

HITCHCOCK LIBRARY



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026



WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN AND IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE THAT WE ARE AT THE END OF ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR.

WE'VE HELD LOTS OF EXCITING EVENTS AND A FABULOUS WORLD BOOK DAY WITH SOME EXCELLENT COSTUMES FROM BOTH STAFF AND STUDENTS.

THE LIBRARY HAS HAD A LITTLE REVAMP AND THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF PARENTS DONATING OLD BOOKS WE'VE MANAGED TO REPLACE SOME OF THE FAVOURITES WITH NEWER COPIES. A WELL-READ BOOK IS GREAT BUT IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO HAVE A NEWER COPY AND RETIRE THE OLD ONES.

SADLY WE'VE LOST OUR LIBRARY DOG UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES IN TRICIA'S FAMILY BUT WE'VE APPLIED TO FIND A NEW DOG SO WE'RE KEEPING EVERYTHING CROSSED. TRICIA HAS BEEN VISITING US FOR OVER SIX YEARS BUT MORE OF THAT LATER. WE ARE GOING TO MISS THEM ALL TERRIBLY.

WE'VE EMBRACED JUST ABOUT EVERY IMPORTANT DATE THIS YEAR FROM BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT AND OF COURSE, STAR WARS DAY.

AS WE BEGIN THE EXAM SEASON THE LIBRARY BECOMES AN IMPORTANT SILENT STUDY HUB FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 11-13.

THIS HAS ALSO BEEN THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING AND WE HAVE TRIED TO FOCUS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF READING FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BUT ALSO, READING FOR PLEASURE. THE BENEFITS OF READING MUST NEVER BE UNDERESTIMATED AND WE HOPE AS PARENTS/CARERS/GUARDIANS THAT YOU ARE EMBRACING THIS TOO AND MAKING YOUR HOME A READING ZONE.

WE HAVE TO THANK THE PARENT'S ASSOCIATION AND OLD SOUTHENDIANS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE LIBRARY AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

WE HAVE SOME BRILLIANT NEW LIBRARY DUTY STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE YEAR GROUPS AND THEY ARE ALL BRINGING SOMETHING TO THE ROLE. IT'S A BUSY JOB AND WE REALLY DO APPRECIATE ALL THAT THEY DO.

MORE AND MORE STUDENTS ARE COMPLETING THE READING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AND IN SEPTEMBER ALL STUDENTS IN YEARS 7/8/9 ARE EXPECTED TO BE INVOLVED IN ORDER TO GAIN THEIR YEAR COLOUR READING BADGE AS PART OF THEIR ENGLISH LESSONS.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A LOVELY RESTFUL SUMMER AND COMING BACK IN SEPTEMBER READY TO ENJOY ANOTHER FANTASTIC YEAR OF READING.

**We hope that your summer
is filled with whatever
makes you happy.
See you in
September**



NEW

"Book Buddies: Your Library Helpers"



The Hitchcock Library Irregulars!



**you
ARE
aWeSome**

Do you aspire to be a Library Duty Student?



Students in year 8 upwards.
Not year 7s as they are too busy getting to know the school.

WHO?

?

HOW

Come and talk to the Librarians.
Email the Librarians if you are interested.

You love reading.
You're tidy and meticulous.
You are very sensible and reliable.
You are proactive and able to spot when a job needs doing.
You spend a lot of time in the Library already.
Help our with display/quizzes.
You want to be part of this fantastic team.

WHY?

WHAT?

Tidy the shelves.
Issue and return books.
Help out with events.
Help with book buying.
Work on the library desk.
Help students find books.

Work toward your community badge.
Christmas party.
Eat your lunch behind the desk.
Get to read!

**GREAT
JOB**

A LIBRARY DUTY STUDENT EXCLUSIVE...



