

Reading Newsletter

AUTUMN TERM 2025



Welcome to our Autumn Term reading newsletter.

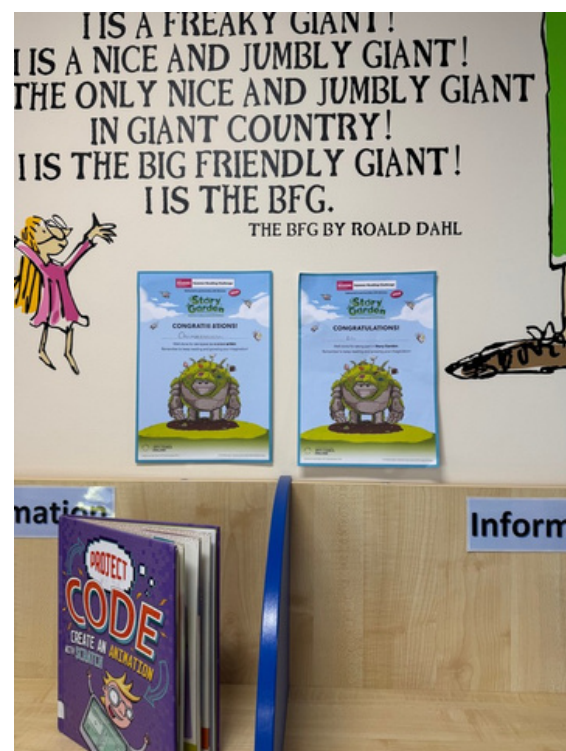


Summer Reading Challenge

The children at SFJS made a pretty spectacular start to the year, by taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge. This year, an impressive 1 in 7 children across the school completed the Summer Reading Challenge and proudly brought back their certificates to be displayed in our school library.

Their hard work and enthusiasm for reading did not go unnoticed as teachers have awarded almost 1,000 Buzz Points in total to celebrate the dedication shown by pupils from every year group. The certificates are now on display in the school's library, as a reminder of the children's achievements and inspiring others to take part in future reading challenges (some, mentioned later in our newsletter!)

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



The annual BBC 500 Words writing competition encourages children to create an original story of no more than 500 words, celebrating imagination, storytelling and a love of writing.

This competition is especially important in light of findings from the National Literacy Trust, which reveal that only 1 in 4 children and young people aged 8–18 enjoy writing in their free time (<https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/children-and-young-peoples-writing-in-2025/>).

With writing enjoyment at a 10-year-low, initiatives like 500 Words play an important role in helping children see writing as meaningful and empowering. Our Year 6 pupils proudly took part in this year's competition, and we look forward to the announcement of the winners in February.

Congratulations to Amelia who has got through to the first stage of the competition!

