



Reading Recommendations Newsletter



Spring 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

First Friday Book Stalls News

Our Book Group pupils are thoroughly enjoying running the First Friday Bookstalls, which take place at lunchtimes on the First Friday of each month. With books donated by pupils and staff selling at just fifty pence, this is a great opportunity to pick up books that others have enjoyed—recycling and re-using, as well as promoting a love of reading!

New books continue to be available from the book vending machines in each diner, also at a heavily subsidised cost, though teachers and support staff also give tokens as rewards for effort or demonstrating the school's values in action—so an entirely free book for those lucky recipients!

The school library is also well-stocked for those keen to read books at lunchtimes, after school in the Learning Zone or to loan books.

Happy reading!

Forthcoming Events

The **Hay Festival of Literature** takes place in May half-term each year. As always, we warmly encourage families to explore the festival, which this year takes place on 21st–31st May in Hay-on-Wye—a beautiful small town with about thirty bookshops, and which welcomes authors from all over the globe for a world-renowned celebration of books, ideas and creativity each year!



The festival offers over 500 inspiring events for all ages—including author talks, performances and a fantastic children's programme. It's a wonderful day out for families who love stories, learning and the outdoors, all set in the beautiful surroundings of the Brecon Beacons.

Entry to the festival site is free, with individual tickets available for events. Don't miss this opportunity to experience a vibrant festival of culture and imagination.

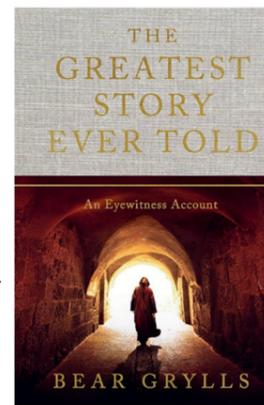


Our own **Bishop Vaughan Festival of Culture** will take place in July. Like the Hay Festival, our own festival runs for a whole week and we're looking forward to once again welcoming authors, storytellers, musicians, academics, bands, choirs and speakers for an exciting programme to rival Hay-on-Wye's offering!

An Easter Reading Recommendation: 'The Greatest Story Ever Told' by Bear Grylls

We highlighted this book last year, when those of our pupils who attended the Flame Conference in Wembley received free copies of this book and had the opportunity to meet its author. We repeat the recommendation this year as it's so very relevant as we enter Passiointide and draw towards Easter:

In 'The Greatest Story Ever Told', adventurer and survival expert Bear Grylls shares a deeply personal and accessible retelling of the life of Jesus, bringing the message of Christianity to life in a fresh and relatable way for young people.



Written in his signature honest and down-to-earth style, this book explores themes of courage, forgiveness, kindness and faith, offering readers both a story and a guide on how to live with purpose and compassion.

The book is ideal for young people looking to explore or deepen their understanding of faith; it is full of real-life wisdom, encouragement and hope. Bear draws on his own life experiences to reflect on what it means to follow Jesus in the modern world, making it a powerful read. Inspiring, thought-provoking and heartfelt, this book is a brilliant companion for life's journey!

Spring Reading Suggestions

With lighter evenings and warmer weather on the way, Spring is an ideal time to discover a new book! Whether you like gripping mysteries, imaginative fantasy or powerful real-life stories, there's plenty to enjoy!

For a twisty page-turner, try **The Girl Who Lost a Leopard** by Nizrana Farook. Set in the mountains of Sri Lanka, it follows a brave young girl caught up in danger as she protects a rare leopard from poachers. Fast-paced and full of heart, it's a good choice for readers who enjoy adventure with a mystery at its core.

For those who love atmospheric fantasy, **The Last Bear** by Hannah Gold offers a moving and beautifully told story about the impact of climate change. Although written for slightly younger readers, its emotion and message resonate widely.

If non-fiction is more your style, **Black and British** by David Olusoga provides an accessible and thought-provoking insight into centuries of Black British history. It's a brilliant option for anyone keen to broaden their understanding of the past.

Try making reading a small daily habit during your Easter break!

Wise Words:

"Reading is a passport to countless adventures."

Mary Pope Osborne