Joseph

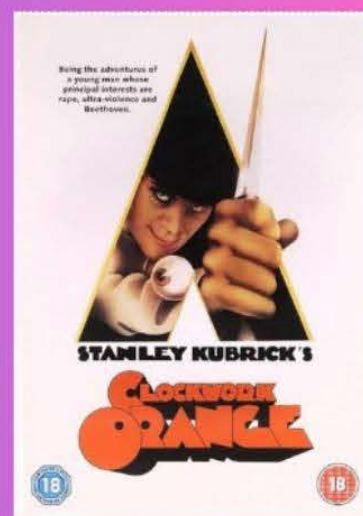
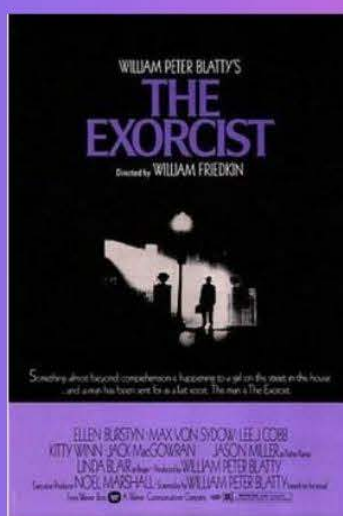
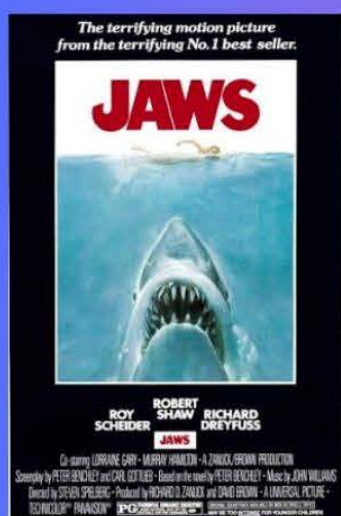
...But Have You Read It?

You've probably all seen and read Harry Potter, the Lord of the Rings, maybe also the Twilight series. But more often than we may realise, the worlds of Literature and Film blend together to make perhaps some of the best pieces of art in modern history. So, in this brief little section, if you are a fan of horror films and books, then read on and perhaps discover that some of your favourite horror films actually began as a book.

Now I hope everyone reading this has seen Jaws at least once in their life but if you haven't, go watch it immediately. But did you know that Jaws began as a book written a year before the film came out, written by Peter Benchley? And as far as book to film adaptations go, this one was relatively close to its source material. Jaws is a classic story of a predatory 'lone' shark that stalks the beaches of a small American seaside town and despite being in many places factually incorrect with its shark material, it still remains a classic in cinema and literary history. And if you enjoyed Jaws, you might also enjoy the spin off prequel into the character of Quint in the book of the same name which explores his backstory with the U.S.S Indianapolis.

Going once again into the horror genre we come back to the 1970's when in 1973, the Exorcist entered cinemas leaving audiences terrified and shocked, many having to leave the theatre in most showings. However, two years before this, the Exorcist was actually released as a book by William Peter Blatty which includes a further backstory into many of the characters and provides a terrifying read. Many years later in 1983, Blatty wrote a sequel to the Exorcist titled Legion, an equally terrifying book that was also adapted into film for Exorcist 3.

Finally, though not technically classed as a horror film, it is plenty terrifying and disturbing to be classed as quite a scary film. Yes, I'm talking about the classic piece from Stanley Kubrick's filmography: A Clockwork Orange, that is as visually stunning and thought provoking as it is disturbing. Written by Anthony Burgess in 1962, what makes this book unique is the language it is written in. Although most words being English, the book is also written in a fictional slang called Nadsat that often is a mix between Russian and English slang. For example, a little pain in the head would be 'A malenky bit of pain in the gulliver'. This unique language makes the book take careful concentration to read and understand but when understood, makes a fascinatingly terrifying dystopian novel.



So, when you go home today, maybe consider watching some of these films if you haven't already seen them, and if you enjoy them, why not dive deeper and read the original books they are based on? Have fun!

Reading Achievement Award

2025-26

Achievers



Aadi Patel 8EA1



Dimithri
Gunathilake 8ST1



Noah Scroton
7EA2



James Bambrook
10ST2



Percy Clark 7ST3

Congratulations!

Will your name be here
next July?



Reading Achievement Award

Many more students are now taking part in the Reading Achievement Award.

Students are encouraged to read 12 books a term from the school library and then in the summer term they will receive a badge in their year colour.

From September students will be able to link this to their English subject badge and completion of the Reading Achievement initiative will go toward that award.

Have you got your badge for years 7 & 8 yet?





Pets as Therapy undertake amazing work by giving people the opportunity to interact with animals and spend some quality time in schools, care homes, hospitals and the like.

After moving further away, and requiring two buses to reach us, the twice weekly trip has simply become too difficult.

