

New for  
2024 - 2025



# Reading Olympiad

## Year 6

## 2024-2025

A guide for parents and children

# The Importance of Reading

At Beardall Fields, we want our children to love reading, to read widely and read often. The impact of reading on your child's education cannot be overstated. All research indicates that reading has a **powerful effect on their achievement, across all areas of the curriculum** and into other areas of life (including self-esteem, better sleep, combatting loneliness and general life satisfaction)! Here are some key research findings:

“Reading for pleasure is crucial for a child's cognitive development and is a **more powerful factor in their life than socio-economic background.**”

“Reading aloud is **essential** for developing fluent reading ability.”

“Regular reading (just 20 minutes a day) can be worth **two whole GCSE grades!**”

“Regular readers outperform their non-regular reading peers in **every curriculum subject** by the end of year six”.

19% of regular readers say it helps to prevent loneliness.

Children and adults, who read for just 30 minutes a week, are 20% more likely to report greater life satisfaction.

Readers have better self-esteem and regular sleeping patterns (which comes with attached physical health benefits).

The Reading Olympiad is our way of encouraging children to engage with reading through a range of high-quality texts: both fiction and non-fiction. The books you will find on the next few pages are by no means an exhaustive list but have been proven to be loved by huge numbers of avid readers recently or through the ages.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of reading – listening to others read, reading aloud, and reading to yourself - it all helps to build a foundation for academic success.

So let's become Reading Olympiad Champions!

The Year Six Team

See the following for the research that has been quoted above:

Billington, J. (2015) [Reading between the Lines: the Benefits of Reading for Pleasure](#). Quick Reads, University of Liverpool  
Sullivan and Brown (2013) [Social inequalities in cognitive scores at age 16: The role of reading](#).

**CLASSICS**



## Scoring System

The Reading Olympiad is scored in the same way as last year. There are different ways we are now encouraging children to read and be rewarded:

- Reading at home
  - Each child will have a race track to complete over the course of the year – they will fill in **ONE** square of the race track for every day that they read at home. Every time a child completes a lap they will be able to collect a different reward. See how many laps you can do over the course of the year and collect all the different rewards!
  - Reading **THREE** times a week at home will be rewarded with an extra playtime.
- Reading at school
  - Incentives and rewards for reading will still continue at school, led by staff working in your child's class. This could be a whole class reward (e.g. choosing time) or individualised (e.g. extra playtime, certificate). Staff will adapt this from class to class to meet the needs of the children.

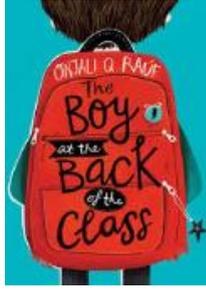
Reading diaries will be checked once a week by members of staff and we will contact parents where a child has not read at home to remind them of its importance.

We will continue to encourage reading and reward children through our school POWERS system for demonstrating a positive attitude to learning

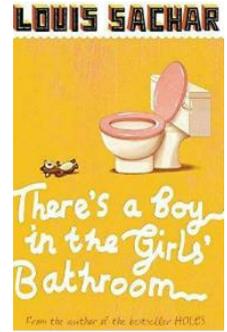




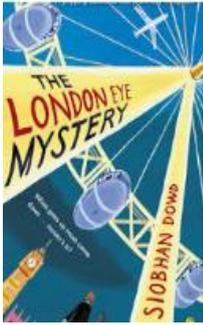
# Top 20 Reading List



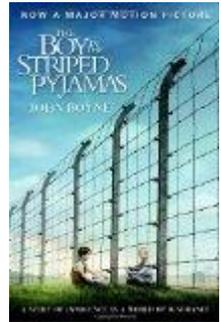
**The Boy at the Back of the Class**  
By Onjali Q. Rauf



**There's a Boy in the Girls Bathroom**  
By Louis Sachar



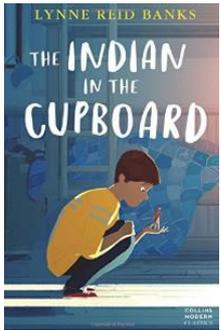
**The London Eye Mystery**  
By Siobhan Dowd



**The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas**  
By John Boyne



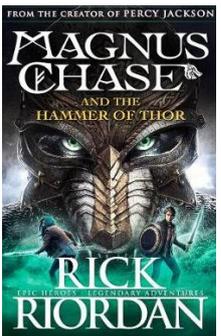
**An Edition of First News**  
Various Authors



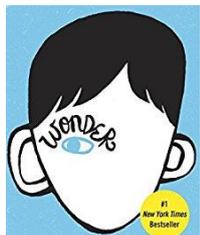
**The Indian in the Cupboard**  
By Lynne Reid Banks



