

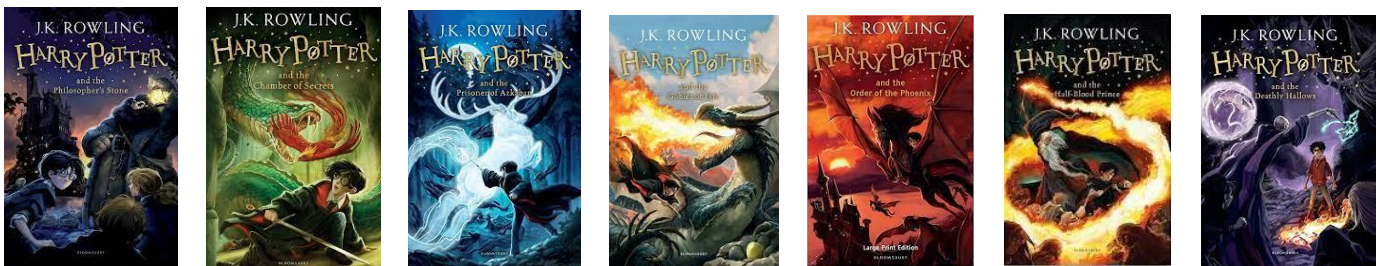


HARRY POTTER MONTH

February is Harry Potter month. Around the world, Harry Potter fans young and old celebrate and share their love for the book series by taking part in a wide range of activities, both online and in bookstores and libraries.

The seven fantasy novels written by British author J.K. Rowling follows the lives of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends, all of whom are students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

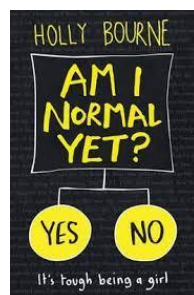
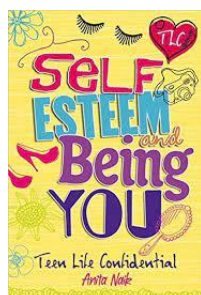
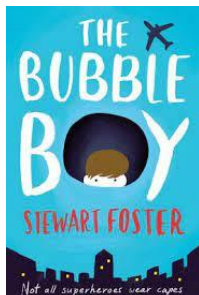
Throughout this month the library will be promoting the Harry Potter books.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 6th - 12th February

Children's Mental Health Week was launched in 2015 by Place2Be, to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme 'Let's Connect' is about making meaningful connections for all, during Children's Mental Health Week, and beyond. When we have healthy connections with family, friends and others, this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing.

Throughout this week the library will have books focusing on Mental Health that will be available to borrow.





Accelerated™
Reader

TOP READERS

Pupils in Years 7-9 Q band are rewarded for passing quizzes on the books they have read and receive certificates once they have read the number of words below.

Bronze - 10,000

Silver - 25,000

Gold - 50,000

Ruby - 100,000

Sapphire - 250,000

Emerald - 500,000

Amethyst - 750,000

Millionaire - 1,000,000

Several pupils have achieved the Bronze, Silver, Gold or Ruby awards in January.

Special congratulations go to our first 'Word Millionaire'

HADIA (8Q2)

SHE HAS READ OVER 1 MILLION WORDS!

AMAZING!

Hadia has chosen a book of her choice as a reward

Close behind Hadia are:

Alisha 8Q1 who has read over 850,000 words

Wania 7Q2 who has read over 600,000 words



STUDENT BOOK REVIEWS

As part of their reading lessons, Year 7 are completing a Reading Challenge, reading books from different exciting categories including:

- **Romance**
- **Mystery/Crime**
- **Non-fiction**
- **An author they haven't read before.**

When they have read the book, they are keen to write a review for their peers. You can see some of the book reviews on the school website using the link below:

<https://www.pleckgate.com/book-reviews/>

YEAR 7 READATHON

During World Book Day week, (Mon 27th Feb - Fri 3rd March) Year 7 pupils will be taking part in a sponsored 'Readathon.'

We will be raising money for the charity 'My Wellbeing', which is the local charity that has been set up to support raising awareness about young people's mental health.

Mental wellbeing is always high on the agenda at Pleckgate, as is reading for pleasure. As part of their ongoing education about mental health, pupils in Year 7 heard the moving story of a local primary headteacher who is raising awareness through her work in the field of adolescent mental wellbeing.

