

Reading Pulse



Welcome to the latest edition of Reading Pulse, your go-to newsletter for all things reading and literacy at Undershaw!

Feb
2025

Hello from Bekkie



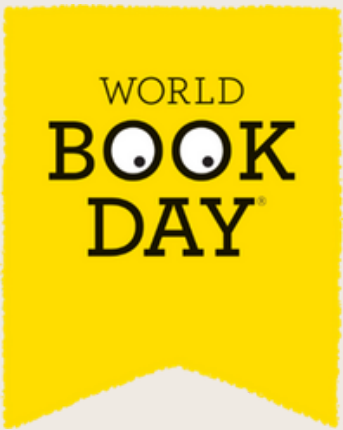
Hi, my name is Bekkie and I teach English here at Undershaw. I began my education career as a librarian at a secondary school in Aldershot, so it feels quite apt that I should return to my roots in looking after our very own school library. I also worked in a boarding school in Germany, for an exam board and in mainstream secondary education before finding my place at Undershaw in June 2023.

Since being at Undershaw, I have experienced so many great things and watched so many learners improve their reading and writing, with hard work and developing confidence. I also love the kindness our students show to each other, staff and visitors; it makes it such a special place and helps me be the smiley person teaching English to students every day!



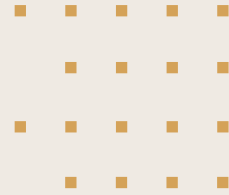
As you can probably guess, reading takes a good chunk of my free time too. Most weekends, my rest and relaxation come on the sofa with a blanket, a novel and maybe a black-and-white cat called Hades. I just love to explore different worlds and understand things in ways I might not think of all from the comfort of my home. I try and bring this passion to my work in lesson and in my student librarian enrichment on Fridays, so students can feel that comfort from stories too.





World Book Day

Changing lives
through a love of
books and reading



worldbookday.com



6th March

World Book Day 2025 is nearly upon us, an annual event that celebrates books, reading and the joy of storytelling. This year it will be taking place on 6th March, with the main goal of encouraging children (and adults) to engage with literature, foster a love for reading from an early age and promote literacy and educational development.



It will be celebrated across the country by various activities, including book-related events and giving opportunities to meet real life authors and illustrators. Many schools will run book themed events, games or quizzes and may have special dress-up days where kids come to school as their favourite book characters.

World book day also helps make books more accessible to all children and so a key part of the day is the distribution of £1 book vouchers, which can be redeemed for books. This gives children the opportunity to explore different genres, authors, and stories from around the world, contributing to cultural understanding and empathy.



TOP SECRET

The plans for World Book Day 2025 have already begun in secret. Here are some of the highlights from last year.

Dressing up and parade

Most of the students and staff dressed up as their favourite characters from books (even Pepper the dog got involved). Some forms and year groups even worked together to dress as different characters from the same book. At lunchtime there was a parade where students and staff were given to the option to strut their stuff down the catwalk.



World Book Day 2024 at Undershaw

Decorate your door

Many of the doors to the classrooms were decorated with pictures or settings from their favourite books



Quizzes

There were different quizzes throughout the day, including matching the staff member with their favourite childhood book or find Wally who was hidden throughout the school.



Mystery reader

During DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) some members of staff were reading from a popular book to a group. The students could pick which book they would hear, but wouldn't know who would be reading until they arrived in the room.



What are we reading?



“

This half term we have been reading two different Sherlock Holmes stories, 'The Beryl Coronet' and 'The Three Students', both written by Arthur Conan Doyle and linked to our topic of 'Who Dunit'. We have really enjoyed getting to know Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson and have been detectives ourselves as we used the clues to help solve the mysteries. Some of us even figured out 'Who Dunit' before Sherlock had! We have really enjoyed reading a new genre of story and for most of us it was the first time we had ever read a mystery novel before! (KS2 – Conan class)



