

LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER



ST BERNARD'S
HIGH SCHOOL

ISSUE 12/25

LIBRARY NEWS

Christmas blessings from the Library Team. May the joy of Christ's birth bring you peace, good health, and happiness this Christmas season.



With library lessons and the Accelerated Reader programme well underway since September, Year 7 classes are battling it out on our leadership board, and we await our first Word Millionaire with excited anticipation!!!

We also recently launched our Reading Leader and Reading Champion programmes sessions. Our Reading Leader scheme is with our newly trained Year 9 reading leaders actively supporting our Year 7 readers and this school year we've welcomed on board a new Reading Champion team to explore reading in greater depth. Year 7 Book club takes place in the library on a Monday lunchtime.

Calling all avid readers in Years 7-9! This year we are looking to enter the National Reading Champions challenge. Please pop into the library for further details if interested.

2026 - National Year for Reading

Exciting times ahead as it is announced that 2026 is to be the National Year for Reading.

We have so many exciting events on the literacy calendar to look forward to next term, including upcoming book awards, International Book Giving Day and World Book Day.

– we look forward to rediscovering the joy of reading with you all!

Updated recommended reading lists to follow in the new year, so watch this space for New Year resolution ideas. Happy reading all!



Introducing Jólabókaflóð and how it came about.

jolabokafloð (jólabókaflóð) – This is a wonderful Icelandic tradition that is a fantastic way to celebrate great books and the time to read. The **Christmas or Yule book flood** starts with the annual release of new books occurring in the months before the start of the festive season. These books are then purchased as presents to be gifted on Christmas Eve. This tradition makes books the most popular Christmas gift in country. During the festive season, gifts are opened on 24 December and, traditionally, everyone reads the books they have been given straight away, often in a cosy setting while drinking hot chocolate or alcohol-free Christmas ale.



This tradition began during World War II once Iceland had gained its independence from Denmark in 1944. Paper was one of the few commodities not rationed during the war, so Icelanders shared their love of books even more as other types of gifts were in short supply.



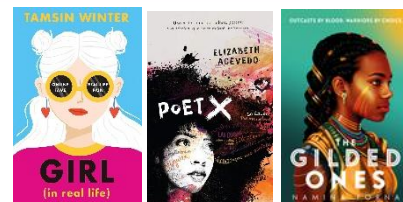
So why not gift a book this Christmas?

When you buy a physical book from LoveReading, 25% of the cover price will be given to school.

[St Bernard's High School Dashboard](#) | [LoveReading4Kids](#)

BOOK REVIEW

FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE
BOOK WITH OUR
RECOMMENDED READS



Girl in Real Life by Tasmin Winters
reviewed by Maita Nyambuya (7F)

My name is Maita and I would like to recommend the above book by Tamsin Winters. This book is set on a very popular and current topic of family influencers. Without giving away too much, the main character, Eva, has been on YouTube before birth. She gets bullied at school for her parents' YouTube channel, but her parents won't let her quit so she decides to sabotage the channel.... Interested in finding out how Eva does this and what happens next....? Pop into the library to borrow the book and others by the same author: Bad Influence, Being Miss Nobody, Jemima Small

Verse novel by
reviewed by Letticia Sibanda (7M)

Letticia read several verse novels as part of this year's Verse Novel Challenge, including Love that Dog, the Weight of Water, The Crossover, The Final Year and Poet X. Her favourite one is the Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo because it's a very relatable book to some. This book shows that you can use your voice to express yourself and who you are as a person. I would definitely recommend this book to everyone.

Thank you Maita and Letticia!

**On the twelfth day of Christmas,
my school librarian said to read:**
Twelve "Glasgow boys" drumming,
Eleven Pipers piping in the "Heroes of Olympus",
Ten "Lord of the rings" or "Lord of the flies",
Nine "Little Women" dancing,
Eight handmaids milking in the "Handmaid's Tale",
Seven swans a-swimming in Mafi's "A very large
expanse of sea",
"Six of Crows" a-laying
Five "Gilded ones",
Four "A Monster calling",
Three Wonder stories ("Auggie & me") or "Three
Dark Crowns"
Two "Turtles all the way down" or "If my words
had wings"
And Coelho's "The girl who became a tree"

Our Twelve days of Christmas
recommended reads can be
found in the library along with
lots of festive titles.

Season's Readings to you all



Unwanted books at home? Christmas trees/snowmen/reindeer made from old books are popular DIY decorations. They can be created by either stacking books (often green or with turned-around pages for a snowy look) with a star on top or fairy lights wrapped around, or by folding the pages of a single, thick paperback book inward to form a tree shape, often decorated with lights and ribbon, offering a charming, literary, and eco-friendly festive touch. Please feel free to send us any photos of your own recycled creations!

Stacked Book Tree/Reindeer/Snowman

Collect Books: Gather books, ideally with green covers, or respective colours for snowmen or reindeer.

Stack & Arrange: Start with the largest books at the base and stack smaller ones on top to form a cone or the desired shape for your snowman or reindeer.

Decorate: Add a star to the top and wrap with fairy lights or garland or add accessories for their features.

Folded Page Book Trees (Single Book)

Prepare Book: Use a thick paperback (300+ pages) and remove the cover.

Fold Pages: For each page, fold the top right corner down to the spine, then fold the side down to meet the same edge, creating a triangle. **Repeat:** Continue folding all pages in sequence.

Decorate: Add ribbon, beads, or lights to the finished tree.

