

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**The National Year of Reading 2026 @ OAW**

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

You may have seen in the news that 2026 has been titled ‘The National Year of Reading’. The National Year of Reading 2026 invites every school and early years setting to help spark a renewed national love of reading. Over the year, we have got some exciting events planned to reshape how children experience books, seeing reading not as a task but as a vibrant, social and meaningful part of everyday life.

**World Book Day**

**When: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Kicking off the fun is World Book Day. We would like your children to dress up as their favourite book character. We are encouraging children to be as creative as possible and beat their teacher’s (who always dress to impress)! If your child doesn’t enjoy dressing up, there are plenty of characters where they could wear normal clothing and carry a prop e.g. they may dress up as Charlie from the chocolate factory and wear normal clothing and bring a golden ticket. There are lots of ideas on the World Book Day website to help you: <https://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/World-Book-Day-2026-Dressing-up-resource-pack.pdf>

After the half term, we will be sending your child home with their book token to allow you plenty of time to visit the participating books shops and supermarkets and purchase your book.

**Sleepy Storyteller Evening**

**When: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 4:00 – 5:00pm**

Join us for an evening of storytelling as we collaborate with the Lollipop Youth Theatre. Come in your pyjamas and dressing gowns and bring a blanket to cuddle up and share a story together. There will be hot chocolate and tasty treats to purchase, and we will be visited by the Book Fair for the evening. All children need to accompanied by a parent/carer.

<u>Time:</u>	<u>Activity:</u>
<b>4.00pm</b>	Doors open (please enter through the green gate and library doors) Browse the book sale and grab a hot chocolate!
<b>4.10 -4.30pm</b>	First performance. Pick a hall of your choice to watch a story come to life
<b>4.30 -4.40pm</b>	Grab a hot chocolate, explore our library and get cosy for your next performance.
<b>4.40 – 5.00pm</b>	Second performance. Pick a hall of your choice to hear a different story.
<b>5.00pm</b>	Make your way home for a cosy night’s sleep dreaming about the stories you have heard.

We look forward to celebrating the wonderful books that have been created.

Many thanks,  
Miss Chambers

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