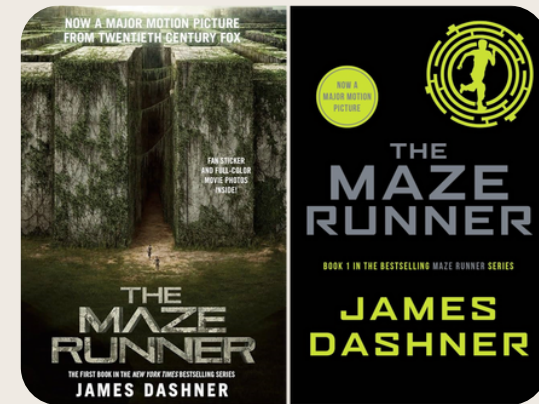
As part of our 'Who Dunit' topic, Doyle class have been reading *The London Eye Mystery*. This is a children's book by Siobhan Dowd about a boy named Ted who solves the mystery of his cousin's disappearance from the London Eye. Ted and Kat Sparks formulate theories and follow clues to find their cousin, Salim, who has vanished while riding the London Eye, a famous observation wheel in London. The story is narrated from Ted, who has autism and we follow his unique first-person point of view. The class have loved following the mystery and listening to Ted's interesting theories and deciding as a class which one is the actual solution. (KS2 Doyle)



We're reading *Divergent* as a class. It's really well written and has a great storyline. It uses good emotive language, especially during the hallucination bit which made us feel tense and nervous. We also really like the movie of the book. (Year 9 class)



Student book review



Thomas, 16 year old boy, wakes up with no memories inside an elevator. When the doors finally open, he faces a world where the temperature is just right, there is enough food and supplies to last. Though Thomas soon finds out that not everything is perfect, that he is in an artificially produced maze. When the 'newbie' alarm goes off he and his fellow 'gladers' are struck with surprise. The first girl to set foot in the Glade stand in the rusty elevator. A letter in her hand.

I love the Maze runner books! They aren't my favourite books though. I like how it's written as a dystopian novel. It shows how some of these things could be a reality. Though hopefully not all things in the book! I recommend reading this series if you have read Hunger Games. I really enjoyed reading these books and maybe you will too.

I would recommend reading this book, if you are age 12+.

Rating: 8/10

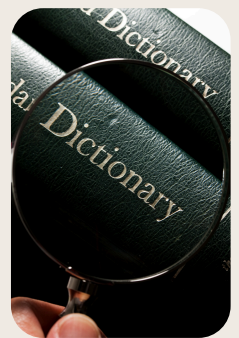
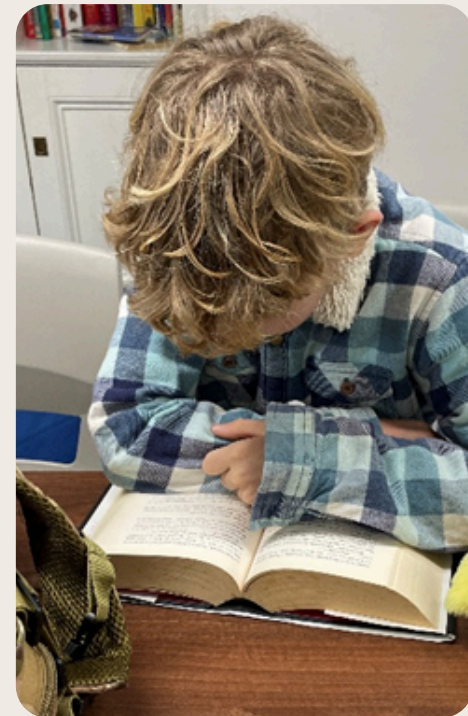
By Amelia (Year 9 student)



Helping your child to read

We know that you as parents want to support your child's reading and literacy. Each issue of Reading Pulse will provide you with different strategies and advice that you can try at home.

Set aside regular time each day for reading practice, this not only supports literacy development, but will also provide some wonderful quality time together. As you hear your child read, discuss the book, explain new or difficult words using a dictionary (another important skill), and ask questions to encourage conversation and deepen understanding. This routine helps ensure reading isn't missed and fosters both learning and connection.



Undershaw

In association with:



We hope you have found this a useful overview of reading at Undershaw this half-term.
We look forward to sharing our learning and outcomes with you.

