

Reading Recommendations Newsletter

Summer 2026



Welcome to our reading recommendations newsletter!

Each term, we will share with you reviews and information about books our pupils are currently enjoying.

We encourage our pupils and their families to look through these to see if any may be of interest to them. In addition, we have reading lists by [year group and genre](#) on our website.

Happy reading!
The BVS Book Group

Hay Festival



Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed this year's Hay Festival! Getting to hear from the incredible Bernardine Evaristo and Manjeet Mann meant that the trip was truly enriching and inspiring! Our bookworm pupils benefited immensely!

BVS Readathon

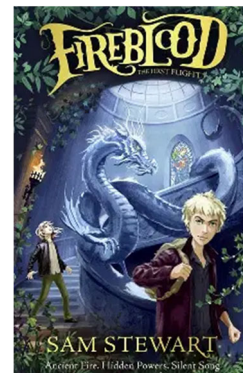
The Great BVS Readathon is taking place this month! Lots of pupils are currently working their way through their 'To Be Read' books and getting their Reading Passports completed! We look forward to updating you on their progress and success in the next newsletter!

Festival of Culture



Our annual Festival of Culture will be taking place in the final week of term, with the now-traditional and eagerly-anticipated author visits and pop-up bookshop!

This year we welcome back the incredible Sam Stewart for writing workshops! This author is best known for her fantasy series *Fireblood*.



The series follows siblings Finn and Tula, who discover their magical Fireblood heritage and embark on a quest to save their father and the world! The stories combine elements of dragons, magic and adventure! If you have not already read her work, we encourage you to pick up the books at your local library during the summer break!

We look forward to updating you about the other authors, visits, workshops and literary activities from the festival in our next newsletter!

Summer Reading Recommendations

The summer holidays present the perfect opportunity to discover a new favourite book, explore different perspectives and enjoy some well-earned reading time! Whether you prefer adventure, mystery, history or inspiring real-life stories, there is something for everyone! Our pupils recommend the following:

Years 7-9

- **The Boy at the Back of the Class** — Onjali Q. Raúf A heartwarming story about friendship, kindness and welcoming others.
- **Wonder** — R.J. Palacio An uplifting novel that reminds us of the importance of compassion and seeing the good in others.
- **A Kind of Spark** — Elle McNicoll A powerful story about understanding, acceptance and standing up for what is right.
- **The Explorer** — Katherine Rundell An exciting adventure set in the Amazon rainforest.

Years 10-11

- **The Book Thief** — Markus Zusak A moving story about courage, family and hope during the Second World War.
- **I Am Malala** — Malala Yousafzai The inspiring true story of a young woman who stood up for education and change.
- **Nineteen Eighty-Four** — George Orwell A thought-provoking classic that encourages readers to reflect on freedom, truth and responsibility.

- **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** — Mark Haddon A unique, engaging novel that offers a different perspective on the world.

Sixth Form

- **To Kill a Mockingbird** — Harper Lee A timeless novel exploring justice, integrity and moral courage.
- **The Screwtape Letters** — C.S. Lewis A witty and thought-provoking Christian classic that encourages reflection on faith and human nature.
- **Educated** — Tara Westover An extraordinary memoir about learning, resilience and personal growth.
- **The Lord of the Rings** — J.R.R. Tolkien An epic tale of friendship, sacrifice and the triumph of good over evil.

A Challenge for Everyone

Why not set yourself a summer reading goal? Try:

- Reading for 20 minutes each day
- Visiting your local library
- Sharing a book recommendation with a friend
- Keeping a record of the books you read over the summer

Happy reading! May your summer be filled with great stories and moments of inspiration!

Wise Words:

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library."
Jorge Luis Borges

