SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

# Reading Spine Overview

*Core texts, wider reading, poetry and non-fiction · Nursery to Year 6 · 2026–27*

*Our Reading Spine balances fiction, non-fiction and poetry, chosen for literary quality and for the way the texts act as mirrors and windows. Progression is informed by Doug Lemov's Five Plagues of the Developing Reader.*

| | Aut 1<br>(8 weeks) | Aut 2<br>(7 weeks) | Spr 1<br>(6 weeks) | Spr 2<br>(5 weeks) | Sum 1<br>(7 weeks) | Sum 2<br>(7 weeks) |
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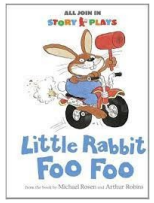
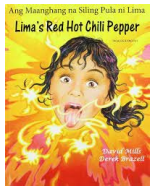
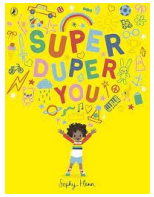
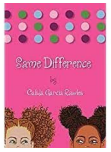
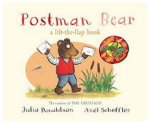
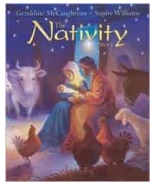
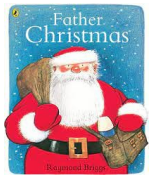
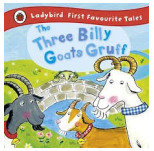
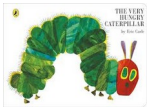
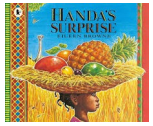
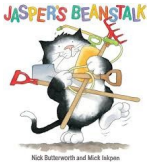
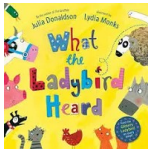
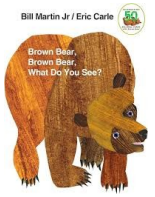
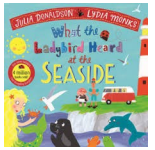
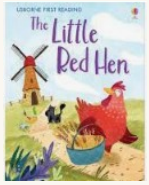
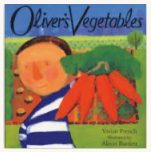
| **Topic Title/Theme** | | | | | | |
| **Nursery** | <br><br><br> | <br><br><br> | <br><br> | <br><br> | <br><br> | <br><br><br> |
| **Reception** |  | Poetry basket - Mice<br>https://helicopterstories.co.uk/lessons/mice/<br>(1 week)<br>We are going on Bear Hunt | Bagpuss story online<br>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpwhohWhrEE<br>(1 week)<br>Lost in the Toy Museum | Little Red Hen<br><br>(2 weeks) | Oliver's Vegetables<br><br>(2 weeks)<br>The Life Cycle of the Frog/duck/chick | Poetry Basket: Thunderstorm<br><br>(1 week) |

