

Reading Spine

Updated December 2022



Our reading spine is a core list of books which children will experience as they move through our school. These essential reads for each year group ensure children experience a breadth of literature and different genres. The books may be read aloud to children as part of the daily read, form part of their reading comprehension work or be the basis for a writing unit or topic work.

We aim to engage every child with a selection of picture books, illustrated fiction, chapter books and non-fiction

In his book 'Reading Reconsidered', Doug Lemov points out that there are five types of text that children should have access to in order to successfully navigate reading with confidence. We have used his five types of text as a basis for our reading spine.

Archaic Texts - books written include vocabulary, syntax and contexts which are of an earlier period. These include classic children's literature.

Non-Linear Time Sequences - In these books children may experience changes in the direction of time e.g. flashbacks, or in the rate of time elapsing; a narrative slows down suddenly or leaps ahead.

Complexity of the Narrator - books narrated by an unreliable narrator, or those with multiple narrators. Others have non-human narrators

Complexity of Plot - books which may have multiple intertwined and apparently (for a time) unrelated plot lines.

Resistant Texts - where the material to be difficult to understand, to deliberately resist easy meaning-making by readers.

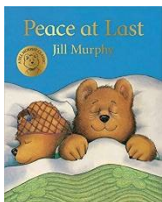

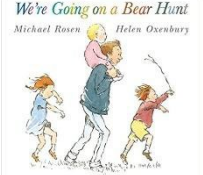
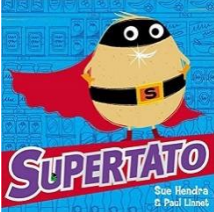

As well as the five text types noted above, we have also ensured children at WRPS will read books which reflect the diversity of our society, those books with Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic characters and those which encourage children to explore inclusivity and difference.

Pie Corbett says...

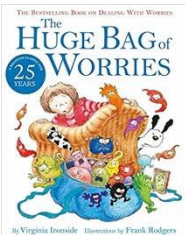

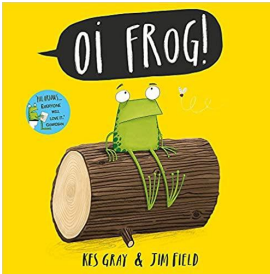
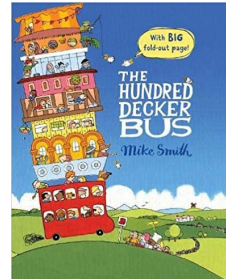
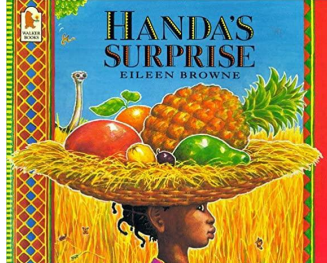
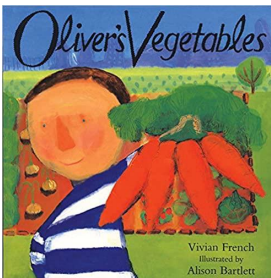
'Great books build the imagination. The more we read aloud expressively, and the more children are able to savour, discuss and reinterpret literature through the arts, the more memorable the characters, places and events become, building an inner world. A child who is read to will have an inner kingdom of unicorns, talking spiders and a knife that cuts into other worlds. The mind is like a 'tardis'; it may seem small but inside there are many mansions. Each great book develops the imagination and equips the reader with language.