25/26 READING AMBASSADORS

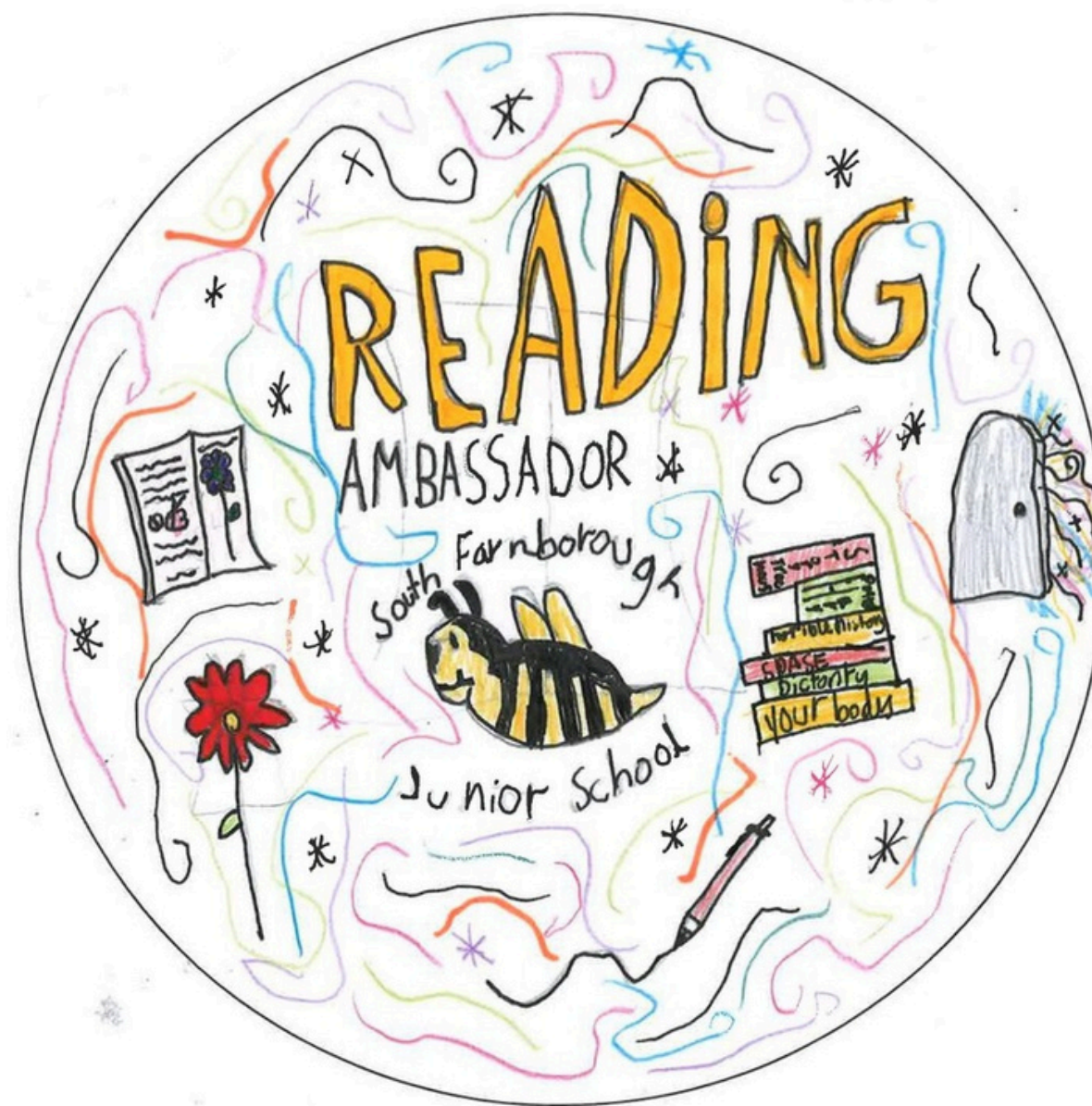
Our newly appointed Reading Ambassadors have been chosen for their strong love of reading and for consistently demonstrating our school values.

This year, we welcomed a fresh group of enthusiastic Year 5 pupils into the role, while last year's Year 5 ambassadors have proudly moved up to Year 6, continuing their responsibility of promoting a positive reading culture at our school.

When talking to our ambassadors, their passion for books and their dedication to being excellent role models make them wonderful representatives for our school.

The Reading Ambassadors have embraced their responsibilities with excellence and pride. They have loved reading with younger pupils in the lower school, helping to inspire confidence and a passion for stories among our youngest readers, while also becoming a friendly and welcoming face for our new Year 3s.