Tricia and Bertie will be very, very missed but we are so grateful to have had some very happy times with them.

We wish her and her four-legged family lots of happiness in the future.





**PETS AS
THERAPY**

**A HUGE THANK YOU
AND
GOODBYE
TO
TRICIA AND BERTIE**



Tricia started visiting us as part of the Pets as Therapy charity, before the pandemic lockdown with her dog, Cooper, and has been part of the SHSB family ever since.

When Cooper moved on to help out in a care home, she kindly started bringing her new four-legged friend, Bertie, to visit us twice a week. Bertie came, took over the sofa and has been so patient as he was cuddled to sleep or had books read to him. She has given up her time freely and become a vital part of the Library Team.

Tricia and her canine buddies have always gone above and beyond, from coming to extra days during exam season to staying up late to help out at Open Evenings and Open Days.

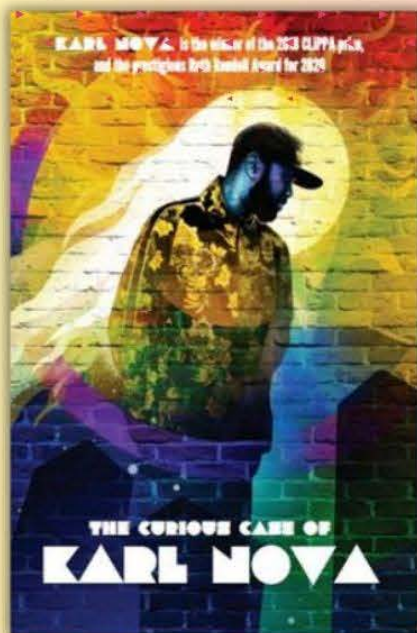
Her work with students to give them some precious 1-2-1 time with her dogs as well as working patiently with nervous students has been a vital wellbeing opportunity for both staff and students.



Fresh Chapters Ahead



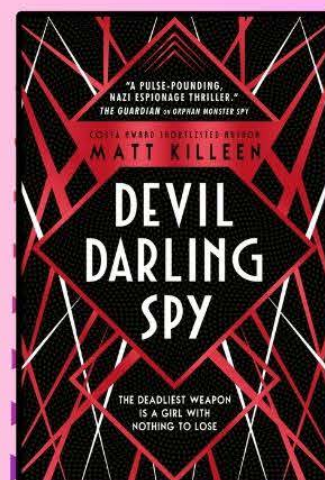
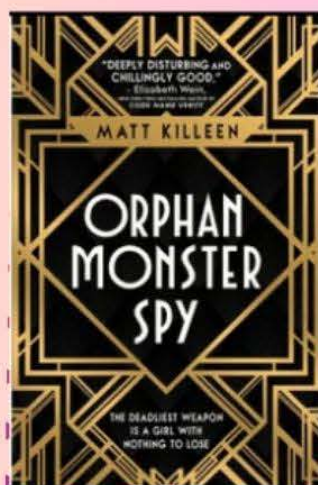
EXCITING
NEWS



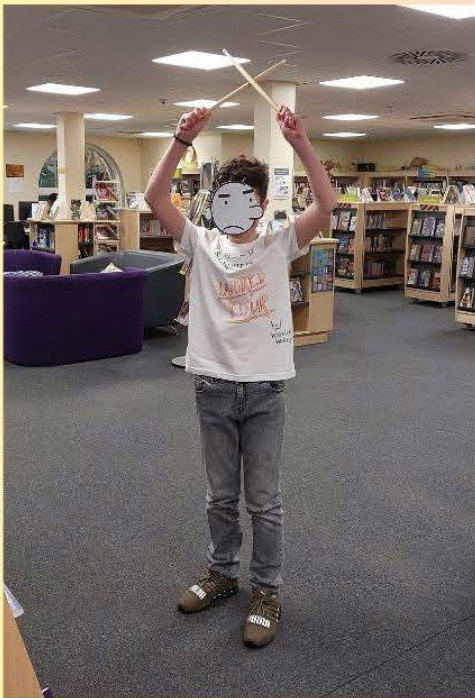
WORDSMITH
KARL NOVA
WILL BE
SHARING HIS
RAP LYRICISM
WITH US IN
OCTOBER



WORLD BOOK
DAY WE'LL BE
DELVING INTO
HISTORY WITH
AUTHOR MATT
KILLEEN



Out of this World Book Day



"Turning Pages: A Year in Review at the Library"



**AUTHOR
ANDREW
LANE SPENT
WORLD BOOK
DAY WITH US**



**AUTHOR CHRIS
BRADFORD
MADE QUITE AN
IMPRESION WITH
THE NEW YEAR
7s IN NOVEMBER**



"Sun-Kissed Adventures: Embrace the Joys of Summer Fun!"



