



# News from the Nest

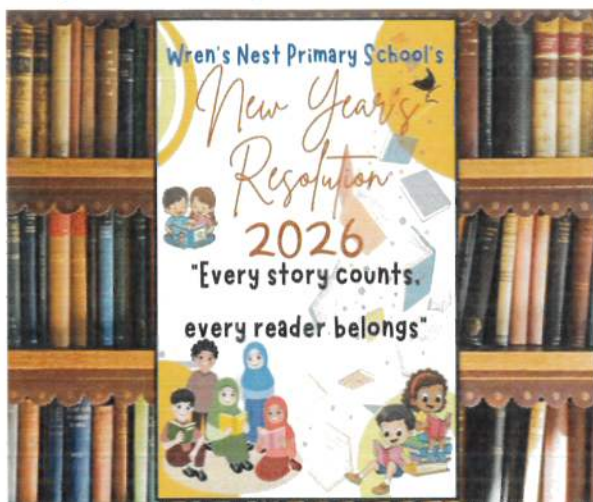
9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers, Children and Families,

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holiday and have had a good start to 2026 and I hope too that you all had many joyful moments and made some special memories that can be cherished with families and friends.



As you are aware, each year, all the staff and children at school make a "Wren's Nest New Year's resolution." We build on this resolution during the course of the year through assemblies and in lessons. This year our resolution will help our children to deepen their knowledge within their education about the world in which they live, and the difference people can make in their own lives and community through creating healthy changes, as well as promoting the love and importance of reading as a key skill in our lives. This starts within the local community and can have a big impact on the wider world. This year, we would like Wren's Nest Primary School and it's community to be noticed again for doing positive things that not only help us to develop academically, but also by using reading as a tool to have happier and healthier lives and minds as well as using it as a way to support others in making more informed choices. This in turn makes our world a better place - starting right here in Dudley - our local community. Our New Year's resolution for 2026 is: **"Every story counts, every reader belongs."**



Yesterday in our assembly, I talked to the children about 'every story counting and every reader belonging' - what it meant, and the importance of it for us here at Wren's Nest. We discussed why reading is so important in everyday life, for now and our futures, including the Department for Education's 'Year of Reading 2026.' We also explored what belonging means and what it looks like in action.

We also discussed the importance of belonging and the different types of groups of people and clubs we can all belong to, should we choose to. We explored the idea that feeling like we belong to something or to a group of people can make us feel happy within ourselves - it supports a positive attitude and world view. This is something I am sure we can all agree is needed in the world right now.

## Why the DfE "Year of Reading 2026" Matters for Children at Wren's Nest Primary

The Department for Education's *Year of Reading 2026* is a powerful national focus designed to celebrate reading and strengthen children's long-term literacy skills. For Wren's Nest Primary, this initiative aligns closely with our core belief that reading is the foundation of every child's learning journey. When children read with confidence, they access the full curriculum, develop richer vocabularies, and grow into imaginative, articulate and independent learners.

Taking part in the Year of Reading gives us an opportunity to deepen our reading culture across the school. It encourages us to bring families, teachers and the wider community together to champion the joy of books. It also allows us to ensure that every child - no matter their background or starting point - has access to high-quality stories, diverse texts, and the support they need to grow as passionate readers.

## Every Story Counts

At Wren's Nest, we recognise that **every story counts because every story shapes a child's understanding of the world.** Stories open doors to new places, new ideas and new possibilities. They inspire curiosity, empathy and creativity.

When we say, "every story counts," we mean:

- Every child deserves to see themselves in a book.
- Every child deserves access to stories that excite and challenge them.
- Every reading experience - whether shared, guided, independent, or aloud - plays a crucial part in building lifelong readers.



This belief underpins the way we choose texts, plan lessons and create memorable reading experiences throughout the school year.