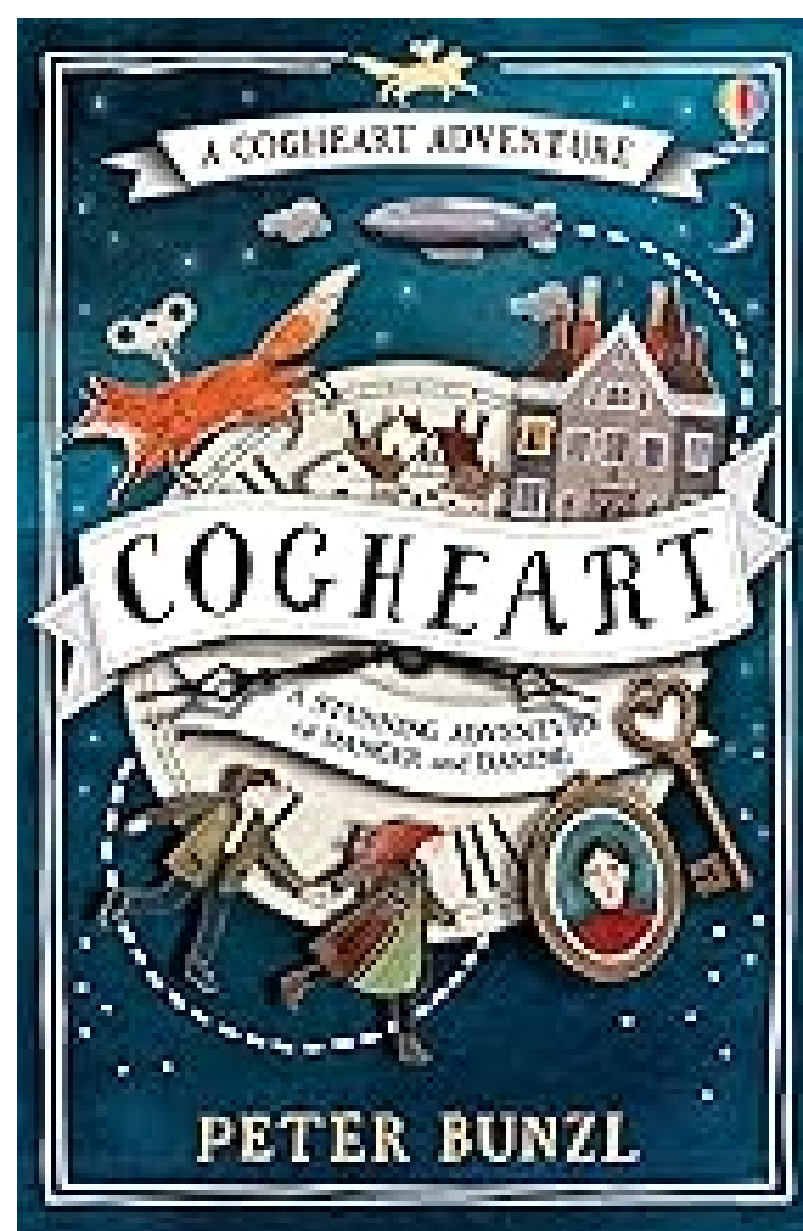
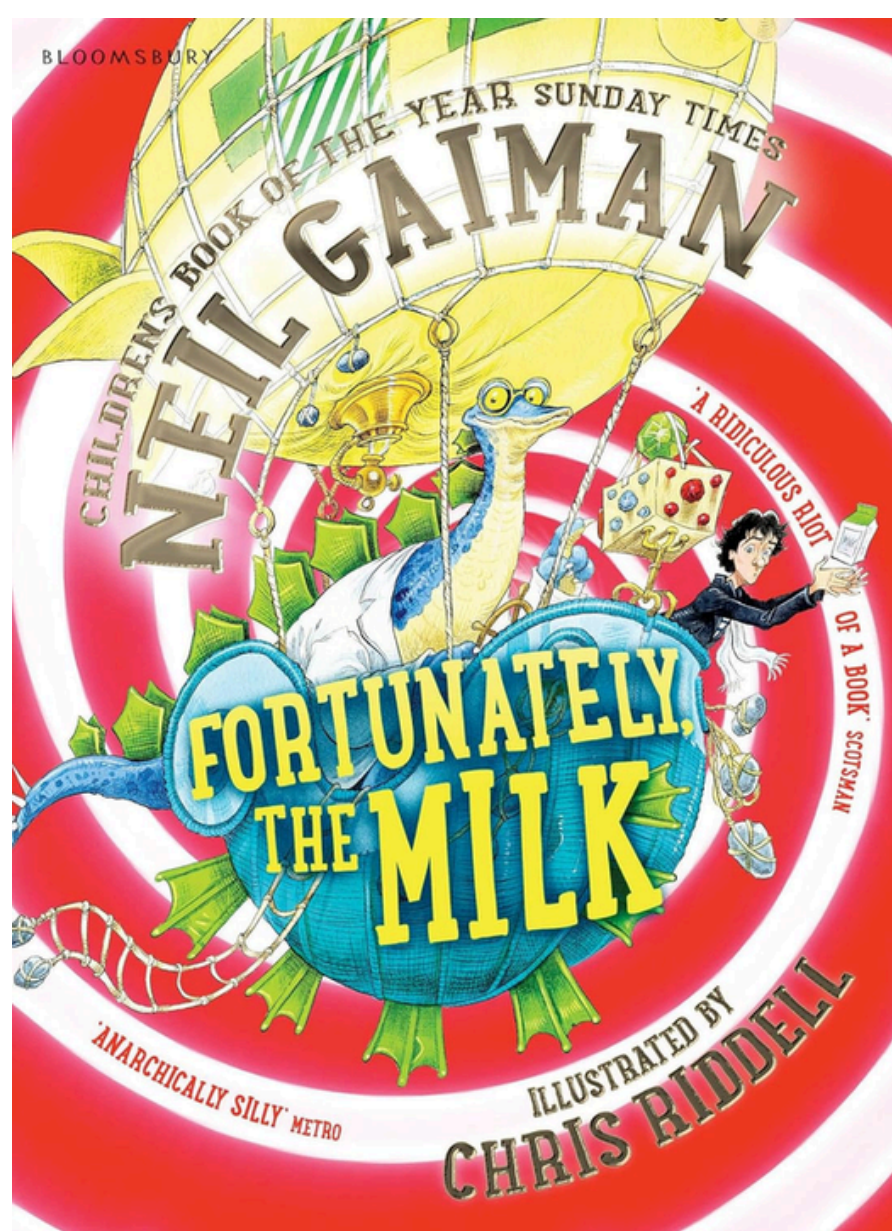
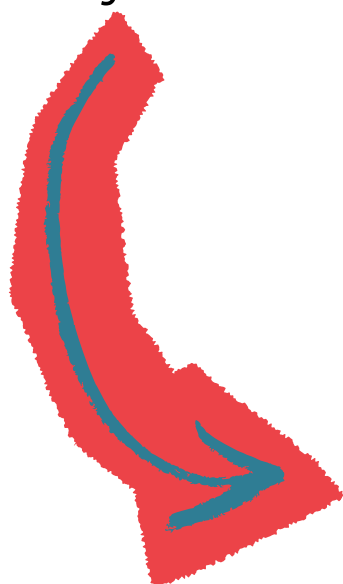
To make the process even more special, all ambassadors were tasked with designing a badge that they can wear as they carry out their responsibilities, and then the children voted for their favourite. Wilf's creative design was chosen and has now been made into the official badge for the team. Their creativity, leadership and enthusiasm continue to strengthen our reading community at our school, where reading is a priority.





