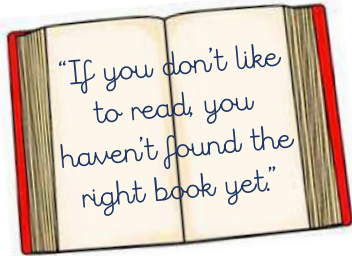




Reading at Elmstead



As a school, we are committed to promoting an ethos of reading for pleasure in our pupils. As part of this belief, we feel it is important that parents are involved in this process. We understand that parents may feel unsure about the best way to support their children to develop a positive attitude towards reading. In order to help with this, we would like to encourage parents, carers and guardians to read the information and recommendations on this newsletter and to speak to your child's teacher if you require further advice.



Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in a classroom and around school. It is taught in specific guided or whole class reading lessons as well as part of our English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects, too.

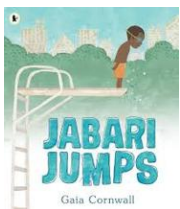
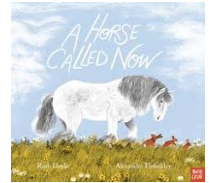


Books Linked to Resilience



Reading and resilience go hand in hand. Through stories, children see characters face challenges, make mistakes and find ways to overcome difficulties. This helps them understand that setbacks are a natural part of learning and growing. Reading develops empathy, imagination and problem-solving skills, while encouraging children to persevere, adapt and approach challenges with confidence.

A Horse Called Now is a gentle story about managing worries, facing challenges and learning to stay calm in the present moment. Through the experiences of Now, children discover that difficult feelings do not have to take over and that problems can be approached one step at a time. The story links to resilience by showing that it is okay to feel worried or unsure, but we can develop strategies to help us cope and keep going.



Jabari Jumps is a story about courage, perseverance and overcoming fears. Jabari is excited to jump from the diving board, but when the moment arrives, he begins to feel nervous. With encouragement from his dad, he learns to manage his feelings and try when he is ready. The story links to resilience by showing children that feeling afraid is normal and that, with determination, support and self-belief, they can face challenges and succeed.



Reading Ambassadors



This year, we have continued with our ambassador roles. Our successful applicants and our new reading ambassadors are:

Ernest (4), Theo (4), Olivia (4), Millie (4), Daniel (5), James (5), Sienna (6), Devdeep (6), Sissy (6) and Phoebe (6).

Projects for the year:

- Christmas Advent Calendar
- World Book Day
- Library Responsibilities
- Support with reading club





Useful Websites



Below are some website links which recommend books that link to topics and are appropriate for specific ages.

- <https://www.booksfortopics.com/>
- <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>

Upcoming Reading Events

National Poetry Day - Thursday 1st October 2026

Non-fiction November - November 2026

World Nursery Rhyme Week - Monday 9th - Friday 13th November 2026



Autumn Reads



The Very Last Leaf tells the story of Lance, a young leaf, who loves learning but is nervous about his final test - falling from the tree. As the other leaves take their turn, Lance worries about whether he can do it too. The story explores facing something new, managing worries and finding the confidence to take that important first step.

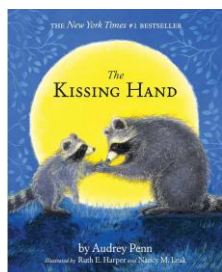
Tidy tells the story of Pete, a badger who loves everything to be neat and tidy. His determination to clean the forest soon goes too far, causing unexpected problems. This humorous story explores caring for nature, accepting that things do not need to be perfect, and learning from our mistakes.



Leaf Man follows a man made from autumn leaves as he is carried away by the wind on a wonderful journey. As he travels across fields, orchards and countryside, the leaves form imaginative shapes and creatures. This beautifully illustrated story celebrates autumn, nature, creativity and imagination.



Books to Help Say Goodbye



The Kissing Hand follows Chester Raccoon, who feels worried about leaving his mother and going to school. To comfort him, his mother shares the secret of the Kissing Hand - a special kiss that reminds him of her love wherever he goes. This gentle, reassuring story helps children understand that it is okay to miss someone and that the love and security of their family stays with them even when they are apart.

The Invisible String introduces the comforting idea that people who love each other are always connected by an invisible string, even when they cannot be together. The string can stretch anywhere and reminds children that those they love are never truly far away. This story is ideal for exploring separation, helping children manage feelings of worry or loneliness and understand that their connection with parents and loved ones remains strong throughout the day.

