

National Year of Reading 2026

Going All In on Reading at Aston Rowant School

Reading expands our world and sharpens our minds -yet nationally, fewer people are finding time to read for pleasure. In response, the Department for Education has launched the National Year of Reading 2026, the biggest reading campaign in a generation, designed to help people of all ages (re)discover the joy of reading and make it part of everyday life.

At Aston Rowant School we are proud to be fully embracing this national focus and inviting our whole school community to 'Go All In' on reading throughout 2026.

Why Reading Matters

Reading is far more than decoding words on a page. It is a powerful way to:

- Explore interests and passions
- Build knowledge and vocabulary
- Develop empathy and understanding of the world
- Relax, escape and connect with others

Reading helps children (and adults!) to build on the hobbies and activities they already enjoy - from sport, music and fashion to food, gaming, films and science-fiction. It can be deeply personal, but it can also be social, sparking conversations, shared experiences and a lifelong love of learning.

Reading in All Its Forms

We celebrate reading in all its forms. While printed books remain hugely important, today's readers also discover powerful stories and information through:

- Graphic novels and comics
- Audiobooks and podcasts
- E-books and online stories
- News articles, sports reports, song lyrics and fan fiction

We recognise that many children and adults who may not see themselves as "readers" are already engaging meaningfully with texts every day — and that **all of this counts**.

Our aim is to help everyone find formats, genres and topics that spark curiosity and enjoyment.

Growing a Reading Community

During 2026, we want to fuel the curiosity of not just our children, but our entire school community. We are encouraging families, carers and staff to explore new texts, rediscover old favourites and share their reading journeys together.

By building reading into everyday routines and interests, we aim to:

- Reignite a love of reading
- Strengthen home-school partnerships
- Support language development and wellbeing
- Grow together as a reading community

Reading Missions Calendar

As part of the National Year of Reading, BookTrust has created a Reading Missions Calendar to help children find joy in stories throughout the year. We will be sharing this in our newsletter each month.

- Each month includes a new reading challenge or prompt
- Children can record favourite books they read during the year
- The calendar is shared via the school newsletter and monthly themes will be highlighted
- The calendar and suggested book lists are also available on the BookTrust website

We encourage families to join in and see how many missions you can complete together!

Reading Missions Highlights

- January – *Read a book that makes you laugh*
(See our recommended funny book lists)
- February – *Tell someone about a book you love*
What makes it special? Why would you recommend it?
- March Mammoth Read
 - EYFS: 10+ pages
 - KS1: 50 pages
 - Lower KS2: 200 pages
 - Upper KS2: 500+ pages
- April – *Read a book because you love its pictures*
 - Explore wordless picture books
 - Picture books for ages 7+
 - Graphic novels for different age groups
 - Chapter books with colour illustrations

A Lovely Opportunity for Book-Loving Families

We are also pleased to share a wonderful local opportunity for families who love books.

66 Books is a well-established UK book wholesaler that opens to the public two weekends each month. With thousands of children's and adult titles available at heavily discounted prices, it is a fantastic place to browse, discover new favourites and enjoy time together around books.

- No booking required
- Annual membership: £2 per household
- Open to individuals and families
- A great way to build a home library

Find out more here: **66 Books**

Reading Together in 2026

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a celebration - not of *how well* we read, but of how much joy reading can bring.

We invite everyone in our school community to:

- Try something new
- Revisit old favourites
- Share stories and recommendations
- Make time for reading in everyday life

Together, let's **Go All In on Reading** and grow a shared love of books, stories and ideas.