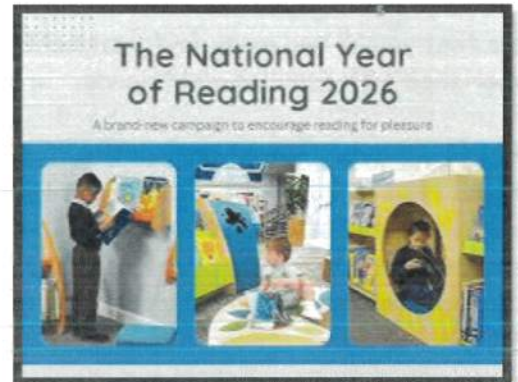
### *I Opened a Book*

"I opened a book and in I strode.  
Now nobody can find me.  
I've left my chair, my house, my road,  
My town and my world behind me.  
I'm wearing the cloak, I've slipped on the ring,  
I've swallowed the magic potion.  
I've fought with a dragon, dined with a king  
And dived in a bottomless ocean.  
I opened a book and made some friends.  
I shared their tears and laughter  
And followed their road with its bumps and bends  
To the happily ever after.  
I finished my book and out I came.  
The cloak can no longer hide me.  
My chair and my house are just the same,  
But I have a book inside me."

— Julia Donaldson

We read a poem written by Julia Donaldson, a famous children's author, which told how books can take you into another world - the world of your imagination - igniting the flame of reading for pleasure and fun.

This is what we are helping your children to do this year as part of our work linked to the DfE's 'Year of Reading 2026.'



### Every Reader Belongs

Our vision is simple: *every reader belongs at Wren's Nest Primary*. Reading should never feel exclusive or intimidating. Instead, we want every child to feel confident, welcomed and valued as a reader, regardless of their ability or stage of learning.

To us, 'every reader belongs' means:

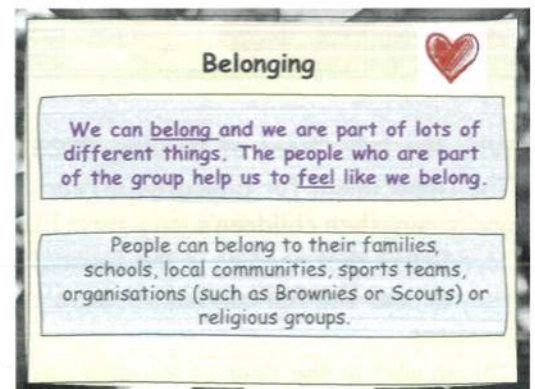
- ❖ Creating inclusive reading environments where all children feel successful.
- ❖ Ensuring children have access to books that reflect their identities, cultures, interests, and experiences.
- ❖ Making reading a social, shared experience that connects children with each other and with adults who model a love of reading.
- ❖ Removing barriers so that children who find reading difficult can still enjoy books and feel proud of their progress.

We looked at examples of this, including how we can be accepting and welcoming towards others including those from different backgrounds and cultures, remembering the importance of treating others the way we wish to be treated, despite the differences we may have, in addition to maintaining respect for others, animals and our environment, as well as showing tolerance for other people's views, opinions and differences, even if they are different to our own - all through our New Year's resolution for 2026.

This then promoted conversation about wanting to make all people feel welcome and accepted who visit Wren's Nest and becoming advocates of belonging, making a difference in the world by doing and saying good things - starting locally.

We explored what we could do as a school, as well as in our homes, to 'make every story count and every reader belong', however small our action. We discussed ideas such as creating an environment where everyone feels like they have a voice that is heard, and that they feel comfortable and loved for who they are, no matter our differences.

"Every reader counts, every story belongs" reflects our commitment to ensuring all children develop as confident, enthusiastic readers, regardless of their background or starting point. It aligns with the DfE's 2026 Year of Reading by promoting high-quality reading provision, strong home-school partnerships and a culture where reading for pleasure is valued. By recognising that every child brings their own experiences and identity, we celebrate diversity and ensure that all pupils see themselves represented in the texts they encounter.



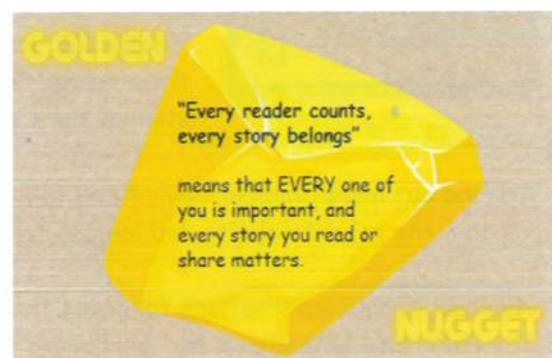


This inclusive approach supports Ofsted's focus on equity, accessibility and ambitious reading provision for all learners, ensuring that every child feels valued, included and empowered through the stories they read and share.