This term, a handful of children were chosen to participate in Silver Stories, an initiative where pupils regularly read stories aloud over the phone to an adult, helping to build their confidence, fluency and love of reading. At the same time, the older adults enjoy the conversation and the pleasure of being read to.

Our year 4 readers read **Fortunately, the Milk** by Neil Gaiman: a story that describes the adventure of a dad who pops out to buy milk for his children's breakfast, but takes a very, very long time to return. When he finally comes back, he explains his extraordinary adventure involving aliens, "wumpires" and dinosaurs.



In year 6, our pupils looked at **Cogheart** by Peter Bunzl which follows the story of Lily Hartman, whose inventor father mysteriously disappears after an accident. Lily sets out to uncover the truth, helped by her loyal mechanical fox, Malkin, and her friend Robert.





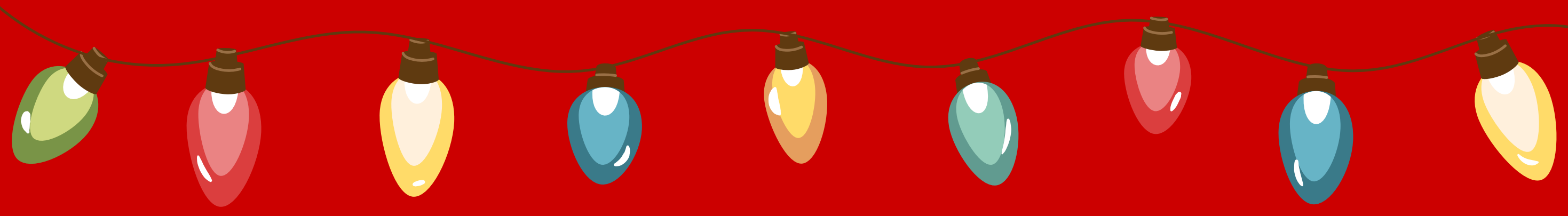
BOOK CORNER

Advent Calendar



To get into the festive spirit, along with Christmas productions and carol singing, our school have taken part in a book advent calendar. The children have been absolutely delighted as they take part in our advent book-unwrapping tradition. Each morning, excitement fills the classroom as one student is chosen to unwrap a mystery book, some gifted by their class elf. These books could be anything from the ever-popular graphic novel, Bunny vs Monkey, to chapter books like the Christmassauris by Tom Fletcher, to popular non-fiction like The Guinness Book of World Record 2026. The joy on their faces - along with the eager guesses from their classmates - has made this simple ritual a highlight of our school day. Once unwrapped, the new book is added proudly to the class bookshelf, where it becomes part of the class's growing collection. The children love exploring these fresh stories together, and the anticipation of what tomorrow's book might be keeps their enthusiasm high. This activity has not only encouraged a love for reading but has also created a wonderful sense of community in the classroom, where children can share the books that have been unwrapped that week, during Freedom Friday lessons in Guided Reading.