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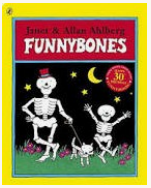
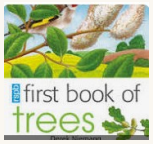
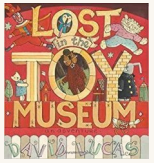
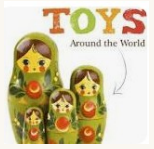
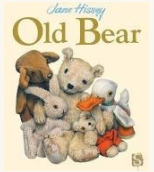
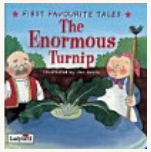
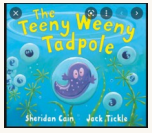
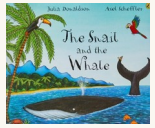
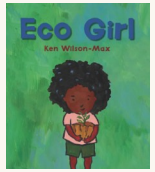
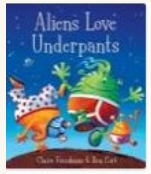
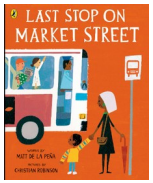
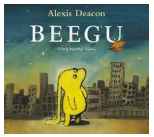
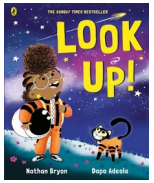
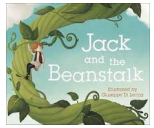
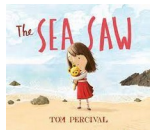
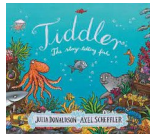
| | <br><br>(2 weeks)<br>Funny bones<br><br>(2 weeks)<br>People Who Help Us<br><br>(2 weeks) | <br>(2 weeks)<br>Stanley's Stick<br><br><br>(2 weeks)<br><br>(2 weeks)<br>Stick Man,Nativity story s, Christmas cards. | <br>(2 weeks)<br>Toys in the past/ Terrific toys (non - fiction)<br><br><br><br><br>(1 week)<br>(EBook, Online story about old toys)<br>Poetry Basket<br>(1 week) | Poetry Basket - Little Seed<br>https://helicopterstories.co.uk/lessons/a-little-house/<br>(1 week)<br>The Enormous Turnip<br><br>(3weeks) | <br><br>(1 week)<br><br>(2 weeks) | <br><br>Planet Earth, Journeys around the Earth<br>(2 weeks)<br><br><br>David Attemborough; Earth and other Planets<br>(2 weeks)<br>Aliens Love Underpants<br> |
| **Year 1** | Whole School Text-<br>Flower Block<br>by Lanisha Butterfield (2 weeks)<br><br>The Gruffalo<br>by Julia Donaldson<br>(5 weeks) | Last Stop on Market Street<br>by Matt de La Pena<br><br>Wider Reading<br>Christmas stories | Beegu by Alex Deacon<br><br>Wider Reading:<br>Look Up by Nathan Bryan<br><br>Astro Girl by Ken Wilson-Max | Billy and the Beast<br>by Nadia Shireen<br><br>Wider Reading<br>Non-Fiction texts:<br>Florence Nightingale by Lucy Lethbridge<br>Hoorah for Mary Seacole by Trish Cooke - non-fiction text | The Extraordinary Gardener<br>by Sam Boughton<br><br><br>Jack and the beanstalk by DK<br>Wider Reading<br>Non Fiction Texts:<br>Broad Bean (Life Cycles) by Angela Royston | The Sea Saw<br>by Tom Percival<br><br>Poet focus<br>In the style of take a deep breath by Joseph Coelho<br>Wider Reading:<br>Tiddler by Julia Donaldson<br> |

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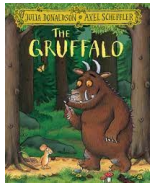
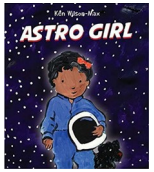
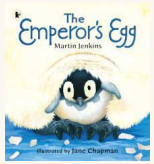
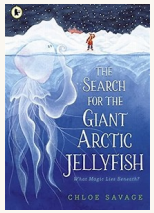
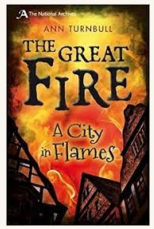
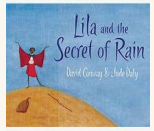
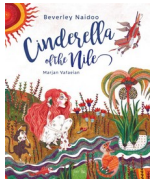
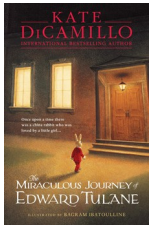
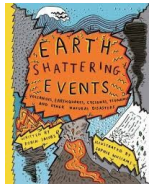
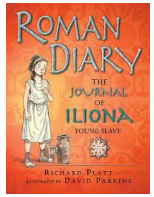
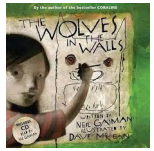
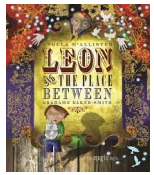
| | <br>Wider Reading<br>Gruffalo Granny | |  | | | |
| **Year 2** | Whole School Text-<br>Flower Block<br>by Lanisha Butterfield (2 weeks)<br><br>The Three Little Pigs (Original<br>By Lucy Farfortl)<br>Wolves : Emily Gravett<br><br>Wider Reading:<br>Flying Free - How Bessie Coleman's Dreams Took Flight by Karyn Parsons- Used for History<br> | The Emperor's Egg<br>by Martin Jenkins<br><br>Wider Reading<br>Non-Fiction Texts:<br>Selection of books on endangered animal species<br>Wider Reading<br>The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish by Chloe Savage<br> | We Are Water Protectors<br>by Carole Lindstrom<br><br>DEAR EARTH by Isabel Otter<br> | The Magic Paintbrush<br>By Julia Donaldson<br><br>Wider Reading:<br>Zeraffa Giraffa by Dianne Hofmeyr<br>The Journey home<br> | The Great Fire – A city in Flames by Ann Turnball<br><br>The Great Fire of London<br>By Emma Adams<br><br>Non-fiction Texts:<br>Selection of Great Fire of London non-fiction books<br>One week: The sound collector: Roger McGough in the style of McGough | The Lion King<br><br>Lila and the Secret of Rain by David Conway<br><br>Wider Reading Non Fiction Texts:<br>Let's Explore Kenya…. By Elle Parkes |
| **Year 3** | Whole School Text-<br>Flower Block<br>by Lanisha Butterfield (2 weeks)<br><br>Non Fiction<br>Skara Brae by Dawn Finch- | Cinderella of the Nile by Beverly Naidoo (3 weeks)<br><br>The Story of Tutankhamun by Patricia Cleveland-Peck (3 weeks) | The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate Di Camillo (4 weeks)<br><br>Film Narratives (The Literacy Shed)<br>The Lighthouse (2 weeks) | Non-Fiction-<br>'Earth-Shattering Events' by Robin Jacobs.<br><br>The Street Beneath My Feet by Charlotte Guillian | The Journal of Illona- A young Slave by Richard Platt (2 weeks)<br><br>Escape from Pompeii - Chrisina Balit (3 weeks) | The Wolves in the Walls by Neil Gaiman (2 weeks)<br><br>Leon and the place between by Angela McAllister- 3 weeks<br> |