**Shadowsmith**  
By Ross Mackenzie



**Percy Jackson/Magnus Chase Series**  
By Rick Riordan

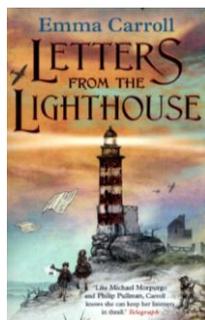


**Wonder**  
By R. J. Palacio

**Any of the Curriculum Books in your class**

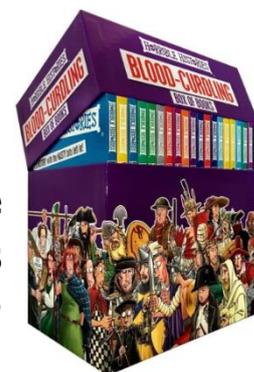


Various Authors



**Letters from the Lighthouse**  
By *Emma Carroll*

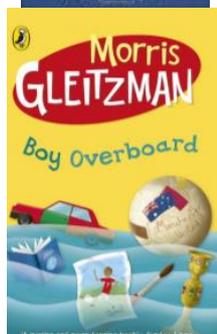
**Any of the Horrible  
Histories/Science/Geography Series**  
*Various Authors*



**Goodnight Mister Tom**  
By *Michelle Magorian*

**Room 13**

By *Robert Swindells*



**Boy Overboard**  
By *Morris Gleitzman*

**Cirque Du Freak Series**

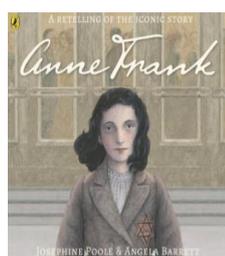
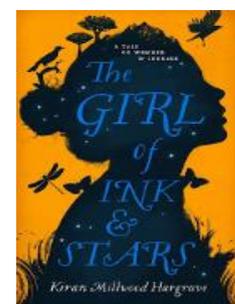
By *Darren Shan*



**War Horse**

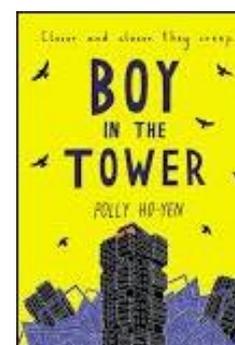
By *Michael Morpurgo*

**The Girl of Ink and Stars**  
By *Kiran Millwood Hargrave*



**Anne Frank**  
By *Josephine Poole and  
Angela Barrett*

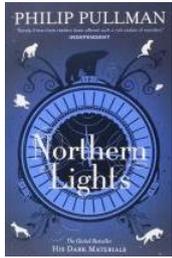
**The Boy in the  
Tower**  
By *Polly Ho-Yen*



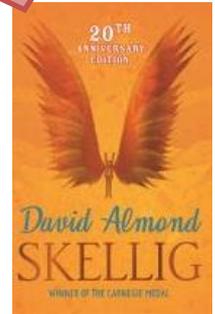
# CLASSICS

## Classics List

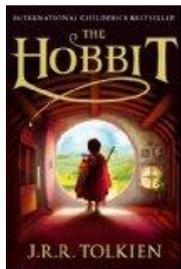
Worth 5 points!



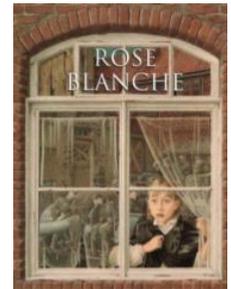
**Northern Lights**  
By Philip Pullman



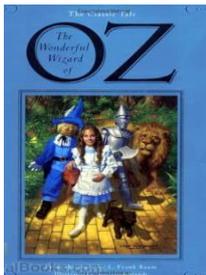
**Skellig**  
By David Almond



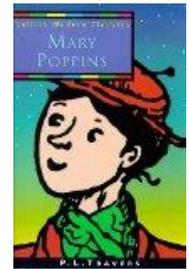
**The Hobbit**  
By J. R. R. Tolkien



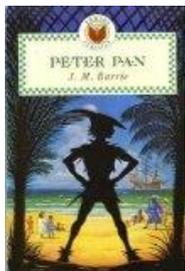
**Rose Blanche**  
By Roberto Innocenti



**The Wizard of Oz**  
By L. Frank Baum

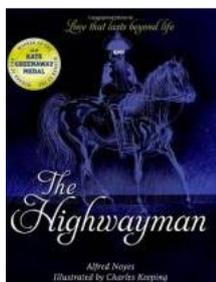
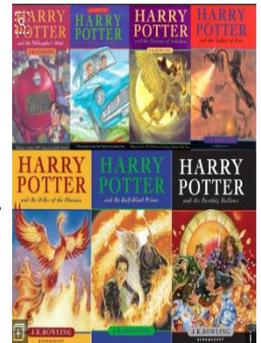


**Mary Poppins**  
By Pamela L. Travers



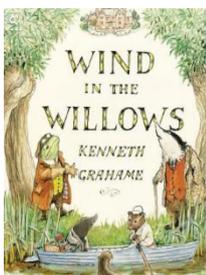
**Peter Pan**  
By J. M. Barrie

**Harry Potter Series**  
By Joanne Rowling



**The Highwayman**  
By Alfred Noyes

**Any of the Oxford Reading Tree 'Classics' Series**



**The Wind in the Willows**  
By Kenneth Grahame