Meet your favourite superheroes at **Madame Tussauds London**: Snap a selfie with royalty, sporting legends and iconic musicians at this world-famous wax museum.

Embrace your inner adrenaline junkie with **Up at The O2**: Climb London's famous arena and reward yourself with sweeping skyline views at the summit.

Uncover London's chilling history at **The London Dungeon**: Brace yourself for the Drop Dead: Drop Ride and spine-tingling tales of Sweeney Todd and Jack the Ripper.

Challenge the family to a game of **Monopoly Lifesized**: Get competitive in exhilarating escape room-style challenges, before playing the 80-minute life-sized board game.

See the city sparkle on a **London by Night bus tour**: Take in dazzling views of illuminated landmarks on this 90-minute tour, complete with fascinating commentary from an onboard guide.

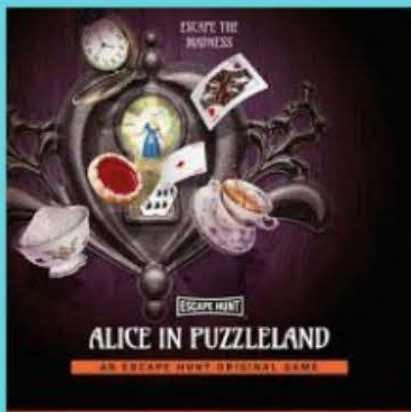
Sharpen up on your Roman history at **London Mithraeum** and the **Roman Amphitheatre**: Descend below street level to explore the ancient temple of Mithras and the remains of London's Roman arena.

Explore the **Churchill War Rooms**: Uncover the former Prime Minister's hidden wartime bunker and the once top-secret room where the War Cabinet made critical decisions.

Visit the **Imperial War Museum London**: Explore a powerful collection of wartime artefacts and take part in the museum's summer programme.

See London from up above on the **London Cable Car**: Soar to new heights and enjoy 360-views of the capital.

Explore London's **Chinatown**: Walk beneath the striking red lanterns before tucking into handcrafted delicacies.



Tom Gates EPIC Adventure

Mega doodles, live music and code-cracking fun!



DATES AND TIME

18 July to 31 August 2026

10am to 4.30pm

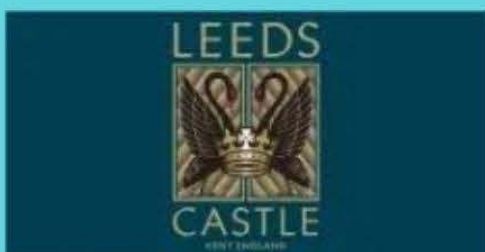
LOCATION

Kew Gardens

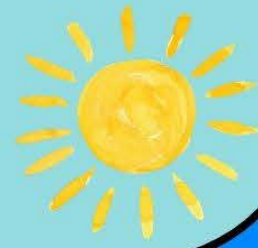
Nearest entrance: Brentford Gate

PRICES

Included with entry to the Gardens



"Sun-Kissed Adventures: Embrace the Joys of Summer Fun!"



Southend City Jam
28-30 August 2026

[More info](#)

[Website](#)



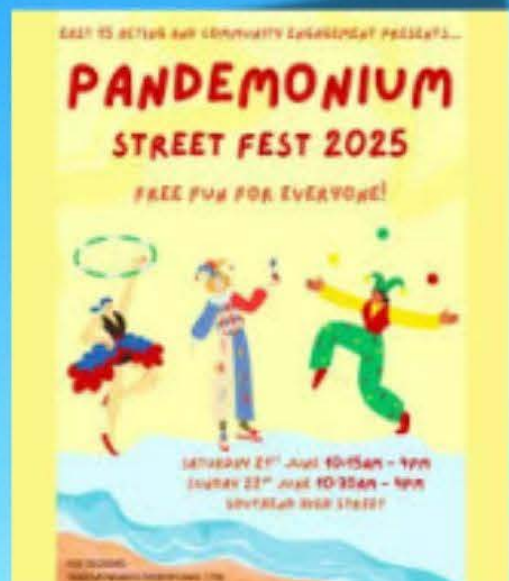
Music in the Park Returns!
Concerts at Priory Park this spring & summer 2026

Free Weekend Concerts



Discover
"museum wonders"

www.discovermuseumwonders.org.uk/venue



PANDEMONIUM
STREET FEST 2025

FREE FUN FOR EVERYONE!

