

# Hitchcock Library



**Easter 2026 Newsletter**

# IT'S IN THE NEWS



Lots has happened since Christmas and we have ended the spring term on a high with a fabulous World Book Day. Yet again costumes were amazing and the Sixth Form Prefects made the Librarian very happy coming as the Star Wars characters (we have a lot of Star Wars books in the library to read).

Our lovely four-legged friend Bertie continues to visit with his owner Tricia and we even had a little visit from his recently acquired partner-in-crime Arry, who is a bouncy fluffball that we hope might join us one day.

There have been lots of changes in the publishing world and our author friends tell us that publishers are actively discouraging them from writing longer fiction and focusing on graphic novels and short stories. What a shame as the boys of SHSB love a series! Please use your local bookshops and support reading - the more we ask for good boy fiction the better for those writers.

2026 is the National Literacy Trusts' National Year of Reading and they are encouraging all schools, libraries and parents to get involved and make reading a priority. We all know the benefits of reading but how many of us read every week? Whether it's a newspaper or a magazine, a graphic novel, a spoken book, a podcast about books - make it part of your day.

Regular reading can reduce stress by up to 60% in just six minutes so take some time for you or read together.

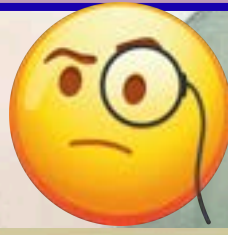
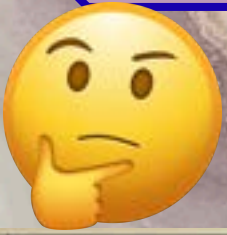
29% of 14-25 year olds think of themselves as an avid reader.

4 out of 10 adults report reading helps their mental health.

*We wish you a very happy  
Easter break spent reading*

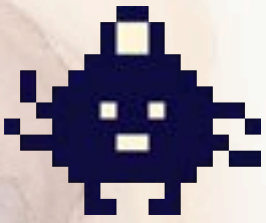
Have you tested your literary wits against our 'Guess the Book' wall in the library?

We'd love to see some of your favourite titles in picture form too.



DON'T FORGET TO KEEP READING BOOKS TO COMPLETE THE READING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD





Are you ready to .....



# Level up?



**Want to take your reading to the next level?  
Visit our **Level Up** section of books carefully  
selected to help you up your game from easier  
reads to a new challenge.**

**A LIBRARY DUTY STUDENT  
EXCLUSIVE...**

**Thomas**



NAME:  
Cleopatra the  
Experience

OPENS:  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at  
Excel Waterfront  
London

# CLEOPATRA

## THE EXPERIENCE

Cleopatra: The Experience is an immersive exhibition in London that brings the legacy of Cleopatra to life through incredible technology, interesting information and real artefacts! It is a large exhibit, spanning a whopping 3,000 square metres, featuring nine interactive galleries, including:

- Free-roaming metaverse
- Holographic retelling of the dynasty
- A 360-degree cinematic room
- A museum
- A holographic sand pit

Visitors can explore key moments such as the Battle of Actium, Alexander the Great's coronation and Cleopatra's chambers. Designed for all ages, children under the age of 3 are free. It is also designed for easy access for people with mobility impairments. It is expected to run for 15 weeks.

ENJOY!



## A LIBRARY DUTY STUDENT EXCLUSIVE...

James



One of the things that got me into reading books was being told, “once you’ve read the book, you can watch the film based on it”. It always amazes me how many films and dramas are based on books. Here are some of the recent books that I’ve read which can already or will be available on screen soon. Maybe there is one that you might want to read and then watch too?

### Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir (Book and film)

From the same author as *The Martian*, this is a fun and thrilling sci-fi adventure.

Ryland Grace awakes on a large spacecraft – alone. He has no memory but soon discovers he was on the last-ditch mission to save the Earth from extinction. It turns out that another spacecraft is on a similar mission to him although this spacecraft did not originate from Earth.



### Young Sherlock inspired by the Young Sherlock Holmes series by Andrew Lane

This is a series available on Amazon. Andrew Lane has a whole series of thrilling books about Sherlock Holmes and his earlier detective work. Each contains stories including murder, conspiracy and kidnapping.

The first book is *Death Cloud* where 14-year-old Sherlock is sent to live with family in Hampshire where two bodies are discovered and Sherlock and his friend Matty go on a dangerous adventure to solve the case.