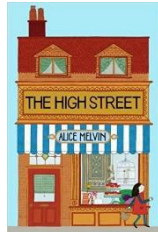

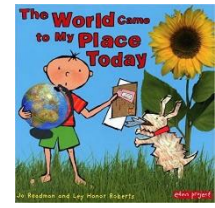
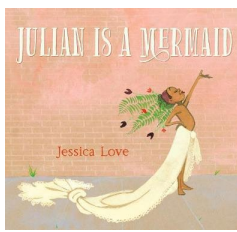
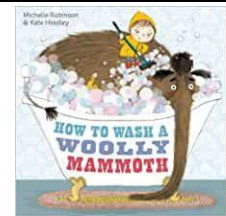
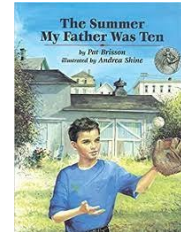
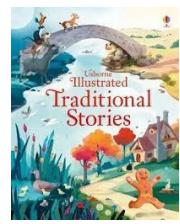
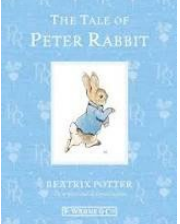
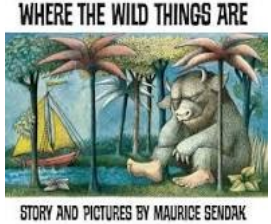
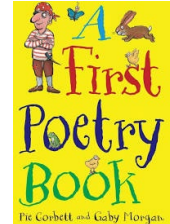
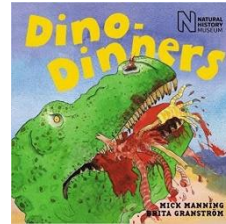
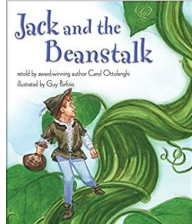
Great stories speak to us as individuals and some children will return to certain books again and again. Great stories also build our language because around 75 per cent of our vocabulary comes from our reading. Reading develops the ability to think in the abstract; to follow lines of thought. Schools that have a reading spine, build a common bank of stories that bind the community together. These are shared and deeply imagined common experiences'.

Reading Spine - Updated December 2022

EYFS					
Autumn	Spring		Summer		
 <p>Elmer David McKee</p>	 <p>Dear Zoo Rod Campbell</p>	 <p>The Gruffalo Julia Donaldson</p>	 <p>Juniper Jupiter Lizzy Stewart</p>	 <p>The Hungry Caterpillar Eric Carle</p>	 <p>Nimesh the Adventurer Ranjit Singh</p>
Mutual respect - accepting difference	Early prediction skills, repetition (joining in)	Rhyming text, early prediction	Friendship and valuing what you have	Repetitive structure Developing Vocab	Cultural diversity
 <p>Peace at Last Jill Murphy</p>	 <p>Dear Santa Rod Campbell</p>	 <p>Scaredy Squirrel Melanie Watt</p>	 <p>The Wide-Mouthed Frog Ana Martín Larrañaga</p>	 <p>My Bean Diary Rhonda Jenkins</p>	 <p>Jasper's Beanstalk Nick Butterworth</p>
Repetition. Familiar noises	Prediction, extending vocab	Challenging vocabulary	Traditional fable	Instruction Writing	Vocabulary (days of the week)
 <p>Perfectly Norman Tom Percival</p>	 <p>We're Going on a Bear Hunt Michael Rosen</p>	 <p>Billy the Beast Nadia Shireen</p>	 <p>Supertato Sue Hendra</p>	 <p>My Shadow is Pink Scott Stuart</p>	 <p>Only one you Linda Kranz</p>
Diversity, challenging stereotypes	Rhyming, adventure and learning by heart	Cultural diversity	Develop vocab (fruit and veg), humour	Diversity Exploring stereotypes	Transition Acceptance

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EYFS					
Autumn		Spring		Summer	
 <p>The Huge Bag of Worries Virginia Ironside</p>	 <p>Rama and the Demon King Jessica Souhami</p>	 <p>Oi Frog Kes Gray</p>	 <p>The Hundred Decker Bus Mike Smith</p>	 <p>Handa's Surprise Eileen Browne</p>	 <p>Oliver's Vegetables Vivian French</p>
Overcoming fears and anxieties	Myth, cultural diversity	Rhyme, humour	Transport Topic, humour, develop vocab	Cultural diversity, participation	Vocab (days of the week)

