



30th January 2026

Our Weekly Update



Headteacher update

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

You may be aware that 2026 has been designated the National Year of Reading. Charities, organisations and schools are all working to promote and celebrate the importance and joy of reading.

Reading underpins so much for children and is integral to achievement across the curriculum. Research shows that reading for pleasure in early childhood is linked to better cognitive performance and mental wellbeing in adolescence. Children who read books often at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests.

At Somersham, reading is prioritised from the moment children start school. Rigorous phonics lessons, following the Little Wandle programme, help children to develop fluency so that they can enjoy reading and access books of their choice. This is then

continued in Key Stage Two, with teachers supporting children to choose the right books for their attainment level. We supplement our day to day teaching and learning with class readers and opportunities to read a range of texts across the curriculum. Our school library is open for children to access at lunchtime (led by our wonderful Year 6 librarians) and every class will be visiting Somersham Library later this term (please see dates below).

In the weekly newsletter this year, we will be adding a resource which shares different children's books, with advice on top texts for children to enjoy. We hope you find this useful in supporting your children to engage positively in reading.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Jonathan Clarke and the SPS Team



Key Dates – updates in blue

Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 10 th February	Years 3 and 4 Ancient Egypt Day
Thursday 12 th February	Year 5/6 Ancient Greece online workshop
Friday 13 th February	Year 5/6 Ancient Greece Day
16 th – 20 th February	Half Term
Friday 27 th February	Open Classrooms
Friday 6 th March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Week beginning 9 th March	Science Week
Wednesday 11 th and Thursday 12 th March	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings
Friday 20 th March	Sport Relief
Tuesday 24 th and Wednesday 25 th March (09:20)	Year 3 and 4 production to parents/carers
Friday 27 th March	Last day of the spring term
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Easter break
Week beginning Monday 11 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Tuesday 19 th and Wednesday 20 th May (09:20)	Reception production to parents/carers
Friday 12 th June	Sports Day: KS2 AM and Reception/KS1 PM (timings tbc)

Wool! A Plea!

This term, we have various art projects taking place and would be grateful for any donations of the following:

Wool
Lace
Ribbon
Buttons
Net
Scraps of pretty fabric
Card and paper



Thank you for any support you can provide!

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Catering Survey

Caterlink, our school meals provider, is carrying out its annual pupil survey to assist in improving the catering service.

They would love to hear as many pupils' views as possible. Please follow the link below for access.

Caterlink will provide feedback to schools whose pupils complete the survey once results have been analysed.

Survey closes on 27th March 2026

Primary Pupil Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R3RTFTV>

King Street entrance

We appreciate that there are ongoing issues at the King Street entrance when the weather is wet.

We are currently in the process of gaining quotes to address this, but are unable to put a plank of wood over it in case someone slipped and hurt themselves.

Thank you for your understanding and support, and we hope that this will be addressed soon.

Library Visits

In the coming weeks and months, children will be visiting Somersham Library on the following dates:

Osprey	6 th February
Puffin	13 th February
Barn Owl	13 th March
Red Kite	20 th March
Magpie	24 th April
Kestrel	1 st May
Woodpecker	8 th May
Chaffinch	15 th May
Kingfisher	22 nd May



PFA Bingo

This popular school event is returning on Friday 6th March.

Put the date in your diaries, and watch this space for more details!





<p>Reception</p>	<p>Takeaway</p>	<p>The children learnt that a takeaway is where we can buy food that has been prepared for us and then eat it elsewhere. We looked at the takeaways in Somersham. Have you ever had food from any of these places? How did you order the food? We then went about setting up our own takeaway. Please complete your order forms by Monday so that the children can take on the role of Chefs next week!</p>
<p>Year 1/2</p>	<p>Continent</p>	<p>We have been naming and learning facts about the different continents. Can your child tell you how many continents there are and name them in size order?</p>
<p>Year 3/4</p>	<p>States of Matter</p>	<p>In Science, children have been exploring states of matter. What are the three states of matter and can children describe their properties?</p>
<p>Year 5/6</p>	<p>Abyss</p>	<p>Children have been continuing to learn about Ancient Greek myths in their writing and have considered nouns and adjectives to describe entering Medusa's lair. Please do share any ideas at home to inspire our epic writing next week!</p>
<p>French</p>	<p>Year 3/4: <u>Match the pairs</u></p> <p>Year 5/6: <u>Describe faces game</u></p>	

10 Ways to Take 10...

1. Read something you enjoy - it's okay to stop and swap if it's not fun
2. Switch off devices and make reading a new routine
3. Swap out time on socials for 10 minutes reading
4. Record your reading streak via a reading diary or online app
5. Try different formats - comics, magazines, audiobooks or e-readers
6. Listen to audiobooks - on the way to school or out on a walk
7. Check out your school library or local library
8. Choose a quick read and enjoy an easy win
9. Read out loud - share the joy of reading with others
10. Keep a book within easy reach - in your school bag or next to bed

We are proudly taking part in the 2026 National Year Of Reading and invite all our young people, colleagues and families to take 10 minutes each day to read something you enjoy. Watch this space for more ideas and upcoming events. Join the movement to enjoy reading throughout 2026! #GoAllIn2026

**GO
ALL
IN.**

National
Year of
Reading
2026



**Meridian
Trust**

What To Read Next?

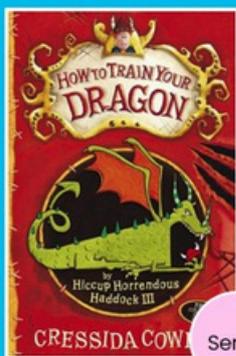
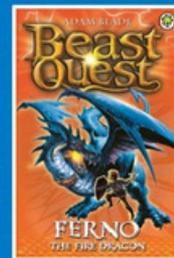
If your child enjoyed *Beast Quest* by Adam Blade, what else might they get into?...

Have they devoured the series and struggle to figure out what to read next? Maybe they're just looking for a new obsession. Here's some recommendations they might enjoy – click on the title to find out more.

Visit [BookTrust](#) for more What to Read Next recommendations

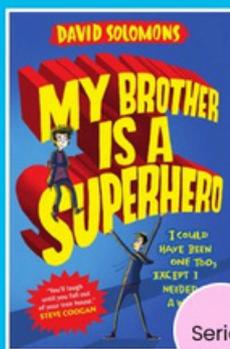


An evil wizard has enchanted the magical Beasts of Avantia – only a true hero can free the Beasts and stop them from destroying the land. Is Tom the hero Avantia has been waiting for? Join Tom as he braves Ferno the Fire Dragon in the first of this bestselling series...



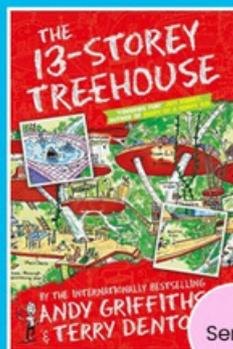
Series

[How to train your dragon](#)
by Cressida Cowell



Series

[My brother is a superhero](#)
by David Solomons



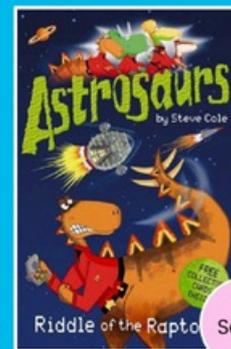
Series

[13 Storey Treehouse](#)
by Andy Griffiths



Series

[Dragon Storm](#) by Alastair Chisholm



Series

[Astrosaurs](#) by Steve Cole

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on [our website](#)

#WakeUpWednesday®

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