The charity uses the sponsor money to provide key rings that show who to contact for support, books that encourage young people to open up about their feelings and water bottles, to share the idea of not bottling up feelings.

To help support this important work, so that it can continue to impact the lives of our young people, pupils can choose to read whatever they want from fiction to non-fiction books as well as comics, recipe books or magazines - it's all about reading for fun.

We hope that the freedom to choose what to read, combined with the knowledge that they are directly helping a local charity will encourage pupils to get involved.

More information will be given to pupils in assemblies and letters will be sent home via email. Sponsor cards will be given out during tutor time.



YEAR 8 READATHON

During World Book Day week, (Mon 27th Feb - Fri 3rd March) Year 8 pupils will be taking part in a sponsored 'Readathon.'

We will be raising money for the charity 'Read for Good.' The charity provides a regular supply of brand-new books and a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK.

School will also receive 20% of the money raised to spend on books for our own library.

Pupils can choose whatever they want to read from fiction to non-fiction books as well as comics, recipe books or magazines - it's all about reading for fun.

We are asking family and friends to sponsor pupils. The sponsor money can be paid into school by parents via ParentPay.

There will be a special reward for the top fundraisers in each year group.

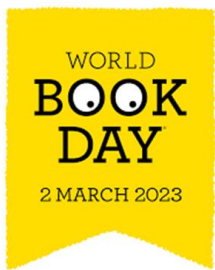
The video below explains more.



More information will be given to pupils in assemblies and letters will be sent home via email. Sponsor cards will be given out during tutor time.

We hope that you will support our child and help us to raise as much as we can for this fantastic charity!





WORLD BOOK EVENTS

World Book Day is Thursday 2nd March.

Throughout March we have lots of exciting events planned to celebrate our love of books!

- **Decorate a Door competition**

This historical Pleckgate competition is open to all tutor groups in Years 7, 8 and 9. Pupils (and their tutor) delight in selecting a book and decorating their tutor group door in the style of the book cover. The best representations win prizes!

- **Visit from Blackburn Library to introduce Borrowbox online library app**

'Borrowbox' is an app run by Blackburn Library which allows pupils to read texts online. During World Book Day week, we will have a member of staff from Blackburn library coming to school to explain more about the app and how our pupils can sign up to use it.

- **Scholastic School book fair**

Open to all year groups, the book fair will take place in the school library on **Thursday 30th & Friday 31st March - Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th April.**

Buying books in school

Pupils in all year groups will be able to buy books before and after school, as well as in library lessons. Books can be bought directly from the book fair with cash.

Ordering books from home

A wish list with all the available books will be sent home to parents via email. These orders need to be brought back to Mrs Hanson in the library **by Monday 17th April and paid for on ParentPay.** Your books will be delivered towards the end of the fair. More details will be given to pupils in assemblies and sent home to parents via email.

- **Live stream from author Michael Morpurgo**

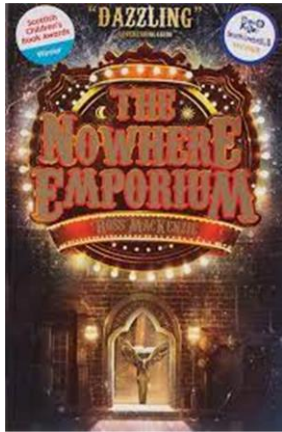
During English lessons, pupils will have access to a live online event with the famous author Michael Morpurgo.

Michael will be talking to one of the 'Read for Good' Storytellers about his inspiration for 'War Horse' as well as reading an extract from the book.

KS3 BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Why not reserve these books with Mrs Hanson to avoid missing out?

YEAR 7



The Nowhere Emporium by Ross MacKenzie

Winner of the Blue Peter Best Story Award 2016 and the Scottish Children's Book Award 2016, and the North East Book Award 2015.

When the mysterious Nowhere Emporium arrives in Glasgow, orphan Daniel Holmes stumbles upon it quite by accident. Before long, the 'shop from nowhere' -- and its owner, Mr Silver -- draw Daniel into a breath-taking world of magic and enchantment.

Recruited as Mr Silver's apprentice, Daniel learns the secrets of the Emporium's vast labyrinth of passageways and rooms -- rooms that contain wonders beyond anything Daniel has ever imagined.