Year 1					
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
 <p>The High Street Alice Melvin</p>	 <p>Naughty Bus Jan and Jerry Oke</p>	 <p>The World Came to My Place Today Jo Readman</p>	 <p>Julian is a Mermaid Jessica Love</p>	 <p>How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth Michelle Robinson</p>	 <p>The Summer My Father Was Ten Pat Brisson</p>
Early prediction	Playful font types that help to show the meaning of words	Awareness of Natural World	Diversity Challenging stereotypes	Instructions - Link to topic	Non linear time sequence Narrative at a level beyond independence
					


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Year 1					
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Illustrated Traditional Stories Sara Gianassi	Various titles Beatrix Potter	Where the Wild Things Are Maurice Sendak	A First Poetry Book Pie Corbett	Dino Dinners Mick Manning	Jack and the Beanstalk Carol Ottolenghi
Traditional tales	Literary heritage Archaic language	Joining in with predictable phrases Complexity of plot	Poetry	Information text beyond independent reading)	Story set in another time or place
 <p>Odd Dog Out Rob Biddulph</p>	 <p>Dogger Shirley Hughes</p>	 <p>The Gingerbread Man Alan McDonald</p>	 <p>Fatou, fetch the Water Neil Griffiths</p>	 <p>Jim Mini Grey</p>	 <p>On the Way Home Jill Murphy</p>
Celebrating difference Exploring diversity	Link to topic Linking to own experiences	Traditional Tale – Links to own Experiences	Cultural Diversity / Traditional Tale – (apostrophes)	Set in another time Archaic language Cautionary tale	Imaginative – themes of love, family and courage
	Shaun the Sheep?		Smoothie making		
			Instructions – links to own experiences		

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Year 2					
Autumn		Spring		Summer	
 <p>Space Boy Leo Landry</p>	 <p>Aesop's Fables</p>	 <p>Tell Me a Dragon Jackie Morris</p>	 <p>My Village: Rhymes from Around the World</p>	 <p>Mr Benn Stories David McKee</p>	 <p>The Emperor's New Clothes Hans Christian Anderson</p>
Link to topic - Fantasy	Archaic text	Lyrical, figurative language	Poetry - Dual language Diversity	Adventure	Archaic Text
 <p>The Ghanaian Goldilocks Dr Tamara Pizzoli</p>	Space Poetry	 <p>Katie Morag Stories Mairi Hedderwick</p>	 <p>Fire Fire Stuart Hill</p>	Animal Poetry	 <p>Benji, the bad day and me Sally J Pla</p>
Cultural retelling	Contemporary poetry, topic link	Emotions and position in community	Historic – 1 st hand account, topic link	Poetry	Neurodiversity
 <p>Space Kids Steve Parker</p>	Space	Fire of London Eye Witness Account	 <p>Tusk Tusk Davis McKee</p>	Animal Facts	 <p>Ruby's Worry Tom's Percival</p>
Topic Link / Information	Non Fiction		Diversity / Acceptance	Information	Transition

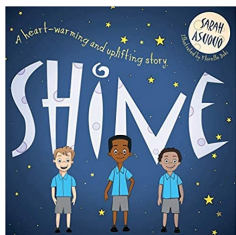
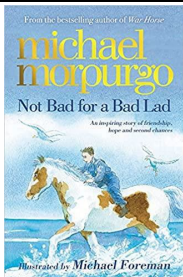
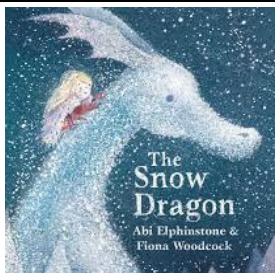
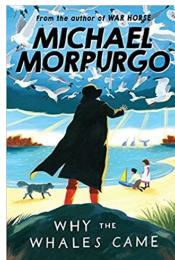
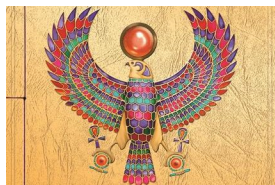

