naughtiest Unicorn** - funny friendships and school adventures.
- **You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!** - silly British humour and unforgettable characters.
- **The Worst Class in the World** - school mishaps and laugh-out-loud moments.
- **My Brother is a Superhero** - relatable kids with chaotic lives.
- **Geek Girl** - awkward but lovable main character energy.
- **Sunny Side Up** - emotional but funny growing-up story.

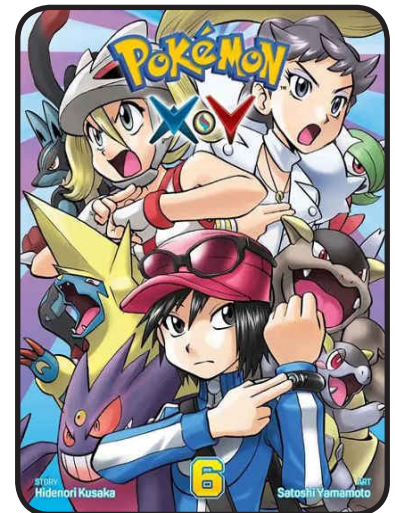
Like 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'? Try These...



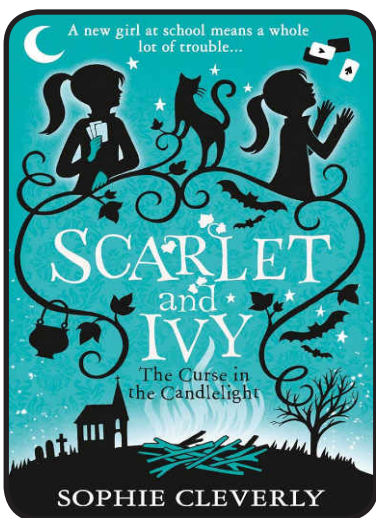
- **Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief** - magical worlds, quests and friendship.
- **Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow** - magical school vibes and mysterious powers.
- **Amari and the Night Brothers** - hidden magic societies and exciting adventures.
- **The School for Good and Evil** - fantasy school with twists and danger.
- **Skulduggery Pleasant** - magic, humour and dark mysteries.
- **Keeper of the Lost Cities** - secret powers and magical communities.
- **Artemis Fowl** - clever fantasy mixed with action.
- **The Worst Witch** - magical school disasters and funny moments.
- **His Dark Materials** - bigger fantasy adventure for confident readers.
- **A Pinch of Magic** - family magic and mystery.

Like 'Pokémon X and Y'? Try These...

- **Beast Quest** - battles, creatures and quests.
- **Dragon Realm** - magical creatures and adventure.
- **How to Train Your Dragon** - training creatures and funny adventures.
- **Wings of Fire** - dragon clans, powers and epic journeys.
- **The Last Firehawk** - animal heroes and fantasy quests.
- **Phoenix** - sci-fi adventure with action and mystery.
- **Minecraft: The Island** - game-inspired adventure storytelling.
- **The Explorer** - teamwork and survival adventure.
- **Frostheart** - found family, creatures and exploration.
- **The Train to Impossible Places** - magical journeys and strange worlds.



Like 'Scarlet and Ivy'? Try These...



- **Murder Most Unladylike** - boarding school mystery and clever detectives.
- **A Place Called Perfect** - creepy secrets and suspense.
- **The Wolf Wilder** - dark atmosphere and brave heroines.
- **The Guggenheim Mystery** - twisty mystery-solving adventure.
- **The Mystery of Black Hollow Lane** - secret societies and boarding school intrigue.
- **The Goldfish Boy** - mystery with emotional depth.
- **The Graveyard Book** - spooky atmosphere and mystery.
- **Twitch** - suspense, clues, and friendship.
- **Cogheart** - mystery adventure with danger and secrets.
- **The Haunting of Aveline Jones** - creepy mystery perfect for spooky readers.

End of Academic Year Calendar

Important Dates to look out for in the near future!



Monday 1st June

First Day Back from the Half-Term Holidays!

The last half-term of the year is always the most exciting! With all the events, sunshine and fun things to do, these last few weeks of the academic year will be the absolute best!

International Children's Day

On this day, we as a nation think about the importance of children's rights and wellbeing across the globe. On the **UNICEF website**, you can find some interesting information and activities to complete for this day!

Friday 5th June

World Environment Day

www.unesco.org/en/days/environment

Eco projects, recycling campaigns, nature walks... There are so many things that we can do on this day. Maybe even join our very own **Eco Warriors** club! UNESCO has some excellent facts and ideas about what to do on this day!

Monday 8th June

World Oceans Day

www.un.org/en/observances/oceans-day

Similar to World Environment Day, this day focuses specifically on our oceans and how vital it is to protect them. The United Nations have compiled some resources and materials for this day that are worth a look!

Monday 22nd June

Sports Day at Lea Valley Athletics Centre

Tuesday 23rd June

International Women in Engineering Day

www.inwed.org.uk/?utm

Women are massively underrepresented in the STEM industries (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). This day celebrates female achievements in the field and reminds us all that opportunities must be for all. The INWED website has more details.

Tuesday 30th June

Creative Arts Exhibition at Palmers Green!

Tuesday 7th July

World Chocolate Day for Kids

Not only do so many of us absolutely love chocolate, but also there is a fascinating history behind this well-loved sweet treat. So, why not just have a full day dedicated to it? **Twinkl has made a very interesting video on the topic.**

Thursday 16th July

Last Day of the Summer Term at St. Anne's

School closes at 12.00pm. Although the Library will be closed, our public libraries will be open all year round - so be sure to get your library card and get reading! The summer holidays are a perfect time to start on the books you've always meant to read but were too busy to get to during term time. It's also an amazing opportunity to try things you have not tried before, like podcasts, audiobooks, newspapers, magazines and more!