"Every reader counts, every story belongs" means that EVERY ONE of you is important, and every story you read or share matters.

It reminds us that:

- Everyone can be a brilliant reader, no matter where you start.
- Reading is something we do together at school and at home.
- We want you to enjoy stories and feel excited to read.
- The books we choose help you see people who look like you, think like you, and live like you — and also people who are different, so you can learn new things.



Most of all, it means that *you belong in our reading community*, and your voice and your stories are special.

### Bringing It All Together

By embracing the *Year of Reading 2026* alongside our commitment that *every story counts* and *every reader belongs*, Wren's Nest Primary is strengthening a culture where reading is celebrated, valued, and accessible to all. This joined-up approach supports our long-term vision: to nurture confident learners who read with enjoyment, purpose, and pride.

### How does it work?

#### Book Bingo!

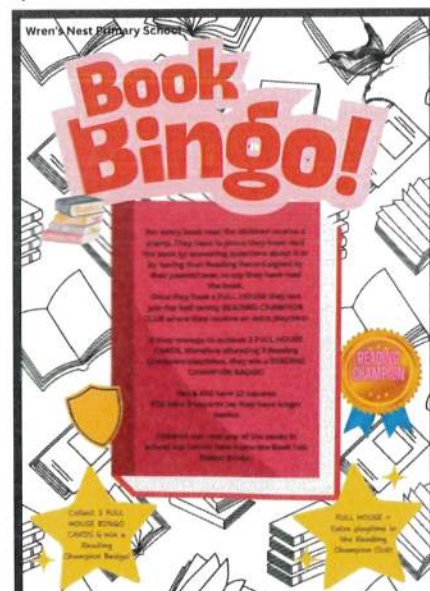
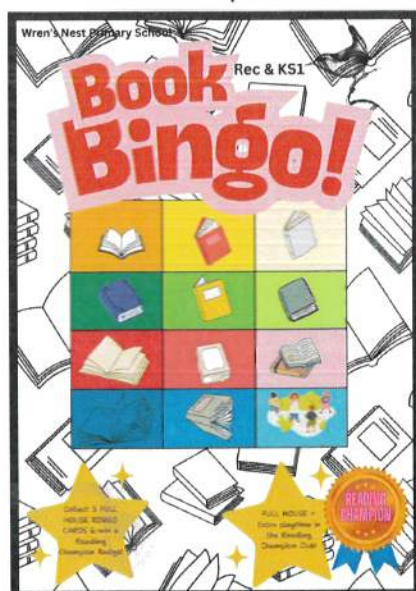
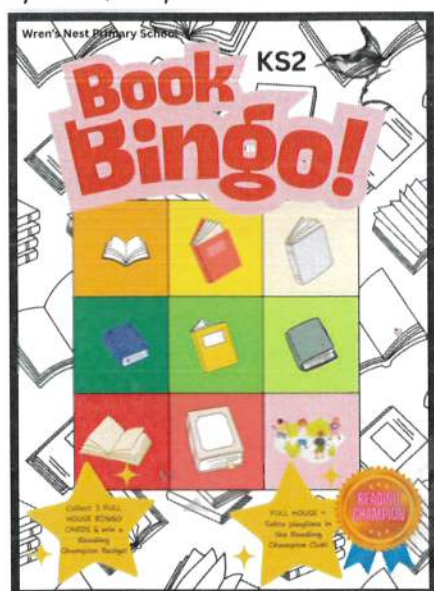
We are relaunching our Book Bingo, but with a few changes. Each child will have a Book Bingo Card which will be kept at school in the children's reading folder.

For every book read the children receive a gold star stamp (Rec & KS1 have 12 squares, KS2 have 9 squares, as they have longer books).

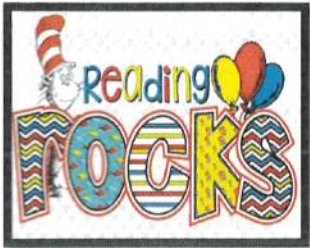
They have to prove they have read the book by answering questions about it or by having their Reading Record signed by their parent, carer or family member, to say they have read the book.

Once they have a FULL HOUSE they can join the half-termly READING CHAMPION CLUB where they receive an extra special playtime and Reading Champion certificate!

If they manage to achieve three FULL HOUSE CARDS, therefore attending three Reading Champion extra special playtimes, they win a READING CHAMPION BADGE! They will also receive a special certificate and prize!







