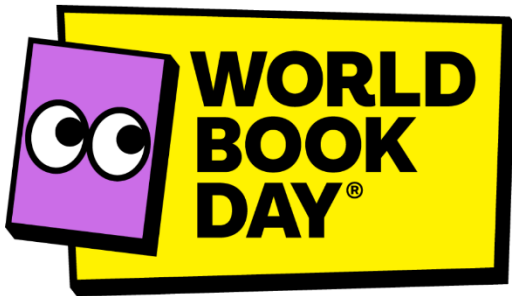


Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026,

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very much looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day** next week on **Thursday 5th March 2026**, and we are delighted to share our plans with you. This year's celebration is particularly special as it forms part of the **National Year of Reading 2026**, a nationwide focus on developing a lifelong love of reading for pleasure in children and young people.

At All Saints, we want reading to bring our whole school community together, and our World Book Day celebrations will reflect this shared joy of books, stories and language.



### **The National Year of Reading 2026 – Why It Matters**

The National Year of Reading 2026 has been launched in response to a sudden and concerning decline in children's reading, particularly reading for pleasure. National research shows that fewer children are choosing to read regularly, despite the well-evidenced impact reading has on vocabulary development, academic success, wellbeing and imagination.

As part of this national focus, teachers across the school will be planning a range of engaging activities designed to celebrate the **joy of reading for pleasure**. These activities will encourage children to explore new books, share recommendations with others, talk enthusiastically about what they enjoy reading and rediscover reading as something to be enjoyed, not just learned.

### **World Book Day Catwalk**

This year, we will be holding a **World Book Day Catwalk** in the school hall. Children from across all year groups will come together to share and celebrate books they love. The catwalk will give children the opportunity to talk about, recommend and showcase favourite books, characters, authors or words, helping to inspire others and promote reading across the school.

### **Children may choose to dress as:**

- A favourite book character
- A word, phrase or idiom
- An author,

**Most importantly they need to bring along and share a much-loved book.** Our aim is to encourage creativity while keeping costs low and ensuring the focus remains firmly on books and reading.

### **Key Stage Two Challenge – Dressing Up as Phrases**

As many of you will remember, in recent years we have encouraged children to dress up

as **words and phrases** rather than traditional book characters, and this has been hugely enjoyed by both children and staff. This approach celebrates wonderful words and books at little cost to the pocket or environment, using imagination and creativity instead.

Children in **Key Stage Two** may like to take on an extra challenge by coming as (or with) an **idiom**.

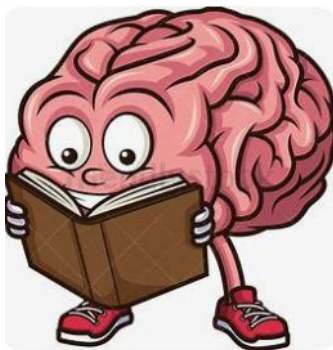
- **Break the ice (to start a conversation)**
- **A storm in a teacup (making a big deal out of something small)**
- **Once in a blue moon (something that happens very rarely)**
- **The elephant in the room (an obvious issue people avoid talking about)**
- **Spill the beans (to reveal a secret)**
- **Hit the nail on the head (to be exactly right)**
- **Pull someone's leg (to joke or tease)**
- **The ball is in your court (it's your decision)**
- **Let the cat out of the bag (to accidentally reveal something)**
- **Barking up the wrong tree (making a wrong assumption)**
- **Under the weather (feeling unwell)**
- **On cloud nine (extremely happy)**
- **A drop in the ocean (a very small amount)**
- **Through thick and thin (in good times and bad)**
- **Jumping to conclusions (making assumptions too quickly)**

The most important thing to remember is to **bring a favourite book that they know and love**.

### Friends of All Saints – Golden Scratch Cards

We are extremely grateful to our wonderful **Friends of All Saints**, who have organised a special fundraising event to coincide with World Book Day.

Golden scratch cards will be on sale for **£2 each**, with the chance to win:



- Book vouchers worth **£5 or £10**
- Additional exciting prizes

All proceeds will go directly

towards supporting our children and enhancing their experiences in school. We would greatly appreciate your support for this.

A purple poster for World Book Day. At the top, a yellow sign reads 'WORLD BOOK DAY'. Below it, text says 'In Celebration of World Book Day, FOAS would like to present their Golden Ticket Draw'. In the center is a golden scratch card that says 'THE GOLDEN TICKET'. Below the scratch card, text reads 'Golden Scratch Cards will be on sale from Monday 2nd March' and 'Prizes include: Book Vouchers, Books, Chocolates and Sweets'. At the bottom, it says 'Tickets are £2 each and will be sold by Year 6'. The poster is decorated with yellow and white wavy lines and a yellow sun in the top left corner.

Essentially, these events are intended to be fun, promote enjoyment of reading and inspire a lifelong love of books in our children as part of the **National Year of Reading 2026**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support – I'm sure the children will benefit hugely.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Dutton  
English Subject Leader



## THE MILLION WORD GAP

New research shows the different numbers of words kids will have heard by age 5 based on how often parents read to them:

Never read to: 4,662 words

1-2 times per week: 63,570 words

3-5 times per week: 169,520 words

Daily: 296,660 words

Five books a day: 1,483,300 words

