



Hillbourne Primary School

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13th February 2026

Hillbourne Book Week 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

This year, we are delighted to share that Hillbourne Primary School will be taking part in the National Literacy Trust's '**Year of Reading**' initiative. The Year of Reading is a nationwide campaign designed to inspire a lifelong love of books and to support children in developing the reading skills that open doors to learning, creativity and future opportunities. Throughout 2026, schools and families across the country will be celebrating reading in all its forms, and we are excited to weave this focus into our own Book Week, starting on **Monday 2nd March**. By spotlighting reading for pleasure, we hope to encourage every child to discover stories that motivate, engage and empower them. Below is an outline of the activities we will be doing to celebrate book week this year.

Family Reading Breakfast

On **Wednesday 4th March** we would like to invite you to our Family Reading Breakfast between 8:00am and 8:30am in the school hall. Please join us for a light breakfast (toast, orange juice and hot drinks) where you can sit and enjoy reading a book with your child. If you would like to attend, please sign up via the MCAS app, under Trips 'Family Reading Breakfast' **by Friday 27th February**.

Book Shops

We are very fortunate this year to have two exciting book-browsing opportunities for our pupils. Twin Oaks have received a large number of the official World Book Day books, and they have invited our pupils to visit them between **Monday 2nd March and Wednesday 4th March** to choose one to take home and keep. Each class will be allocated a time slot across the three days to ensure all children can enjoy the experience. A huge thank you to Twin Oaks for thinking of us.

In addition, on **World Book Day**, we will be setting up a special **Second-Hand Book Shop in the music room**. Each class will have the chance to come in, browse the selection, and choose a book to take home and keep.

We hope these opportunities will help spark excitement and a love of reading throughout the school.



Wates Book Club

Katherine and Lisa from Wates will be joining us on **Wednesday 4th March**. They will be spending the day in school delivering engaging reading sessions for every class, giving children the chance to enjoy stories in a new and exciting way. They will also be bringing along a wonderful selection of construction-themed children's books, which pupils can explore. We are very grateful to Wates for supporting our Book Week celebrations and helping us continue to foster a love of reading across the school.

Dress Up as book characters

On **Thursday 5th March**, all children and staff are invited to dress up as any character from a book of their choice.

To support families with this, the Heart of Hillbourne PTA will be running a stall with small selection of new fancy dress costumes during the first week back starting on Monday 23rd February at 3:15. There will be further dates following this which will be confirmed after half term. Children are able to choose a costume (1 costume per child) in return for a small donation. All donations will go directly towards supporting Hillbourne pupils.

We will all take to the catwalk and show off our costumes in the hall at 2:30pm. Parents are invited to watch this spectacular event; please arrive at school for 2:25pm if you would like to join us. We are looking forward to seeing all of the children's costumes on the day.

Drop Everything and Read

We will be ringing a bell at various times through the week, and when children hear the bell they are going to drop whatever they are doing and pick up a book to read, or listen to a story from an adult. This is always a popular activity, and the children love the opportunity to read or listen to a book at different points in the day.

Competition – Read for Fun with a Buddy

We are inviting pupils to send in a photograph of themselves enjoying a book alongside a reading buddy of their choice. This could be a pet, a sibling, a teddy, or anyone else they think would make reading even more enjoyable.

Please bring in or email a photograph as a competition entry by **Monday 9th March** at the latest and we will choose winners across different age groups to receive a new book of their choice as their prize. Emails to be sent to office@hillbourne.poole.sch.uk.

Book Tokens

As with previous years, we are delighted to announce that the £1 book vouchers will also be given to every child during book week. This voucher can be redeemed in supermarkets and other book sellers and exchanged for one of the World Book Day book. Below are the special £1 books which have been released this year. Please find further information about the tokens here: [£1/€1.50 Books and Tokens - World Book Day](#)





We are really looking forward to celebrating Hillbourne Book Week this year, and we hope the children enjoy it too.

Yours sincerely,

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Natasha Guarguaglini
Deputy Headteacher