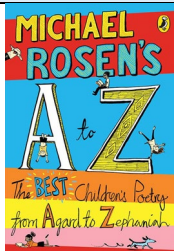
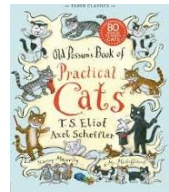
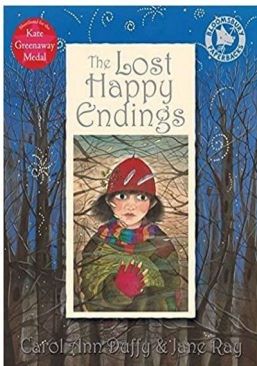
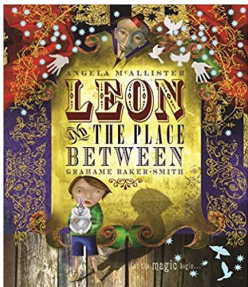

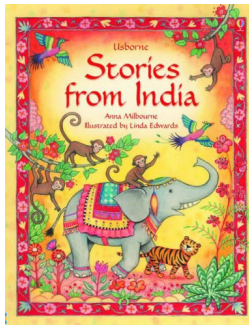
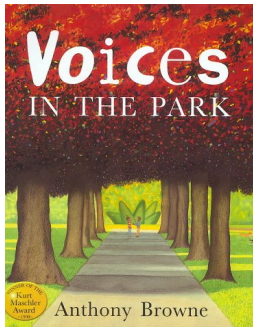
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Year 3					
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
 <p>What's Under the Bed? Mick Manning</p>	 <p>Firework Maker's Daughter Phillip Pullman</p>	 <p>Stone Age Boy Satoshi Kitamura</p>	 <p>The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe CS Lewis</p>	 <p>Bee Boy Tony De Saulles</p>	 <p>The Hodgehog Dick King-Smith</p>
Science Link - information	Longer narrative, adventure, challenging vocab	Adventure, theme of adaptation - topic information	Mythical/Imaginary	Fantasy, factual – supporting topic	Adventure, theme of resilience
 <p>George's Marvellous Medicine Roald Dahl</p>	 <p>Instructions Roald Dahl</p>	 <p>The Boy Who Grew Dragons Andy Shepherd</p>	 <p>Until I met Dudley Roger McGough</p>	 <p>The King of the Birds Helen Ward</p>	<p>Wallace and Gromit</p> <p>Nick Park</p>
Longer Narrative		Theme of Respect and Relationships	Explanation Text	Traditional Tale - lyrical	Adventure Stories - Vocabulary

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Year 3					
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Shape Poetry	Playscripts	 <p>Great Women who changed the world Kate Pankhurst</p>	 <p>Can you see me? Libby Scott</p>	Haikus	 <p>The Koala Who Could Rachel Bright</p>
Poetry		Information text – gender norms	Neurodiversity	Poetry	Transition
		 <p>Spiders. Usborne Rebecca Gilpin</p>	 <p>Aliens Stole my Underpants Brian Moses</p>		
		Non Chronological	Humorous poetry -		

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Year 4					
 <p>Shine Sarah Asuquo</p>	 <p>Not Bad for a Bad Lad Michael Morpurgo</p>	 <p>The Snow Dragon Abi Elphinstone</p>	 <p>Why the Whales Came Michael Morpurgo</p>	 <p>Egyptology Dugald Steer</p>	 <p>Blue John Berlie Doherty</p>
Diversity	Longer narrative – relationships and second chances	Adventure – theme of belonging	Historic Adventure – theme of friendship	Range of Information / Non Chronological	Challenging read / vocab
 <p>A - Z Michael Rosen</p>  <p>Old Possum's book of Practical Cats TS Eliot</p>	 <p>The Lost Happy Endings Carol Ann Duffy</p>	 <p>Leon and the Place Between Angela McAllister</p>	 <p>The Day the Crayons Quit Drew Daywalt</p>	 <p>Rama and Sita Anna Milbourne</p>	 <p>Voices in the Park Anthony Browne</p>
Contemporary and classic poetry	Story endings – classic fairy tales	Mystery – vocab and sentence structure	Supports dialogue	Topic and exploring different culture; Diwali	Complexity of plot