SAVEDAY 21st JUL 10:15am - 4pm
JOYDAY 22nd JUL 10:30am - 4pm
SOUTSTAR 23rd JUL



FREE

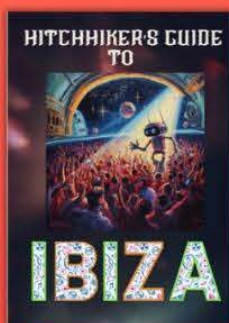
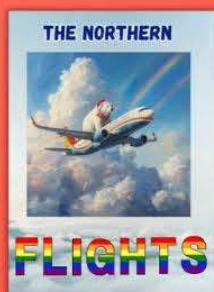
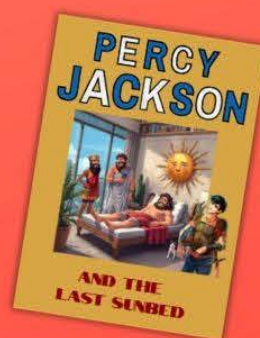
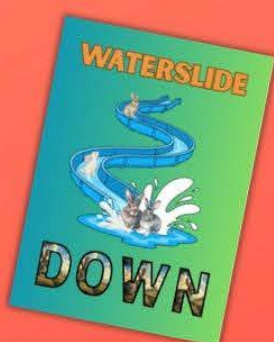
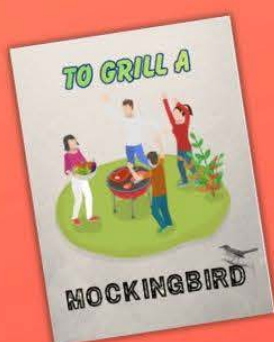
FRIDAY 16TH
AUGUST 2024

PROMENADE PARK, MALDON
FROM 12PM TO 4PM





"Novel Ideas: Turning the Page on Summer Reads"



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



DID YOU KNOW?

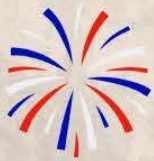
The Eiffel Tower expands and grows up to **15 cm taller** in summer due to the thermal expansion of its iron structure.



The watermelon is a **vegetable**. Botanically speaking, watermelon is a member of the cucumber and squash family, classifying it as a vegetable.



That distinct, earthy smell in the air right before a summer thunderstorm hits has a scientific name: **petrichor**.



France is the most popular holiday destination globally, welcoming **over 100 million** international visitors annually.



Around 35 beaches worldwide have sand that **"sings"** when the wind blows or when people walk across it.

Puzzle Answers

Holidays around the world

Vakantie-Dutch Likizo-Swahili Fasax-Somali Feriado-Portugese Odmor-Bosnian
Iholidi-Zulu Tatil-Turkish Gwyliau-Welsh Fri-Icelandic Pushimi-Albanian

Hit the Beach

E	C	B	H	A
B	A	H	C	E
C	B	A	E	H
A	H	E	B	C
H	E	C	A	B

A	C	B	E	H
E	H	A	C	B
B	E	H	A	C
C	B	E	H	A
H	A	C	B	E

H	C	B	A	E
B	H	E	C	A
C	A	H	E	B
A	E	C	B	H
E	B	A	H	C

H	B	E	A	C
B	E	A	C	H
E	A	C	H	B
A	C	H	B	E
C	H	B	E	A

HIT THE BEACH

Complete the grid so that the letters in the word "BEACH" appear only once in each row and column.

