

KSM Reading Spine

At KSM we seek to foster a love of reading and develop lifelong learners who choose to read. Reading for Pleasure is a key part of our reading strategy and one that every teacher understands is vital to ensure pupils leave KSM with a love of reading and books.

What does that look like at KSM?

The first thing you will notice is books! Lots of books! From a beautifully designed library which classes visit weekly to class libraries and topic libraries, at KSM we understand the importance of providing high quality, language rich, engaging books for all ages and interests. With support from the MOTO foundation, we are able to update and replenish our books, regularly introducing new fiction and non-fiction texts.

The second thing you will notice is teachers modelling a love of reading and all things book related. From our own staff room 'book swap' to reading displays showing teacher's favourite books, teachers model a reading for pleasure culture across the school through daily read aloud sessions, outdoor reading, book led assemblies and our developing reading spine of high quality texts.

How is our reading spine designed?

Reading forms the basis of our curriculum. Our curriculum has been designed around our reading spine where we use high quality texts as a stimulus for both English and curriculum writing. Our reading spine continues to evolve organically as we develop the use of both classic novels and more recently published texts. We have built a spine of over 100 books that we feel all children should have read by the time they leave primary school. These books range from traditional tales to graphic novels; they include poetry and rhyme alongside non-fiction and information texts. The diverse range of books enables pupils to be exposed to a wide range of language, vocabulary and linguistic patterns as well as exploring a variety of issues from climate change and global issues to habitats, culture and tolerance.

We believe that every child has the right to be an outstanding reader and that it is our responsibility to ensure reading is taught consistently and progressively throughout the school. We believe the children need the highest standards and expectations so they become confident readers across the whole curriculum.

As a school with mixed age classes, we have developed a two-year rolling cycle for our reading spine. This ensures pupils never repeat texts while still being exposed to and immersed in a wide range of high quality, engaging texts.

KSM Reading Spine CYCLE B – 2025-2026

Term	Blackbirds (EYFS)	Sparrows (Y1/2)	Eagles (Y2/3)	Kingfishers (Y4/5)	Hawks (Y5/6)
Autumn 1	Jack and the beanstalk Little Red Hen Billy Goats Gruff	Percy the Park Keeper stories The Bee and Me The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark	The Tin Forest The Great KapokTree	Secrets of the Sun King	The Song Walker Australian Outback The Great Barrier Reef Wonder – R J Palacio
Autumn 2	The Lights that Dance in the Night It was a Cold Dark night Leaf man	The Gruffalo The Gruffalo's Child Lost and Found	The Wild Robot Meet Matilda – Rocket Builder Traction Man meets Turbo Dog	Kensuke's Kingdom Dear Earth	Wolf Wilder Ice Trap Origin of Species
Spring 1	The Magic Paintbrush Matisse's Magical Trail The Dot	Traction Man Little People, Big Dreams	Funnybones The Couch Potato	Charlotte's Web	A Super sticky Mistake
Spring 2	What the Ladybird Heard Farmer Duck The Scarecrows Wedding Oliver's Vegetables	Rapunzel (Becky Woolvin) The Boy who Grew Dragons Zog	Anglos-Saxon Boy	The Saga of Eric the Viking The 1,000 Year Old Boy	Titanic Detective Agency Kasper – Prince of Cats
Summer 1	The Singing Mermaid Tiddler Rainbow Fish	The Night Pirates The Pirates next Door Captain Flinn and the pirate dinosaur	The Mousehole Cat Flotsam	The Extraordinary World of Alan Turing	Treason – Bertie Doherty The real story of the Three Little Pigs
Summer 2	Peepo, Titch The Growing Story	Lighthouse Keeper Stories Lost in the Toy Museum Toys in Space	Graphic Novels – Walt Disney Alex Rider - Stormbreaker	The Queen's Fool – Ally Sherrick The Secret Diary of Thomas Snoop	Journey to J'burg Windrush Child

KSM Reading Spine CYCLE A – 2026-2027

Term	Blackbirds (EYFS)	Sparrows (Y1/2)	Eagles (Y2/3)	Kingfishers (Y4/5)	Hawks (Y5/6)
Autumn 1	The Growing Story Once there were Giants My Great Grandpa Grandma's Bill	Where the Wild Things Are Stone Girl, Bone Girl	Stone Age, Bone Age Stone Age Boy Pebble in my Pocket	Queen of Darkness – Tony Bradman Romans on the Rampage – Jeremy Strong	Lightening Thief Wishful Thinking – A Sparkes Myths and Legends
Autumn 2	Whatever Next Owl Babies Peace at Last How to Catch a Star	Rumble in the Jungle The Bear and The Piano Little Red Riding Hood	The Lights that Dance in the Night The King who banned the Dark	George's Secret Key to the Universe Hidden Figures Northern Lights	Sky Chasers
Spring 1	Handa's Surprise The Ugly Five Handa's Hen	The Day the Crayons Quit The Day the Crayons Came Home The Artist who Painted a Blue Horse	The Owl and the Pussy Cat The Selfish Giant	Varjack Paw Can you See me?	Pig Heart Boy
Spring 2	Mr Gumpy Books Percy's Bumpy Ride Little Red Train Up, Up and Away	Toby and the Great fire Katy in London Paddington in London	Oliver Twist Hetty Feather	Egyptian Cinderella The Phoenix Code The Secrets of the Sun King	Holes A Sacred book of the Maya – Victor Montejo
Summer 1	Three Little Pigs The Little Red Hen	Little People, Big Dreams Greta and The Giants	The Boy who biked the world: America Kidnap on the California Comet	The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe How was that Built?	Private Peaceful Goodnight Mr Tom
Summer 2	Some Dogs Do Lula gets a Cat Mog and the Vet Rhinos don't eat Pancakes	Mad about Minibeasts Jack and the Beanstalk	Enchanted Moccasins Rainbow Crow	King of the Cloud forest When the Mountains Roared Firework Makers Daughter	Looking after Planet Earth – Sonia Sharma Flood - Alvaro F Villa