### The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins (Book and film)

This is a prequel to the previous Hunger Games stories and set during the 50th Hunger Games when Haymitch Abernathy from District 12 is chosen to be a tribute and shows how he became the person he now in the previous books.

As this film is not due to be released until November 2026, there is plenty of time to read all the books in the series!



# WORLD BOOK DAY 2026



We were lucky enough to be visited by Author, Andrew Lane for World Book Day this year. Andrew is the author of the Young Sherlock series that has just been dramatised using his books to build the story. His Young Sherlock books are real favourites with the boys and have been flying off the shelves.

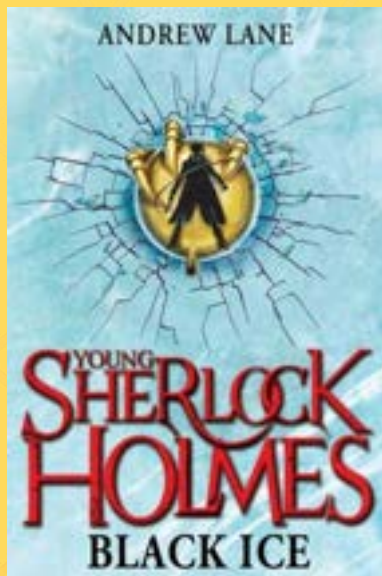


Years 7 and 8 watched Andrew's presentation in the hall and then some of those students went on to take part in his writing workshops.





# WORLD BOOK DAY 2026



He also made time for some book signings after lunch.



# WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

Prizewinning  
Costumes!\*



\*and us...

# Oh Bertie... and Arry

Did you see SHSB's newest furry friend ?



**Arry paid us a quick visit and hopes to be back when she has completed her full training.**

**She's made quite an impression on us but we're not sure if Bertie likes sharing his sofa. 10**



# Hitchhikers foyer display



Can you see the babel fish?



A big thank you to Mr Lawrence in IT for making them on his 3D printer



# Reading Achievement Award



Lots of students are currently working towards their Reading Achievement Award. To qualify for this award, students must read 12 books from the school library each term. Students must fill in a short online form about each book they have read. If a student reads 12 books in a term they will receive a certificate. If they read 12 books for all three terms they will receive a badge. We hope this encourages reading for pleasure amongst the students.



# What to read in 2026

2026 has been designated the National Year of Reading by the National Literacy Trust ('Why can't it be every year? Librarians cry.....')

The campaign aims to encourage more people to make reading part of their lives, so here are some new and soon to arrive books we picked to inspire you.



## **HeartStopper Vol 6**

Alice Oseman  
Release Jul 26

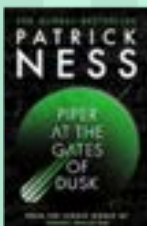


## **Bridge of Storms**

Phillip Reeve  
Out now



**Storm Bringer**  
Tig Wallace  
Release May 26



## **Piper at the Gates of Dusk**

Patrick Ness  
Release April 26



## **Hyo and the Deep Rooted Demon**

Mina Ikemoto Ghosh  
Release April 26



## **Half a Dark Heart**

H.F. Askwith  
Out now



## **Control Alter Delete**

K. L. Kettle  
Out now



## **Queen of Faces**

Petra Lord 13  
Out now

**How much do you know about.....?.**

# Chocolate

1. How many segments are in a Terry's Chocolate Orange?
2. In what year was the Cadbury Curly Wurly invented?
3. Which continent produces the most cocoa?
4. Which chocolate sweets were invented during WWII so that soldiers could enjoy chocolate without it melting?
5. What chocolate animal did Ron and Harry buy on the Hogwarts Express?
6. Which chocolate brand is known as Dove in the US?
7. Which mountain is the logo of Toblerone?
8. Which chocolate bar was first manufactured in Slough, England in 1932?
9. Which chocolate bar has the slogan "Full of Eastern Promise"?
10. Which Cadbury bar was initially launched in the UK but now only sold in India?



# Spring Clean those bookcases



GOOD GRAPHIC NOVELS ALSO PLEASE

It's always good to have a clear out and a good excuse to buy some nice new books to read so if you are having a clear out and find some fiction that would be suitable for the students to read then please make us your first choice for recycling. Think of it as a new lease of life for those books.



