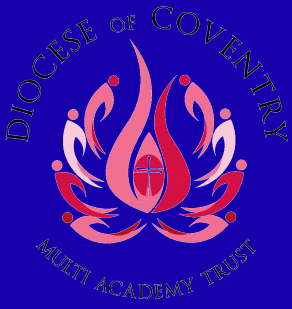


Ryton-on-Dunsmore Provost Williams

Church of England Academy

@RytonPWAcademy



## Newsletter Monday 5th January 2026

*"Let your light shine"*

Welcome back to the start of the Spring term. I hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed plenty of winter walks. The Spring term is always a time when children flourish, grow in confidence, and make great progress, and we are very much looking forward to the months ahead.

We have some exciting things planned, including the opening of our Creative Hub - although a few final tweaks are still being completed, I can't wait for the children to be able to use the Hub to its fullest - and our Year 1-6 trip to London, which promises to be a memorable experience for all involved.

### **Catering Update**

We have now moved to Caterlink, in line with all Trust schools. During the holiday, we were made aware of some issues within the school kitchen, which unfortunately means we are currently unable to cook on site. All meals will be prepared offsite and brought into school, and children will be served in the same way as before.

### **Early Years**

Early Years children will now enter via the side gate, giving them direct access to their cloakroom. We are also delighted to welcome Miss Fearn back with us full time. Early Years are currently exploring plans for some joint learning with St Oswald's, with a particular focus on developing children's scientific curiosity. I look forward to sharing further details early in the term as this exciting collaboration takes shape.

### **Site Improvements**

Our new sheds have now been installed, which has made a noticeable improvement to the school site. In addition, due to damage to some of our PE equipment, we will be replacing and upgrading these. As a PE teacher at heart, this is something I am particularly excited about.

*Photos from our Nativity, Carol Service and RODA Christmas Day.*



## Extra Curricular Activities

There will be no after-school clubs next week. All clubs will resume from week commencing 12th January. If you would like to sign your child up for a club, this can be done via the MCAS app.

### Swimming

Swimming will start again on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January. The cost will be reduced by one week, as we did not swim the final week of term. The payment will be available tomorrow via the MCAS app.

Miss Cullen

Head Teacher

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## Diary Dates

Wed 7th January	Reception Vision Screening
Fri 9th January 2.30pm	SEND and Early Support Drop-in
Mon 26th January	Young Voices event in Birmingham
Tues 27th January	Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight Year 6 Health Questionnaire
Fri 6th February 2.45pm	Dahl Class Time to Shine (Parents invited)
Mon 9th Feb 2.45pm	Parent Meeting Safer Internet and Children's Mental Health
Wed 11th February	Years 1-6 to British Museum
Thurs 12th February	Break up for half term
Friday 13th February	Teacher Training Day
Mon 23rd February	Teacher Training Day
Thurs 5th March	World Book Day
Wed 11th March	Mother's Day event
Tues 17th March	Parent Consultation Meetings
Wed 18th March	Parent Consultation Meetings
Fri 27th March	Break up for Easter Holiday

**New events will be added during the term. All events are on the Class Dojo Calendar, allow notifications to give you reminders.**

## Safeguarding

According to the National Literacy Trust, reading to children under five brings numerous advantages, including feelings of reassurance, relaxation and happiness. For even younger ones, meanwhile, having a grown-up read to them frequently can be an incredible springboard as they learn to comprehend language more fully and start to use it for themselves.

Recent research suggests, however, that less than half of 0- to 2-year-olds are actually read to every day (or nearly every day) at home – meaning that many little ones would benefit from more inspiration and support at this critical juncture in their development. The National College guide has practical tips for parents and practitioners on helping children to experience the joy of story time.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators PROMOTING STORYTIME

Being read to regularly can help the under-fives in acquiring literacy; teaches them the value of books and stories; and sparks their imagination and curiosity. Reading to babies, meanwhile, provides the building blocks of language development and the beginnings of social and emotional skills. Here are our top tips for helping children discover the wonder of stories.

## 1 BE A READING ROLE MODEL

Children thrive on copying the behaviours of adults around them, so it's vital to model regular reading habits: if your child sees you reading, they're likely to copy you. Reading on a screen could be misinterpreted by a child as a different activity, so a printed book is preferable.

## 2 JOIN A LIBRARY

Local libraries are a cost-effective way of introducing your child to new books. Librarians often host free events to build engagement with reading. Librarians can recommend books based on age, interests, genre or author. Having their own library card and choosing their next read can be exciting for little ones.

## 3 TAKE IT IN TURNS

Taking turns to read and turn the pages can build your child's confidence and lets you model what's expected. For younger ones, reading doesn't have to mean the exact words on the page – they might prefer their own version! Reading to different audiences is useful; teddies are excellent listeners!

## 4 CATER TO THEIR INTERESTS

Like adults, children tend to favour books with themes they're interested in. If they're less keen to move away from their preferred subject matter, you could vary the type of book they read by swapping between fiction and non-fiction. There'll be plenty of scope to diversify as they grow up.

## 5 BUILD READING INTO YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

Building reading into your daily routine will have a positive impact. Just before bedtime is ideal for many families, helping settle the child to sleep. The adult usually reads the story, but children enjoy more interactivity as they get older. It can be handy to have books with you when out and about.

