

Whole School Reading Spine

Southam Primary's reading spine supports high-quality reading provision across the school and is informed by the key principles of the 2023 Reading Framework. It is fluid and dynamic, offering a carefully sequenced and progressive range of texts that develop pupils' fluency, language comprehension and reading stamina, while fostering a strong and lasting love of reading.

The spine prioritises high-quality, vocabulary-rich literature, including classic, contemporary and diverse texts, to build background knowledge and encourage meaningful discussion and engagement with language. By encountering a wide range of authors, themes and genres, pupils are supported to become motivated, confident readers, including disadvantaged and vulnerable learners, with the knowledge and understanding needed to access the wider curriculum.

Year group	Autumn	Spring	Summer
R – Reading focus	Colour Monsters All Kinds of People It's a George Thing The Little Red Hen Fireworks by Gegg Botrill Goldilocks and the Three Bears Owl babies Stickman Christmas Pine Nativity	The Great Explorer Emperor's Egg Magic Porridge Pot Winnie and Wilbur around the World The Three Billy Goats Gruff Whatever Next	The Tiny seed The Gingerbread Man Oliver's vegetables Oliver's fruit salad A New Home for a Pirate How to be a pirate How to be a mermaid The night pirate
R – Incidental	The Invisible string The Growing story It's okay to be different The family book Starting school stories Where poppies now grow What if everybody did that? Preston Pig (linked to aspirations) Autumn fiction/non fiction Jolly Christmas Postman	Polar animal non-fiction Luar New Year Celebrating Ramadan and Eid Spring fiction/non-fiction Ruby's worry	The bad tempered ladybird The busy spider Farmyard hullabaloo Farm animal non-fiction The scarecrow's Wedding I spy under the sea Tiddler
	Belonging, choices, dilemmas, traditional tales, celebrations and history, diversity, friendship and family, connections, feelings and emotions, changes, determination and resilience		
1 – Reading focus	The Enormous Turnip Supertato Elves and the Shoemaker The Great Fire of London	Lost and Found Jack and the Beanstalk Jack and the Jelly Beanstalk Jack and the Baked Beanstalk	Rainbow Fish Commotion in the Ocean David Attenborough- Little People Big Dreams

			The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch
1 – Incidental	Hotel Flamingo The Alien in the Jam Factory	Bear and Rabbit The Boy who Grew Dragons	Fantastic Mr Fox The Hodgeheg
	Friendship, belonging, empathy and understanding, historical fiction, traditional tales, belonging, diversity, acceptance, inspiration, empowerment		
2 – Reading focus	The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark Jill Murphy Curiosity Courage Facing your fears Perspective Into the forest Anthony Brown Identity and self discovery Loveliness and anxiety Family and home Little Red by Bethan Woollvin Resourcefulness Courage Hansel and Gretel by Bethan Woollvin Good vs Evil Mischief and magic Humour and playfulness	The Tin Forest Helen Ward Hope Environmentalism Perseverance Adaptability Lost in the Toy Museum David Lucas Friendship Community Discovery Toys in Space Mini Grey Learning Discovery Friendship Creativity Emotional Growth	George and the Dragon Chris Wormell Paper Dragon Traditional Tales Adventure Duty and responsibility Tell Me a Dragon by Jackie Morris Imagination Self-expression Dragon Post by Emma Yarlett Friendship Freedom Imagination
2 – Incidental	Mr Fawkes the King and the gunpowder plot Tom and Tony Bradman Secrets Excitement Treason Conspiracy Religious conflict The Magic Faraway Tree Enid Blyton	Oliver Moon and the Monster Mystery The Old Bear Stories by Jane Hissey Friendship Learning Growth Creativity Imagination Mr Men and Little Miss	The Pinchers and the Curse of the Egyptian Cat Ander Sparring Family dynamics, cultural pride, humour, adventure, transformation Maggie Sparks and The Truth Dragon Steve Smallman Honesty, truthfulness, friendship, values