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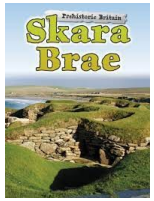
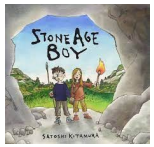
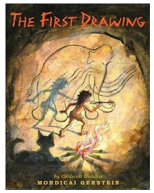
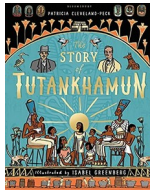
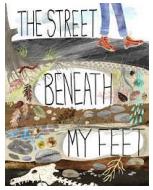
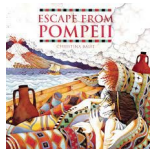
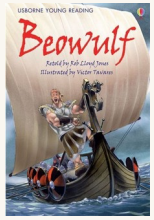
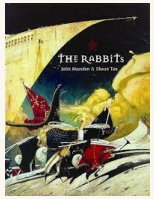
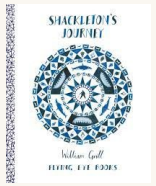
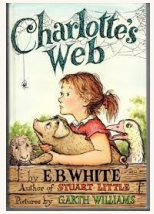
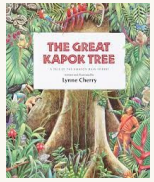
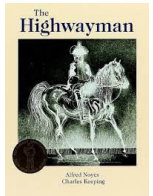
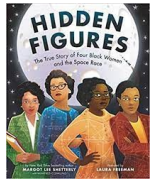
| | <br>Stone Age Boy - Satoshi Kitamura (2 week- Jane Considine unit)<br><br>The First Drawing by Mordicai Gerstein (2 weeks)<br> | <br>Wider Reading:<br>There's a pharaoh in your bath- Jeremy Strong |  | <br>Wider Reading:<br>Pebble in my Pocket by Meredith Hooper<br>Volcanoes and Earthquakes- Kathy Furgang<br>Selection of poems<br>Haiku, Tanka, Acrostic |  | George's Marvellous Medicine<br> |
| **Year 4** | Whole School Text-<br>Flower Block<br>by Lanisha Butterfield (2 weeks)<br><br>Beowulf by Rob Lloyd Jones<br> | The Rabbits by Shaun Tan (2 weeks)<br><br>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis (5 weeks)<br> | Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd-Stanton (2 weeks)<br><br>Shackleton's Journey by William Grill<br>(4 weeks)<br> | The Iron Man by Ted Hughes<br> | Charlotte's Web by E.B White<br> | Cloud Tea Monkeys by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham (3 weeks)<br><br>The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry (2 weeks) Comparison to The Giving Tree<br> |
| **Year 5** | Whole School Text-<br>Flower Block<br>by Lanisha Butterfield (2 weeks)<br> | Children of the Benin Kingdom by Dinah Orji<br>(3/4 weeks) | Shakespeare's Macbeth Graphic Novel<br>Film- Fassbender' Macbeth | The Highwayman (3/4 weeks)<br><br>POETRY - The Malfeasance | Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly(3/4 weeks)<br>Resources links<br> | Film Narrative- Titanic<br>Kaspar, the Prince of Cats by Michael Morpurgo- 4 weeks |

