

LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER



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HIGH SCHOOL

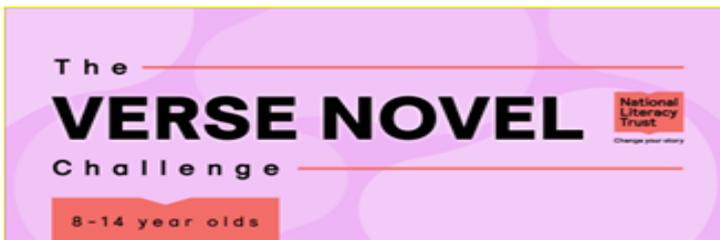
ISSUE /03/26

LIBRARY NEWS

Our third newsletter bids you a very warm welcome back after the half-term break. A short but busy half-term with our **Reading Leader and Reading Champion programmes and Book Clubs** underway.

A massive well done to all Year 7 participants and a huge thank you to our wonderful Year 9 Reading Leaders.

Our exciting **World Book Day** Celebrations await you all in March.



We are delighted to announce that a Year 7 student has been selected as a winner in the National Literacy Trust's *Verse Novel Challenge*.

Huge Congratulations to our winner **Letticia Sibanda (7M)**.

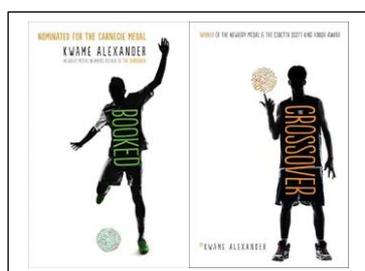
After reading several verse novels during the challenge including *Love that Dog*, *the Weight of Water*, *The Crossover*, *The Final Year* and her favourite one, *Poet X*. For the challenge Letticia decided to read an extract from *Crossover* by Kwame Alexander.

Feedback from the National Literacy Trust: "We received a huge number of entries, and our judges were incredibly impressed with the quality and creativity shown by all who took part."

An amazing achieving achievement, so well done to Letticia.

For those of you haven't read a verse novel before, why not try one?

We have a good selection across different genres in the library, so pop in and ask one of us.



READING LIST LINKS

Year 7 Fiction [Year 7 Reading List 2026.docx](#)

Year 8 Fiction [Year 8 Reading ListUPDATED.docx](#)

Year 9 Fiction [Year 9 Reading List UPDATED.docx](#)

KS3 Non-Fiction [KS3 Reading List Non-Fiction.docx](#)

Year 10/11 Fiction [YRS 10&11 READING LISTS.docx](#)

KS4 Non-Fiction [KS4 Reading List Non-Fiction.docx](#)

Year 12/13 Fiction [KS5 FICTION Reading List.docx](#)

KS5 Non-Fiction [KS5 Reading List - NON fiction.docx](#)

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Lent – February 18th – April 2nd 2026

[Lenten Promise Reading log.docx](#)

National Career's week 2nd – 7th March 2026

World Book Day – 5th March 2026

International Women's Day – 8th March 2026

British Science Week 6th – 15th March 2026

World Storytelling Day – 20th March 2025

Carnegie Children's Book Awards– Mar – June 2026

WORD

MILLIONAIRE

Congratulations to Oluwatosin Fakolujo (7A)

– our first Year 7 to reach **Word Millionaire**

status this year. Tosin has read a whopping 1

million words so far since September and is

closely followed by **Trinitee Adeyoola (7C),**

our second reading extraordinaire

to reach Millionaire status.

Well done girls,

that's mighty impressive reading!

Who wants to be a Word

Millionaire next? Keep on reading!



MOST IMPROVED READERS

Congratulations to Emily Goodlad (7H) who

received a reward for increasing her reading age by

more than 3 years! We use the AR reading

programme to encourage our young people to read, grow and build confidence with books.

Well done also to students Emily Black (7C), Vanessa

Nwoyeocha (7R) and Amarachi Ozoemelam (7A)

who also improved their Reading Age by more than

3 years. Keep up the good reading!

