

27th February 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer,

2026 - Year of Reading

2026 has been named as the UK's Year of Reading.

A national campaign has been developed to encourage reading "that fits how we live, not the other way around." At school, we are running a range of activities each month of the year to foster pupils' love of reading and ensure that there is something to read that interests everyone!

February saw the launch of the 'Pal-entines Read Along' (read with a friend) and the opportunity for KS3 students to choose the direction of a story as part of National Storytelling Week.

March will see activities focussed on World Book Day (see below) and recommendations of books linked to 'Women in STEM'.

In addition, there are tips and ideas for how you might encourage your child to read at home on the Year of Reading website - <https://goallin.org.uk/> Useful suggestions include reading alongside your child or asking them to read aloud to younger family members.

The school library website also has a wealth of information, including suggested reading lists, a catalogue of books stocked (by genre) – many of which can be read online, competitions/challenges running in the library and non-fiction databases – useful for research. <http://library.swanshurst.org/>

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2025

Over the next week, students across the school can visit the school library to take part in various competitions to win Recognition Points and prizes. Students in Key Stage 3 will also receive a voucher for a free book as part of the National Book Tokens scheme. The voucher can be used at book shops/supermarkets or swapped directly in the school library for one of the available 'World Book Day' books. (There is a link on pupils' Edulink to a virtual voucher too.)

We very much look forward to working together to develop great readers, writers and speakers of the future and thank you for your support.

If you would like any more information regarding literacy or reading at Swanshurst, please contact your child's pastoral team in the first instance.

Yours Sincerely,



Ruth Bennett
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