				A
	A			E
C				
H		C		

		B		
	H			
	E		A	C
C				A
	A			

				E
B	H			
				B
		C		
		A	H	

H		E		
B				
	A			
	C		B	E
				A

Holidays

around the world

Match the word for 'holiday' to the right language

Vakantie

Likizo

Fasax

Feriado

Odmor

Iholidi

Tatil

Gwyliau

Fri

Pushime

Zulu

Portugese

Dutch

Icelandic

Turkish

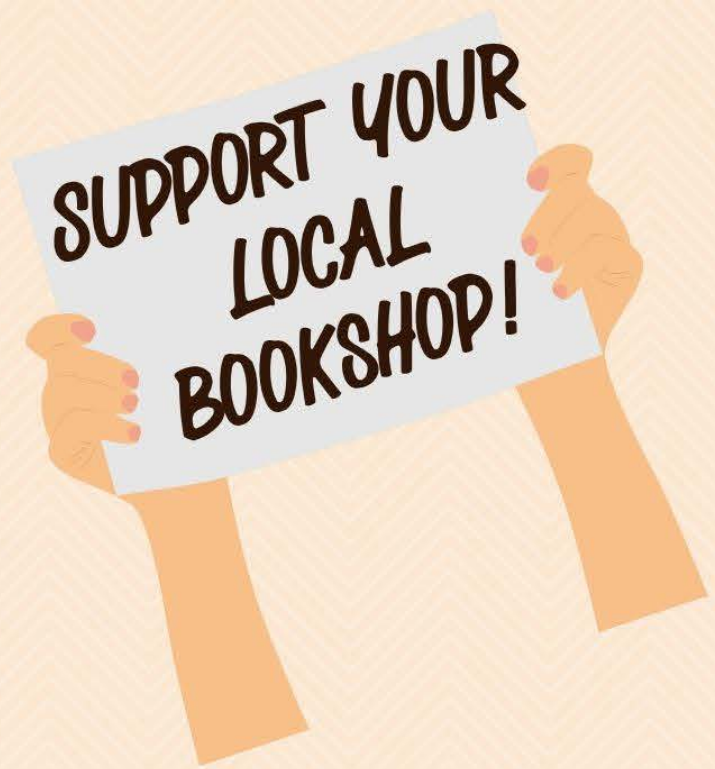
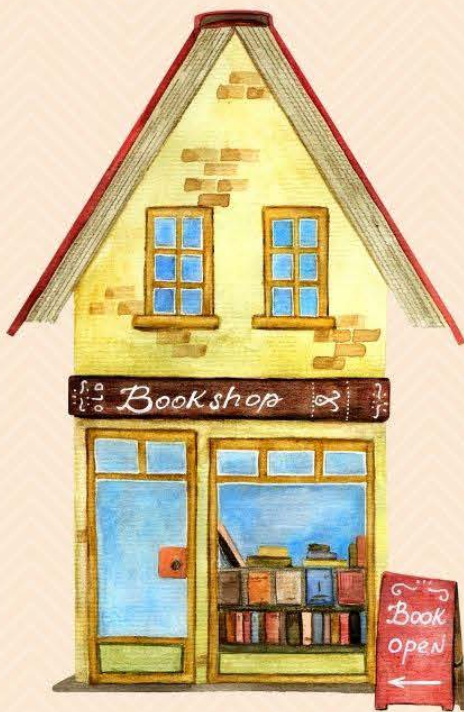
Welsh

Somali

Bosnian

Albanian

Swahili



Rising financial pressures and the dominance of global retailers means many of our local independent bookshops are disappearing from the high street. But why are they so important?

Research commissioned by The Booksellers Association in 2023 found that independent bookshops play a crucial role in the cultural and social lives of communities by running activities and events such as author visits and creative writing workshops.

Although an online retailer, the mission of Bookshop.org is to financially support local independent bookshops. *"We believe that bookshops are essential to a healthy culture. They are where authors can connect with readers, where we discover new writers, where children get hooked on the thrill of reading that can last a lifetime. They are also anchors for our high streets and communities -- owned, staffed, run and full of real people who have a genuine love of books and reading."*

So for your next book purchase why not venture out and support your local bookshop.

READ ON SEA

Sit Sip Read

The Broadway, Leigh on Sea

LEIGH GALLERY BOOKS

Leigh Road, Leigh on Sea

THE BOOK NUT

South Woodham Ferrers

SECONDHAND BOOKS & GIFTS
EST **BOOKS-ON-SEA** 2019

Alexandra Street, Southend on Sea

Griddled chicken with pesto



Ingredients

Serves 4

- 2 small boneless, skinless chicken breasts (each around 150g/5½oz)
- ½ lemon, finely grated zest and juice
- 1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves, or 1 tsp dried thyme
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 large courgette, diagonally cut into 1cm/½in slices
- 1 yellow pepper (or half red and half yellow), deseeded and cut into 2cm/¾in chunks
- 4 small vines cherry tomatoes, each holding around 5 tomatoes
- large handful rocket
- 3 tbsp fresh basil pesto
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Put the chicken breasts on a board and cover with a piece of foil or baking paper. Bash them with a rolling pin until just under 2cm/¾in thick all over.