Over the coming year we will help the children, through lessons, assemblies and our 'Book Bingo', to explore a wide variety of texts they can enjoy and then critique which will aid them in their reading for pleasure.

We would love you to help us achieve our New Year's resolution.

Please can you support us and your child by reading with them at home, asking them about the books they are reading as part of their 'Book Bingo' and the stories they have heard at school.

To find out more, you can revisit and talk about this assembly with your child by visiting the school website and looking for this icon.

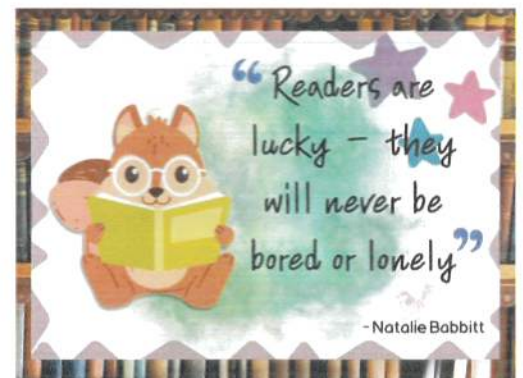


Already, from conversations following the assembly, I have been very impressed with the children's enthusiasm and willingness to make small changes within their reading habits as well as in being ambassadors for belonging, in order to help each other develop academically, socially and morally - in the local community and our wider world.

Over the coming year we will help the children, through lessons, assemblies as well as our pledge for every story to count and every reader to belong, develop a deeper understanding of why reading is such an important life skill as well as what we can do, however small, to be the change we want to see in the local community environment and across the world for our future generations.

Our Pupil Parliament will continue to debate and discuss ideas shared by children across the school, and they will then share these ideas and thoughts with you as the families of the wider school community.

We would love you to help us achieve our New Year's resolution. Look out for regular updates on how you can help your child/ren in the home, as well as in school to 'make very story count and every reader belong' here at Wren's Nest.



Here's to celebrating reading as well as belonging for our community in 2026!

As always, take care,

Mrs Sarah Parkes - Headteacher

Useful Contacts:  
School Website:  
[www.wrens-nest.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.wrens-nest.dudley.sch.uk)

School Email:  
[info@wrens-nest.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@wrens-nest.dudley.sch.uk)

School Mobile numbers:  
School Mobile 1: 07512 439847  
School Mobile 2: 07856 674181



## Holiday Dates



### Half Term:

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February.  
Children return to school after Half Term on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

### Easter Holidays:

Break up from school on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Start of Summer Term: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Parents' Evening:

### Advance notice:

Parents' Evening will continue to be held over two evenings with an appointment system being operated on the following dates:

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** - Y1, 2, 3, Rainbow Room and Little Stars.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March** - Y4, 5, 6 and Shooting Stars.

Your class teacher will provide you with an appointment slip.

Early Years - staff will talk to you about your appointment times.

## Had a new phone for Christmas?

If you do have a new mobile phone number, please remember to let the school office have your new contact number. Thank you.



## New courses starting this term!



Look out information flyers we will be sending out informing you of a range of courses and events that are continuing into 2026 at Wren's Nest. We are extremely proud of the high-quality training and opportunities that we offer to our families and members of the local community.

Why not come and join us!

### Advance Notice!

#### May Day Bank Holiday:

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

#### Key Stage 2 SATs week:

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

#### Year 4 Multiplication tests:

Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026  
(3 week period)

#### Year 1 Phonics Screening Check week:

Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### Christmas Grand Draw and Christmas Market!

Thank you so much for all of your support with this. We, as a school community, raised £6,000! How amazing! This money will be spent on curriculum resources to support the love of learning across the curriculum here at Wren's Nest.

## Snow!



Hopefully, we have missed our share of cold, icy weather this Winter! However, January and February are the two months when statistically we are most likely to get snow. At Wren's Nest, we always do our best to ensure school can stay open, providing we can do it safely for our children, families and staff.

If we ever have to close due to heavy snow (and we do try to stay open if it is safe to do so) we will post a notice on the front page of our school website:

[www.wrens-nest.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.wrens-nest.dudley.sch.uk)

and



We will also post on our Twitter Page:

<https://twitter.com/wrensneatschool>



**Y6 SAT National tests**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**All Y6 MUST be in school during this week - please do not book holidays during this time.**

**Thank you.**