CHRISTMAS READING CHALLENGE

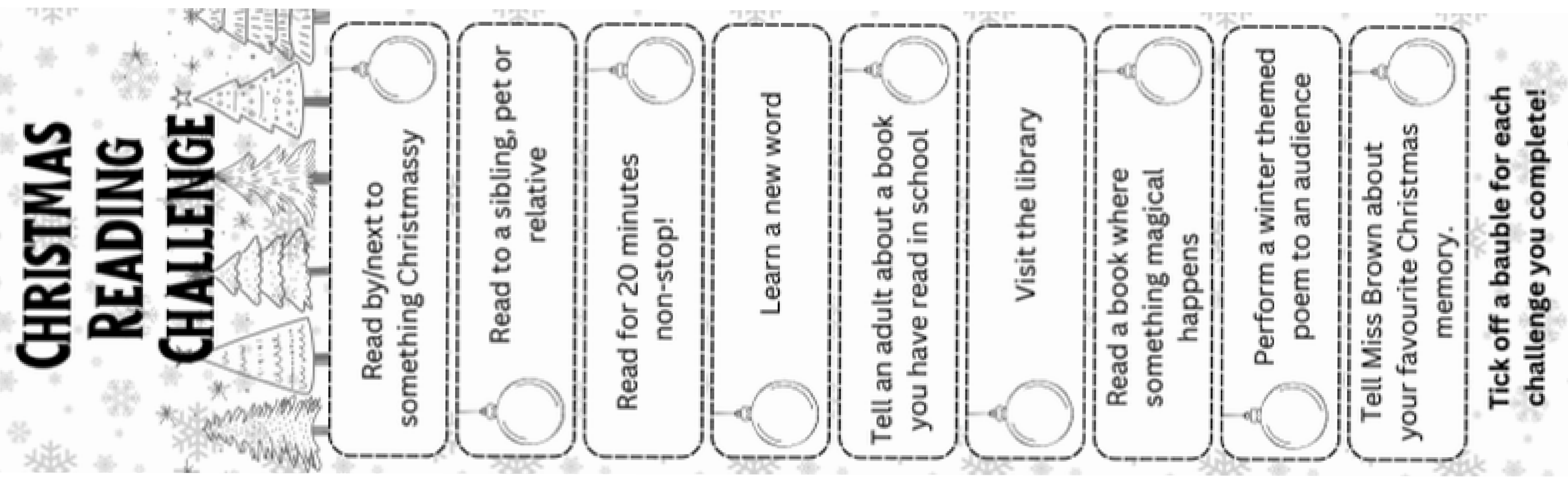
Get ready for our Christmas Reading Challenge!

Over the Christmas holidays, we encourage everyone to read as much as they can and record their reading on Boomreader or in their reading record. The class in lowers and the class in uppers that complete the most reading will win the chance to choose a fun prize, like a pajama day or a movie afternoon.

Happy reading!



HAVE A GO AT THE READING CHALLENGE BOOKMARK! SHOW MISS BROWN A COMPLETE BOOKMARK FOR A CHANCE OF WINNING A BOOK VOUCHER!



5V BOOK CLUB

In 5V, some children have started their own book club.

They chose the book **Frankie's World** by Aoife Dooley and set up rules and discussion points for their book club. They agree how many chapters need to be read and then during Freedom Friday, they meet to discuss the book, the parts they like and what they think will happen next.

The next book they will be reading is **The Midnight Guardians** by Ross Montgomery



Finally, I would like to let you know about the National Year of Reading 2026.

The National Literacy Trust, in partnership with the Department for Education, unveiled “Go All In” as the brand identity for the National Year of Reading 2026, a landmark campaign to reignite a nationwide passion for reading.

We will let you know more information on how this will be implemented in school next term.

Wishing you all happy reading over the Christmas holidays!

Miss Brown.

