

## World Book Day 2025 – Celebrating Our Heroes, Our Villains and Our Love of Reading

World Book Day 2025 was a vibrant and joyful celebration of reading, imagination and identity across our whole school. This year, our theme invited pupils to come dressed as a literary hero or villain, encouraging them to think about characters who inspire, entertain or challenge us. From the moment the doors opened, the corridors filled with courageous capes, menacing masks and colourful creations as children proudly shared the stories behind their chosen characters.

We welcomed Miss Trunchbull, Matilda, The Highway Rat, Fantastic Mr Fox, The White Witch, The Evil Pea, Queen Esther (Mrs France's favourite Biblical hero!) and many more. The remarkable range of costumes demonstrated not only creativity at home, but also how deeply children connect with books and the characters they encounter.

### A Day Full of Enrichment, Creativity and Collaboration

Our World Book Day activities were designed to deepen pupils' engagement with storytelling while developing key English skills, creativity and teamwork. After time in their classes, children worked in their House teams, supporting mixed-age collaboration and encouraging pupils to learn from and alongside one another. This structure allowed younger children to feel guided and supported, while older pupils demonstrated leadership, empathy and responsibility.

Across the day, children took part in a rich carousel of activities linked to our Heroes and Villains theme:

#### Top Trumps Character Design

Pupils designed their own hero or villain Top Trumps cards, thinking carefully about:

- character strengths and weaknesses
- special qualities or powers
- personality traits and motivations

This task strengthened vocabulary, inference skills and an understanding of characterisation.

#### Pupil Voice:

- *"Mine is the strongest hero ever... but also a tiny bit scared of spiders!"*
- *"Top Trumps are fun because you have to think about what makes someone a hero or a villain."*

#### Comic Strip Creations

Children created action-packed comic strips inspired by their favourite stories. They experimented with:

- sequencing
- dialogue
- dramatic action words
- expressive illustrations

This supported both writing and art within a meaningful, story-rich context.

#### Pupil Voice:

- *"Drawing comics is like being the illustrator and the author at the same time."*
- *"My villain fell in a hole but came back in the last box - villains always return!"*

#### Superhero Art Studio

Pupils explored what makes someone heroic, designing bold, expressive superhero art complete with logos, costumes, powers and backstories.

#### Pupil Voice:

- *"My hero helps animals - that's their superpower."*
- *"I made myself as a superhero. My power is kindness!"*

#### The Masked Reader Returns

One of the highlights of the day was the return of our much-loved Masked Reader activity. Staff - and some wonderfully brave parents - read stories while disguised behind creative masks, leaving children to guess who was behind the voice. The excitement, laughter and detective-level whispering added a fabulous energy to the day. Parents have been invited to volunteer again, helping us grow this tradition year on year.

### **Pupil Voice:**

- *“I KNEW Masked Reader 3 was Mrs Healy!”*
- *“I hope we do Masked Reader forever - it’s the best thing ever!”*

### **Sharing Stories Through Generosity**

To round off the day, pupils were encouraged to bring in a book they had enjoyed and were ready to pass on. This created a joyful book-swap, where children recommended stories to one another, discovered new authors, and went home with something fresh to read.

This simple activity supported:

- reading for pleasure
- peer-to-peer recommendation
- widening access to books
- building a community of readers

### **What the Day Meant to Us**

Throughout the celebrations, children demonstrated deep thinking about what makes a hero or a villain, how characters shape stories, and how books help us understand courage, kindness, choices and consequences.

Their reflections captured the heart of the day:

- *“Heroes don’t always wear capes - some are in books and some are in real life.”*
- *“Villains are fun to act as because they’re dramatic!”*
- *“Queen Esther is my favourite hero because she made a difference to her people.”*
- *“Heroes help others. Villains help themselves. That’s how you can tell the difference.”*

World Book Day 2025 filled our school with imagination, laughter and pride. It reminded us that stories help shape who we are, who we admire, and who we aspire to become. Most importantly, it strengthened our commitment to reading for pleasure, creativity, and growing together as a school community.

# Photo Diary of the Week: World Book Day



**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**  
 Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)