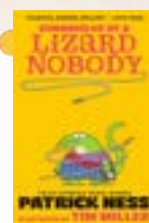
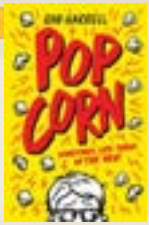
Thank you

# The Carnegies!!

The Shortlist for the **Carnegie Awards 2026** was announced this month. Judged by Librarians, these awards celebrate excellence in children and young adult books with medals for both writing and illustration.

Established way back in 1936, previous writing medal winners include C.S. Lewis, Phillip Pullman and Terry Pratchett.

Do you agree with then judges? Who would be in your shortlist?



**Ghostlines** by Katya Balen

**Not Going to Plan** by Tia Fisher

**Popcorn** by Rob Harrell

**The Boy I Love** by William Hussey

**Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody** by Patrick Ness

**Wolf Siren** by Beth O'Brien

**Twenty-Four Seconds from Now** by Jason Reynolds

**Birdie** by J. P. Rose



# NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

**GO  
ALL  
IN.**

National  
Year of  
Reading  
2026

## IT'S TIME TO **GO ALL IN**

**EVERYONE KNOWS READING EXPANDS WORLDS, SHARPENS MINDS, AND FUELS CREATIVITY. BUT FEWER OF US ARE MAKING TIME FOR IT.**

FAMILIES SHARING  
STORIES  
TOGETHER

FIND READING  
EVENTS  
NEAR YOU

WORKING  
TOGETHER TO  
SUPPORT  
READING

BRINGING READING  
TO CULTURE  
NOT THE  
OTHER WAY  
ROUND



SUPPORTED BY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**“Reading transforms lives, opens doors, fuels imagination and gives every child the chance to succeed, regardless of their background.”**

**Bridget Phillipson  
Secretary of State for Education**

<https://goallin.org.uk/>

# What's on this Easter... beyond Southend

*There's so much more than egg hunts and farm trips  
if you venture a little further this Easter.....*



Moonwalkers Exhibition:  
A Journey with Tom Hanks  
Lightroom London

Inside Aardman  
Young V&A, London



Impossible Eggspedition  
Paradox Museum, London



Spring Fair  
Horniman Museum



Easter Festival  
Chelmsford City Racecourse



Ramses and the Pharaoh's Gold: The Exhibition  
Neon, Battersea Power Station

# It's Eastertastic

Name that face  
in the style of Wallace and Gromit?



Have a cracking Easter break



# Puzzle it Out

## Easter Word Search

U	R	A	B	B	I	T	W	P	S	X	F	D	Z	O	Y
S	P	R	I	N	G	L	E	F	A	M	I	L	Y	A	B
D	C	C	Z	A	P	R	I	L	U	Z	N	D	M	K	C
B	G	R	H	Y	C	D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	B	H
A	C	U	E	O	E	E	Z	P	U	G	B	H	R	E	I
S	Z	E	G	M	C	C	H	I	W	V	B	F	R	O	C
K	D	S	G	V	F	O	Y	A	D	Q	U	O	F	D	K
E	H	U	S	Q	X	R	L	P	P	O	N	X	Z	O	Y
T	G	N	B	O	I	A	E	A	S	P	N	D	L	F	B
R	W	D	J	C	Y	T	W	K	T	F	Y	F	K	H	O
C	P	A	R	A	D	E	W	P	E	E	X	J	Z	A	N
E	W	Y	O	K	I	X	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N
Q	J	E	A	S	T	E	R	P	V	S	K	P	J	A	E
T	U	L	I	P	S	G	D	I	H	U	N	T	P	Y	T

April  
Daffodil  
Find  
Basket

Tradition  
Spring  
Eggs  
Rabbit

Easter  
Bunny  
Chocolate  
Chick

Happy  
Bonnet  
Sunday  
Hunt

Tulips  
Decorate  
Parade  
Family

# Answers



How much  
do you know  
about  
chocolate?

1. 20
2. 1970
3. Africa
4. Switzerland
5. Frog
6. Galaxy
7. Matterhorn
8. Mars Bar
9. Fry's Turkish Delight
10. Fuse

Wallace and Gromit  
faces

L to R - Mr Cass/Mrs Worth/Bertie  
Mr Brewer/Miss Bainbridge/Mr March  
Mrs Bowdidge/Mr Foley/Mrs Baker



## Easter Word Search