Put them in a bowl, add the lemon zest and juice, thyme leaves, 1 tablespoon of the oil, a good pinch of salt and lots of pepper. Turn the chicken in the marinade and leave to marinate covered in the fridge for 5 minutes.

Heat a large griddle pan over a medium-high heat. Put the chicken on the hot griddle and cook for 5–6 minutes on each side, or until cooked through.

Toss the courgette, pepper and tomatoes in a clean bowl with the remaining oil and season with salt and pepper.

Transfer the chicken to a plate and leave to rest. Add the vegetables to the griddle and cook for 2–3 minutes on each side, or until lightly charred and softened. Return to the mixing bowl, add the pesto and rocket and toss lightly. Divide between two plates.

Slice the chicken thickly and place on top. Drizzle with the resting juices and an extra dribble of olive oil if you like.

SUMMER RECIPES

Halloumi and blistered tomato orzo



Ingredients

Serves 4

300g orzo
1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
300g cherry tomatoes
1 tsp dried mint
225g block halloumi, coarsely grated
1 lemon, cut into wedges

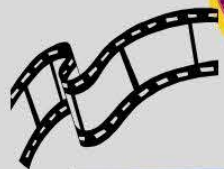
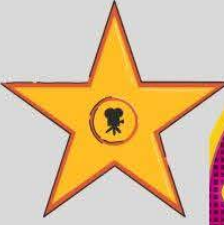
Method

Cook the orzo in a large pan of boiling salted water for 1 minute less than the pack instructions or until al dente.

Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large frying pan over a medium-high heat, then add the tomatoes and cook for about 6 minutes, tossing regularly, until blistered and starting to burst.

Drain the orzo, reserving a mugful of the cooking water, then tip into the tomato pan and reduce to a medium heat. Add half the dried mint plus a glug of the cooking water and stir together quickly to combine and coat the orzo, adding more cooking water if needed.

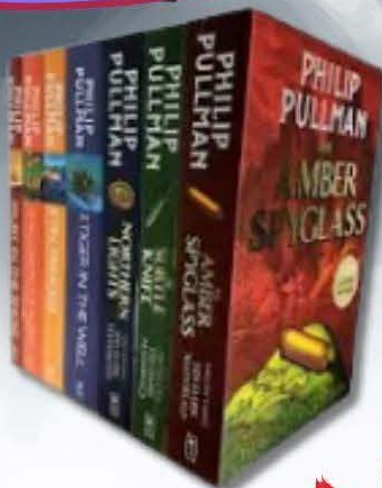
Remove from the heat and season with salt and black pepper. Divide among 4 bowls, then scatter in the halloumi and sprinkle with the remaining dried mint. Squeeze a little lemon juice over the top of each bowl, then serve with an extra lemon wedge on the side.



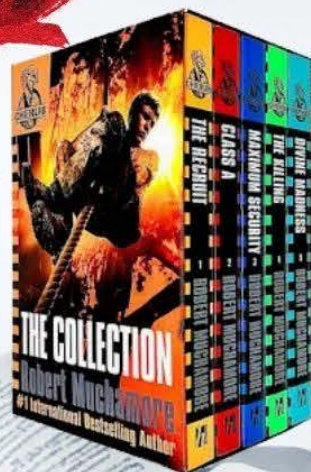
SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS 2026



MAKE SPACE FOR SUNSHINE (AND NEW STORIES!)

