



Headteacher's Newsletter



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

5 MARCH 2026

A Week Where Stories Came to Life

This week, Brownhills Ormiston Academy has been filled with imagination and creativity as we celebrated World Book Day. From costumes and poetry to community events and collaborative reading experiences, it has been a joyful reminder of the power of stories to bring people together.

At Brownhills, we know that literacy opens doors. Reading develops the knowledge and confidence our students need to gain the skills, attributes and qualifications to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity. World Book Day is always a highlight of the year because it allows us to celebrate that mission as an entire community.

What stood out most this week was the sense of belonging and enthusiasm across the academy. Students, staff, families and friends of the school all came together to celebrate reading in ways that were both purposeful and joyful. It truly reflected our belief that you are welcome here, you belong here, and we are proud to be part of the Brownhills community.



World Book Day 2026: A True Celebration of Reading

World Book Day itself began with a wonderful display of creativity as staff and students arrived dressed as famous literary characters. The corridors quickly filled with familiar faces from their read aloud books they have enjoyed this academic year.

The day began with a celebration assembly where students heard an extract from Roald Dahl's 'The Way Up to Heaven', sparking curiosity about what happens next in the story. Students were then challenged to continue reading and discover the ending for themselves before enjoying presentations for competition winners.

Activities throughout the day were designed to bring reading to life. Students participated in a Book Choice Bistro, sharing their current reads and recommending books to their peers. It was fantastic to see students discussing literature with such enthusiasm and encouraging one another to explore new stories.



It's been a great day and it is so much better than I remember any World Book Day before that I've experienced. My favourite activity was the Book Choice Bistro because it gave us an opportunity to talk about what we're reading and get advice from other students about recommended books. **Alfie, Year 9**



Moments like these are exactly what we hope to achieve. Students sharing ideas about their favourite books to inspire others and discovering the joy of reading together.



Poetry, Journalism and Brilliant Young Writers

Later in the day, students turned their attention to creative writing inspired by the texts they have been studying with their tutors.

Year 7 explored Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, writing and then performing poetry as a dramatic "Greek chorus". Year 8 students experimented with trochaic tetrameter, inspired by the witches from Macbeth, to create spell-like poetry connected to Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. Meanwhile, Year 9 students wrote haiku inspired by The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime.

Students then transformed into journalists, producing newspaper articles for the 'BOA Book Gazette', reporting key events from the worlds of their stories from their read aloud texts.

"I have really enjoyed the opportunity to focus on books today. There have been so many chances for self-expression which I have really enjoyed. It is always amazing to see staff and students coming together and sharing the experience as a community." **Jake, Year 9**

The quality of writing produced across Key Stage 3 was exceptional, and it was clear that students relished the opportunity to express their creativity. Here is an example of a cascading haiku based on Christopher Boone by Sienna and Tilly in Year 9.

The dog is dead now.
My heart beating out my chest.
I stand. curious.

I count and keep calm.
2. 3. 5. 7. I breathe.
Who killed Wellington?

Empty my pockets:
Swiss knife, rat food, a key, done.
A perfect, cube cell.



Staff & Students Celebrating Together

A highlight of World Book Day every year is the opportunity for staff and students to celebrate together. One of the most talked-about events of the week was our Brownhills Murder Mystery, which brought literature and performance together in spectacular fashion. Staff delivered truly Oscar-worthy performances as students worked together to unravel the mystery. The sense of fun and engagement across the academy was wonderful to see.

"I really enjoyed the teachers dressed up. Everyone had an amazing time and it is great that we have done so much to celebrate World Book Day!" **Grace, Year 9**



"Getting to dress up and receiving awards was so fun. It brought people together and we loved spotting different characters throughout the day." **Millie, Year 9**

Reading Together: A Community Celebration

One of the most special moments of the week was our Community Reading Morning, where families, governors, former staff, teachers and friends of the school joined us to celebrate reading together.

It was wonderful to see so many conversations taking place about literature, the development of our library and the importance of reading in young people's lives.

"It was lovely to be able to have such high level conversations about literature and that I was delighted to see that the Millfield alumni were happy and thriving!"

Mrs M Sheehy, Brownhills Governor and former Headteacher at Millfield Primary School

Events like this demonstrate the strength of our school community and the shared commitment we have to nurturing a love of reading. Thank you to all of the parents, carers, governors and other community members who joined us for this fantastic morning. in our Library.

"In a time where reading seems to be going out of fashion, it was uplifting to see that the children I met last week were so enthusiastic about their love of books. They were very keen to try and encourage others to enjoy the world of literature by offering new ways for them to experience reading. I hope that their endeavours pay off and inspire others to let their imaginations fly."

Mrs M Hopkins, former Staff Member at Brownhills Ormiston Academy

Reading Role Models: Year 7 and Watling Street Primary School

Earlier in the week, we also welcomed Year 3 pupils from Watling Street Primary School to our library for a wonderful Reading Picnic.

Our Year 7 students did an exceptional job reading aloud to the younger pupils, showing real confidence, expression and maturity. Watching them model reading so positively for younger students was incredibly impressive.

"It was the best experience to celebrate the world of books around us. I really enjoyed the opportunity to see my old teachers from Watling Street and show the younger students in Year 3 how important it is to read for pleasure." **Oscar, Year 7**



The More You Read, The More You Know

As the week comes to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make these celebrations such a success.

Thank you to our dedicated staff who organised such creative and engaging activities. Thank you to our students whose enthusiasm and positivity filled the academy with energy. And thank you to our parents, carers and community members who joined us in celebrating the importance of reading.

At Brownhills Ormiston Academy we often remind our students that you get one chance at your education. We all have a duty to make it count.

This week has been a wonderful example of what that looks like in practice: curiosity, creativity, community and a shared love of learning. And most importantly, a reminder that stories have the power to bring us together.

With very best wishes,

Mr R T Doodson
Headteacher