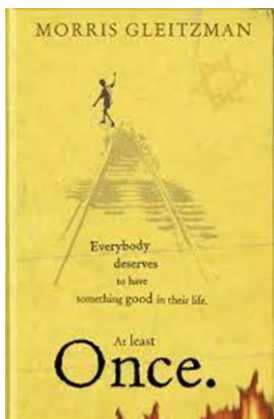
But when Mr Silver disappears, and a shadow from the past threatens everything, the Emporium and all its wonders begin to crumble.

Can Daniel save his home, and his new friends, before the Nowhere Emporium is destroyed forever?

This is the first book in the series which also includes:

- **The Elsewhere Emporium**
- **The Otherwhere Emporium**

YEAR 8



Once by Morris Gleitzman

My name is Felix. This is my story.

Felix has been living in an orphanage for three years and eight months when the men in armbands arrive to burn the books.

Going on the run in search of his parents, Felix soon learns that Poland in 1942 is not a safe place for Jewish boys. But can his gift for storytelling keep him one step ahead of the Nazis and help him find his parents?

After all, everybody deserves to have something good in their life at least once.

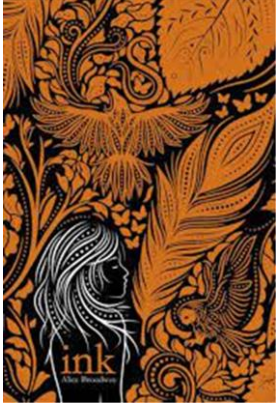
This is the first book in the series which also includes:

- **Then**
- **Now**
- **After**
- **Soon**
- **Always**
- **Maybe**

KS4 BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Don't allow these books to leave the shelves – Get your reservations in!

YEAR 9



Ink by Alice Broadway

Picture a world where your very action, every deed, every significant moment is tattooed on your skin for ever.

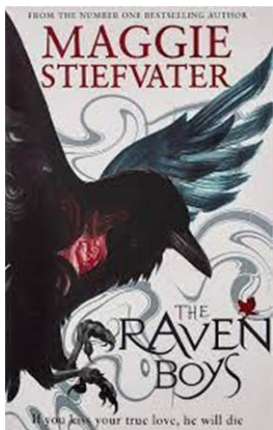
When Leora's father dies, she is determined to see him remembered forever. She knows he deserves to have all his tattoos removed and made into a Skin Book to stand as a record of his good life. But when she discovers that his ink has been edited and his book is incomplete, she wonders whether she ever knew him at all.

This is the first book in the series which also includes:

- Spark
- Scar

YEAR 10

AND 11



The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater

Blue has spent the majority of her sixteen years being told that if she kisses her true love, he will die. When Blue meets Gansey's spirit on the corpse road she knows there is only one reason why - either he is her true love or she has killed him. Determined to find out the truth, Blue becomes involved with the Raven Boys, four boys from the local private school (lead by Gansey) who are on a quest to discover Glendower - a lost ancient Welsh King who is buried somewhere along the Virginia ley line. Whoever finds him will be granted a supernatural favour. Never before has Blue felt such magic around her. But is Gansey her true love? She can't imagine a time she would feel like that, and she is adamant not to be the reason for his death. Where will fate lead them?

This is the first book in the series which also includes:

- The Dream Thieves
- Blue Lily, Lily Blue
- The Raven King

Read a brilliant book recently? Recommend it through Mrs Hanson today

LIBRARY NOTICES

The library is now open to all year groups at breaktimes and lunchtimes each day. Pupils can use the library for completing homework and quiet reading. Library books can also be taken out or returned during this time.

Mrs Hanson has purchased a range of new board games which can be played in the library at lunchtimes. These are proving very popular.

HOMEWORK CLUB

The library is open after school for pupils to complete homework.

MONDAY 3PM – 4PM

TUESDAY 3PM – 4PM

WEDNESDAY 3PM – 4PM

THURSDAY 3PM – 4PM

FRIDAY 3PM – 3:30PM

LIBRARY BOOKS

The library is being used by pupils from all year groups on a regular basis during English lessons as well as breaktime and lunchtime.

The data below shows the lending rates for each year group in January as well as the total for the Autumn term (September – December).

	Total Books borrowed Autumn Term	Jan 2023
Year 7	1454	497
Year 8	591	220
Year 9	446	129
Year 10	154	39
Year 11	83	18
TOTAL	2436	903

Super work Year 7!

However, with all this use, it means we often have to chase overdue books! We currently have 658 overdue library books.

Please can you ask your child to bring back any books that you have at home? If your child would like to continue reading their book, they simply need to get it renewed and stamped again.