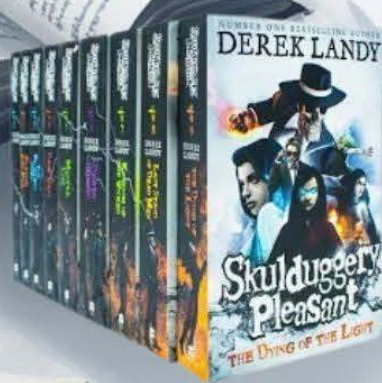
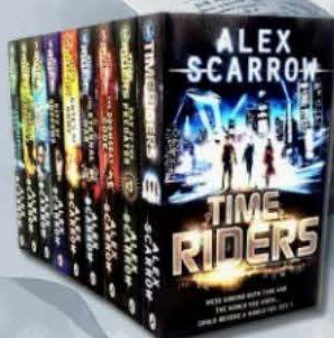


GOOD GRAPHIC
NOVELS ALSO
PLEASE

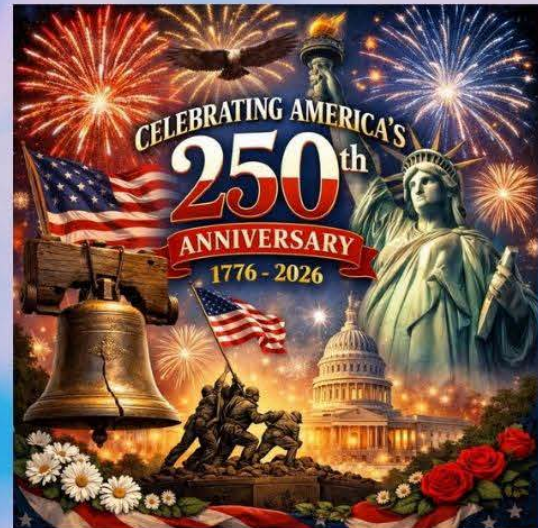
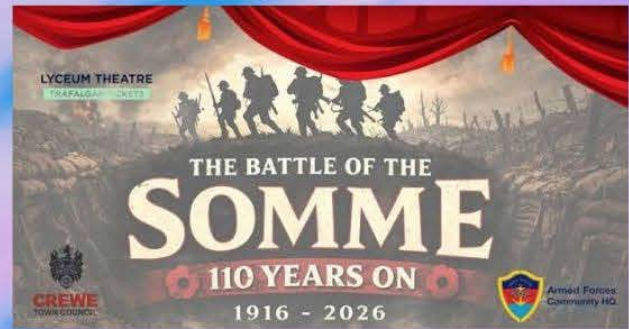
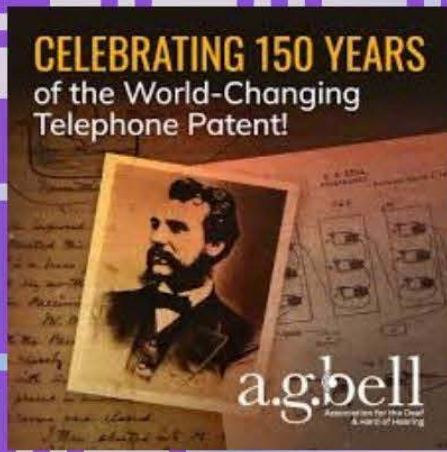


If you have a collection of books for teenagers that you no longer need or want, we will happily give them a home.

Please think of us if you have a summer clear out.

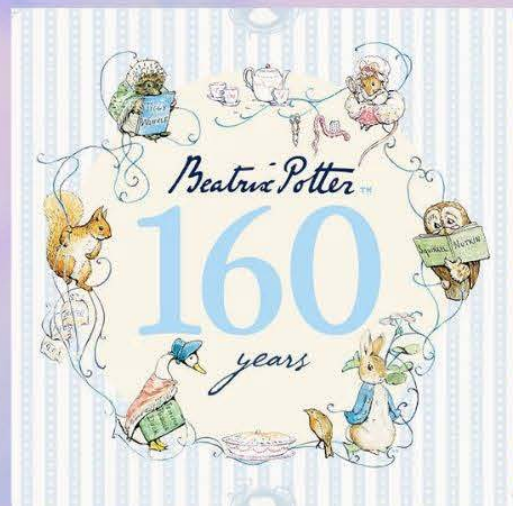


THANK YOU



Big Anniversaries 2026

COMING SOON





Let's Make This Summer Shine



Reading Achievement Award Library Development



As part of this new initiative we are extending the library fiction resources to ensure we have enough books to keep all our students reading.

A very kind donation from the Parent Association in May has given us the opportunity to reorganise the library and purchase multiple copies of books for students to borrow in September.

We want to send a huge thank you to the **Parent Association** for their support and encouragement.

Without them we would not have been able to create such a wealth of material for the students to borrow.