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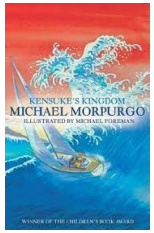
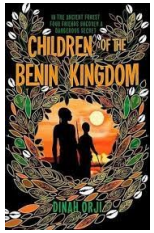
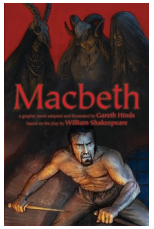
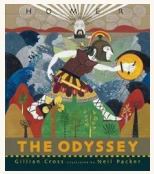
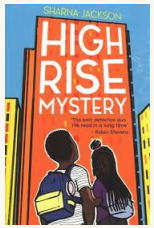
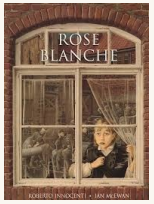
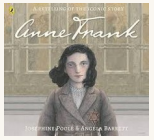
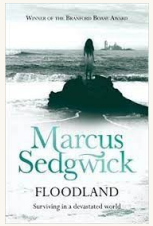
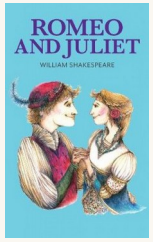
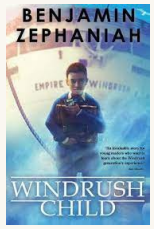
| | Structured poetry- Cinquains<br>Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo - (5 weeks)<br><br> | <br> | <br><br>Wider Reading<br>STS- Sir Francis Drake, Pirate p.132 History Stories<br>Non-fiction<br>Selection of non-fiction books on The Tudors | Jane Considine planning | <br><br>One small Step - film narrative (link to film here)- Jane Considine unit<br>Non-fiction- Earth & Space<br>Author: Leland Melvin<br>Text : Chasing Space<br>STS- Women in Science by Rachel Ignotofsky<br>STS- Apollo 13 p.214 Science Stories<br>Man on the Moon- p.290 History Stories<br>Non-fiction- Victorians<br>Selection of non-fiction books on The Victorians | <br><br>Wider Reading<br>Non-fiction<br>Reports, leaflets, articles and extracts related to the Titanic |
| **Year 6** | Whole School Text-<br>Flower Block<br>by Lanisha Butterfield (2 weeks)<br><br><br>Structured poetry-<br>The Odyssey<br>Gillian Cross (5 weeks)<br><br> | HIgh Rise Mystery<br>by Sharna Jackson- (6 weeks)<br><br> | Rose Blanche<br>by Christophe Gellez and Robert Innocenti<br><br><br>Anne Frank<br>by Josephine Poole and Angela Barratt<br><br> | Floodland<br>by Marcus Sedgwick (Disasters)- (3 weeks)<br><br><br>Wider Reading<br>Shakespeare- Romeo & Juliet- Graphic novel retold by Helen Street -<br><br><br>(Supported by reviewing and analysing the choices made by the director in the film clip of Baz Luhrmann's 1996 version of Romeo and Juliet) | Windrush Child<br>By Benjamin Zephaniah - (4 weeks)<br><br><br>Non-fiction<br>Reports, leaflets, articles and extracts related to the Windrush Generation and Scandal<br>Windrush Child Poem- John Agard<br>On the Move: Poems about Migration- Michael Rosen | The Arrival By Shaun Tan (2 weeks)<br><br><br>End of year production script |