BOOK REVIEW

The Series Of Unfortunate Events book series by Lemony Snicket – review by Diona Sunil (7H)

The author has made it very clear in the title that these books are gloomy, melancholy, tragic but adventurous. There are 13 books in the series.

The basic story follows the 3 Baudelaire children, whose parents died in a great fire, leaving nobody to look after them. With the help of their friend Mrs. Poe (who is in charge of their fortune that their parents left behind), they try to find a new guardian but somehow Count Olof, a weird man who wants their money – enters into every story in some form of disguise.

Each book describes their latest home and the hardships they go through when the Count enters their life. Each book tells a different tale: one could be in a boarding school, and the next one the other side of the world but they always end with one of the orphans trying to escape. My favourite character is Violet because she protects the children. I found the villain frustrating as he always escapes, leading the orphans to failure. A lifetime of bad luck sums up the series.

I would recommend reading these from the beginning as the first book made me want to read more. I rate this series a 10 out of 10.

When the Stars are Scattered

Book review by Sanvi Agarwal (7M)

This is a non-fiction graphic novel written by Omar Mohamed based on his own child experiences which is brought to life with expressive illustrations by Victoria Jamieson.

It follows Omar and his younger brother Hassan, as they grow up in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya after fleeing violence in Somalia. Their journey is filled with hardship, hope and a profound bond between siblings. I personally found this a touching story. The book also talks about the sacrifices that Omar and Hussan have made.

I am sorry but if I say one more word about the book I will spoil it for the reader. But all I will say is that this book taught me how to stand up for myself. I would give this book a 10 out of 10.

Happy International Book Giving Day is celebrated on 14th February and is a wonderful opportunity to give books and share a love of reading.

When you buy a physical book from [lovereading4kids](https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/), 25% of the cover price will be given to our school.

Buy something for our library from the Year of Peace wish list!

Gift a book today. <https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/>

In celebration of the **YEAR OF THE HORSE** for this year's **Chinese Lunar New Year**, below are some recommended titles that celebrate authors of Chinese origin as well as the spirit, strength, and companionship of horses.

BLUE MOON by **Jenny Oldfield** (Dyslexia-friendly)

When Anna's mum Kerry gets sick and faces big hospital bills, her dad Rex says they need to sell off their most valuable horses. Anna knows her own horse Blue Moon is the best on the ranch but...

CHINGLISH BY **Sue Cheung**

Chinglish tells the real story of a second-generation Chinese teenager growing up between cultures in 1980s England and her struggles of trying to fit in. An emotional rollercoaster.

WAR HORSE by **Michael Morpurgo**

War Horse is the story of Joey, a thoroughbred horse, and how he is forced into the thick of the harrowing, poorly-led battles of the First World War.

FRONT DESK by **Kelly Yang**

It is a really interesting story about an immigrant Chinese girl who has to find her way through the struggle of fitting into Western culture and not fitting into Chinese culture enough.

If you could see the sun by **Anne Liang**

A Chinese American girl monetizes her strange new invisibility powers by discovering and selling her wealthy classmates' most scandalous secrets.



INSPIRATIONAL BOOKS - BOOK CLUB AND READING CHAMPION CURRENT READS

In Year 7 Book Club we have been reading a couple of books for book club, including **Medusa** by Jessie Burton, **Invisible Emmie** by Terri Libenson and **Brown Girl Dreaming** by Jacqueline Woodson. This selection this reflects our differing interests. Book Club has also been assisting the library with a new project for the National Year of Reading, so keep an eye out for exciting news soon.

Our Year 7 Reading Champions are reading **Saffiyah's War** by Hiba Noor Khan. The book is Inspired by the true story of how the Grand Mosque of Paris saved the lives of hundreds of Jews during World War II and weaves a breathtaking tale of suspense, compassion, and courage, starring an extraordinary young heroine, readers will never forget.

HISTORICAL FICTION GENRE