

Thringstone Primary School

Reading Spine

“A reading spine is a core of books that create a living library inside a child’s mind. Schools that create a Reading Spine build a common bank of stories that bind the community together.” **Pie Corbett**

Rationale

At Thringstone Primary School, our reading spine is a carefully chosen selection of modern and classic texts that reflect the interests and needs of our children. Our texts have been specifically chosen to broaden the children’s vocabulary, expose them to rich language, provide opportunities for deeper comprehension and inference, expose them to challenging themes and to capture their imagination, inspiring them both as a writer and a reader. We ensure that our children are fed a diet of high-quality texts that model correct sentence structure and grammar as well as ambitious vocabulary and story language. Children are read both stories that they can relate to as well as stories that show them the world beyond their own real-life experiences to build their empathy, tolerance, prior knowledge and cultural capital. The texts in our reading spine have been matched to each year group for their complexity in length, language structure and theme. The reading spine allows the children at Thringstone to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually and socially. At Thringstone, we believe in creating an environment where children read for pleasure and engage in lively discussions about what they have read. Story time is an essential part of every day at Thringstone, and so our reading spine not only lists the texts that the children learn as part of their English lessons, but also a range of class reads that will deepen the children’s understanding of literature with a range of new texts, modern classics and archaic texts which expose our children to rich and broad language structures and vocabulary. The diversity in modern Britain is also reflected in the settings, protagonists and authors in the texts the children read. In shared and guided reading, children are exposed to books and extracts pitched at their reading ability.

Term	Polar Bears	Snow Leopards	Dolphins
Autumn 1	Cinderella of the Nile Stone Age Boy	The Lost Happy Endings The Whale	Grimm Tales for Young and Old Windrush Child
Class read	Anissa, Accidental Detective	A Kind of Spark	Can You See Me?
Autumn 2	The First Drawing The Tin Forest	The story of Mars Rover A Christmas Carol	Holes Romeo & Juliet
Class read	Nothing to see here	The Lion Above the Door	Boy in the Tower
Spring 1	Leon and the Place Between Hello Lighthouse	Man Who Walked Between the Twin Towers The Lost Words	Can we Save the Tiger? Shackleton's Journey
Class read	Grimwood	The Lion Above the Door	High Rise Mystery
Spring 2	Flotsam Cloud Tea Monkeys	Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	The Arrival The Highwayman
Class read	Charlotte's Web	Brand New Boy	All Wound Up
Summer 1	Escape from Pompeii	The Tempest The Odyssey	Rose Blanche
Class read	An Alien in the Jam Factory	Alice in Wonderland	Carrie's War
Summer 2	The Boy Who Grew Dragons	The Odyssey Hidden Figures	
Class read	Fortunately, the Milk	Me, my Dad and the End of the Rainbow	When the Sky Falls