	Exploration of the natural world, imagination and creation, friendship and community Owls – Non-Fiction – Usborne Library Green Boxes – Fiction and Non-Fiction	Freddie Vs School Neill Cameron Identity and friendship, resilience and perseverance, diversity and inclusion, emotional growth, identity and self-acceptance Library Green Boxes – Fiction and Non-Fiction	The Dragon Machine by Helen Ward Belonging Self acceptance Friendship Family The Clockwork Dragon by Jonathan Emmett Bravery Resourcefulness Library Green Boxes – Fiction and Non-Fiction
3 – Reading focus	Mort The Meek Rachel Delahaye Pacifism, friendship, adventure, humour The Nothing To See Here Hotel by Steven Butler Fantasy, magic, humour, family, community Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd Stanton Identity and self-discovery Family bonds Psychological struggles Non-fiction Library Green Box Books	The Nothing To See Here Hotel by Steven Butler Fantasy, magic, humour, family, community The Clockwork Crow Katherine Fisher Family, belongings, grief, loss, courage, determination, self-advocacy The Egyptian Cinderella By Shirley Climo Cultural identity, social class and inequality, family dynamic, power Non-fiction Library Green Box Books	The Wild Robot Peter Brown Friendship and community survival and adaptation nature vs technology identity and belonging The Flood Climate change Rebuilding Hope and discovery Community Silas and The Marvellous Misfits Tom Percival Emotional well-being Anger management Anxiety Celebrating differences
3 – Incidental	The Last Viking by Terry Deary Identity Psychological burden Desperation and despair Contradictions of masculinity	Flat Stanley The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery by S. Pennypacker Teamwork Friendship Exploration History Challenges	Nim's Island Wendy Orr Independence, friendship, courage, adventure, nature Non-fiction Library Green Box Books

	The Littlest Viking by Sandi Toksvig Family dynamics Cultural awareness Friendship and support	There's a Pharaoh in Our Bath by Jeremy Strong Cultural awareness Family Humour Adventure	River poetry
4 – Reading focus texts	I have swapped my brother on the internet Jo Simmons Family dynamics, wish fulfilment, humour Einstein the Penguin: An unforgettable new friend... Iona Rangeley Adventure and exploration, friendship and teamwork, family dynamics, resilience and growth	The Lost Whale Hannah Gold Environmental conservation, family dynamics, mental health, resilience, personal growth, connections Pugs of the Frozen North Philip Reeve Hope, friendship, heart's desire	The Land Of Roar Jenny Mclachlan Imagination, relationship, courage, transitions The Great Chocoplot by Chris Callaghan Curiosity, exploration, cultural dynamics, emotional growth, humour
4 – Incidental	The Explorer – Katherine Rundell Survival Friendship Courage Environmental Awareness Bear Grylls Adventures – The Desert Challenge Bear Grylls Adventures – The Jungle Challenge Survival Teamwork and friendship Courage Nature The Great Kapok Tree – Lynne Cherry Environmental Conservation Impact of human actions Moral reflection	The Leopard in the Golden Cage – Julia Edward Exploration Friendship Impacts of history Romulus and Remus Historical fiction	Treason – Berlie Doherty Loyalty Faith Rebellion The Prince and The Pauper – Mark Twain Class Differences Identity and role reversal Justice and injustice
5 - Reading focus texts	The Children Of Castle Rock Natasha Farrant Friendship, trust, personal growth	Elemental Detectives Patrice Lawrence Freedom, belonging, hope, justice, social belonging, historical reflection	Rooftoppers Katherine Rundell Self-discovery, nonconformity, resilience, family dynamics

	The Boy Who Grew Dragons Andy Shepherd Nature and growth, friendship and family, balanced arguments, adventure and exploration Amelia Fang and the Barbaric Ball Laura Ellen Anderson Friendship, emotional growth, conflict resolution, self-discovery, adventure	The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane Kate DiCamillo Love and emotional growth, loss and resilience, empathy and human connection, transformation and redemption	Boy In The Tower Polly Ho-Yen Togetherness, survival, hope, mortality, acrophobia
5 – Incidental	Stone age boy Satoshi Kitamura Survival Celebration of life Respecting the past BFG Roald Dahl Friendship Justice Injustice Imagination	The lost happy endings Traditional Tales Fulfilment Transformation	Into the Volcano Jess Butterworth Grief and trauma Friendship and bonding Hope and joy Nature
6 – Reading focus texts	The Falcon's Malteser Anthony Horowitz Humour, friendship, trust, criminal activity The Goldfish Boy Lisa Thompson Social exclusion, loneliness, death, loss, personal flaws, OCD	The Final Year Matt Goodfellow Identity, friendship, emotional growth, self-discovery, family dynamics,	A variety of comprehension texts.
6-Incidental Texts	Letters from the Lighthouse Emma Carroll Empathy, identity, social expectations, sacrifice	Don't Trust Fish! Neil Sharpson Reading for pleasure - humour Don't Open This Book! Don't Open This Book Again! Andy Lee Reading for pleasure - humour	Who Let The Gods Out Maz Evans Friendship and support, good vs evil, mental health, responsibility and growth,