## 6 USE PICTURES AND PROPS

Most children's books contain beautiful illustrations which enrich the text. Spend time discussing these with your child and pointing things out. As well as doing voices for different characters and making any relevant noises, you could also enhance story time with props such as toys or puppets.

## 7 RELISH THE LANGUAGE

The language in children's books is varied and rich; sometimes they might include words children are less familiar with, so you can take the opportunity to explain what they mean. With younger children, you could try paraphrasing certain sentences afterwards to help with understanding.

## 8 A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Where possible, read to your child in an environment that's free from distractions. This helps children to get fully immersed in the experience, supporting their concentration and engagement. Doing this often can help to build up the child's ability to focus for greater lengths of time.

## 9 TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

Although reading can be hugely enjoyable, children can sometimes struggle to sit for long periods or to engage with texts fully. Have regular breaks: reading a few pages is better than none. You could also have some movement breaks – there's no particular 'right' or 'wrong' way to enjoy a story.

## 10 RE-READ FAVOURITES

Most children have certain stories that they love hearing again and again. This repetition lets them become familiar with language patterns and more engaged by feeling able to join in. Choosing other books by your child's preferred author can help them to discover new favourites.

### Meet Our Expert

Kara Kiernan has worked in senior leadership positions (both in the UK and internationally) for 15 years, supported by an MEd in Educational Leadership. As an educational consultant, she now delivers training for a range of organisations – notably on EYF3 practice and child development. Previously, Kara was head of a nursery and junior school and has also been a director of early years.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: <https://www.nlc.org.uk/blog/reading-children-as-powerful-as-anything-and-yet-so-underrated/> | <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/research/benefits-of-reading-booktrust-2023.pdf> | <https://www.cdf.gov.uk/news/blog/the-importance-of-reading-to-your-children/>



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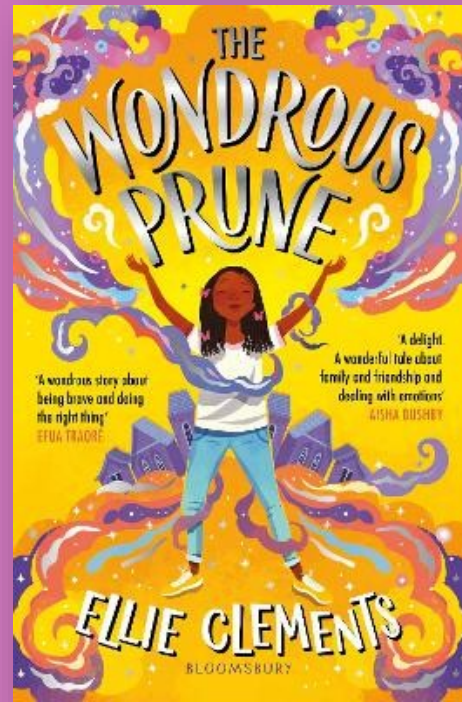
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Magic comes from within ...

Uprooted by her single mum along with her troublesome older brother, eleven-year-old Prune Robinson is trying to settle in a new town. She figures she can't burden her hard-working mother with the fact she's being bullied. Or the fact that her drawings have started coming to life. But with her brother soon in danger, Prune comes to realise that she can't hide her power forever; in fact, it might just be the one thing that brings her family back together and saves them all. Planned as the start of a series about remarkable children from the same neighbourhood, *The Wondrous Prune* is poignant and surprising with wonderful wish fulfilment and accessible storytelling.

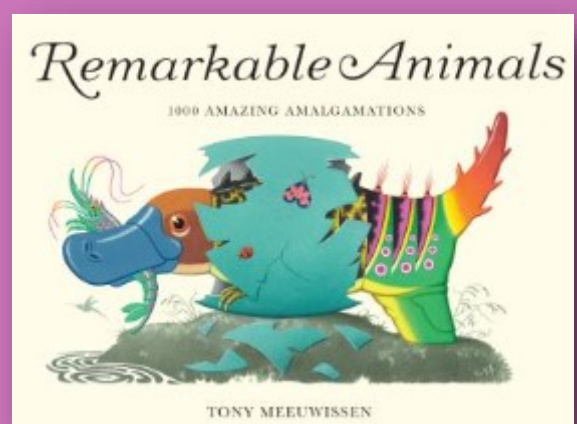
## Miss Cullen's Recommended Reads



*Remarkable Animals* is one of the most ingenious mix-and-match books ever devised. Based on ten real-life animals, each described in words as well as pictures, it offers 1,000 fantastic variations.

Just flip the pages and see ten remarkable animals become 1,000 crazy creatures, taking on new names and astonishing new identities as their heads, bodies and tails are swapped around.

Devised and brilliantly executed by master-artist Tony Meeuwissen, this is a book that will be treasured by readers of all ages.





This term, during our collective worship, we will be learning about the people Jesus met. We began by exploring the story of Simeon and Anna, through which we are learning about the value of Hope.

Each class will also have the opportunity to reflect on these stories in greater depth during their own class worship, helping children to deepen their understanding and consider how these values can be lived out in their daily lives.



Mrs Collins has signed Dahl class to participate in the 'Ruby Robin Award' challenge, created by the Songbird Survival Charity. The children will complete tasks from 4 different categories : Learning, Craft & care, Fundraising and Bird Spot. We are hoping to do at least 1 activity a week to complete the overall challenge by February half term.

Mrs Collins will share the information with the whole school in worship tomorrow.