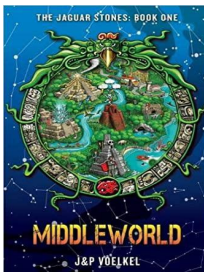
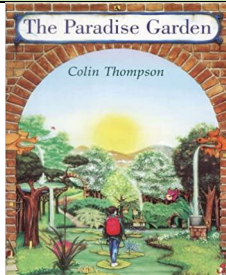



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Year 4					
 <p>Danny the Champion of the World Roald Dahl</p>	 <p>Scarab's Secret Nick Would</p>	 <p>The Tunnel Anthony Browne</p>	 <p>Dreamers Yuyi Morales</p>	 <p>Cloud Tea Monkeys Mal Peet - Elspeth Graham</p>	 <p>Polar Bears Explorers Club Alex Bell</p>
Society; father / son relationships	Historic tale	Explores themes – curiosity, cooperation, between siblings	Diversity / Empowerment	Human rights	Adventure – dynamic dialogue

Autumn - Wodenday's Woes (Diary Writing), Prince Sigurd, the Dragon Fafnir, Lambton Worm - Summer - Biomes information text (Non-chron report)

Year 5					
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
 <p>Fafnir the Dragon Is this right?</p>	 <p>The Boy at the Back of the Class Onjali Q. Rauf</p>	 <p>A Kind of Spark Ellie McNicoll</p>	 <p>The Tear Thief Carol Ann Duffy</p>	 <p>The Highwayman Alfred Noyes</p>	 <p>The Sit-in Andrea Davis Pinkney</p>
Topic Link	Diversity	Neurodiversity	Traditional Tales / Read aloud	Archaic text Narrative poem	Real life events Human rights

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Year 5					
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
 <p>Viking Boy Tony Bradman</p>	 <p>Incredible Edibles Stefan Gates</p>	 <p>Overheard in a Tower Block Joseph Coelho</p>	 <p>Middleworld J and P Voelkel</p>	 <p>The Paradise Garden Colin Thompson</p>	 <p>Thieves of Ostia Caroline Lawrence</p>
Adventure, myths, topic link	Instruction	Contemporary poetry (diversity)	Quest – topic link	Narrative – theme of turbulent home life	Mystery – acceptance of difference
 <p>Bethlehem Carol Ann Duffy</p>	<p>Beowulf (Myths and Legends)</p>	 <p>The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tiler Gene Kemp</p>	 <p>The Chocolate Tree Linda Lawery</p>	 <p>The Blue Giant Katie Cottle</p>	 <p>You Are Awesome Matthew Syed</p>
Poem	Myth / topic link	Local author / setting Twist ending	Topic link - myth	Environmental awareness	Transition

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Year 6					
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
 <p>I Am Cat Jackie Morris</p>	 <p>Cracking Contraptions Derek Smith</p>	 <p>Kensuke's Kingdom Michael Morpurgo</p>	 <p>The Shadow Cage Philippa Pearce</p>	 <p>Boy in the Tower, Polly Ho-Yen</p>	 <p>One small island Alison Lester</p>
Contemporary poetry	Explanation – sentence structure	Adventure, vocab, topic, accepting difference, friendship	Non-linear, complex narrator, mystery, suspense	Narrative – themes of anxiety, isolation, depression	Non fiction picture book Environmental theme
 <p>Who Let the Gods Out Maz Evans</p>	 <p>Darwin's Voyage of Discovery Jake Williams</p>	 <p>The Little Ships Louise Borden</p>	 <p>Range of Non Fiction</p>	 <p>Alice in Wonderland Lewis Carroll</p>	 <p>Up and Travel Blogs Ben Fogle</p>
Humour, topic link, theme of dementia	Historic adventure fiction / information	Topic first person recount	Formal and informal information texts WW2	Archaic Text	Adventure / memoir
 <p>Beowulf (Kevin Crossley-Holland)</p>	 <p>Various Greek Myths and Legends</p>	 <p>My Secret War Diary Marcia Williams</p>	 <p>The Arrival Sean Tan</p>	 <p>Unspoken Henry Cole</p>	
Legend - language / sentence structure.	Legend – archaic language	Topic link	Wordless book – theme of refugees	Wordless picture book Human rights	