

May 2026

Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Top Borrowing Students

Year 7

Kirsty W, Summer W, Natalia T, Ailsa O,
Joab GO, Catelyn P, Hope C

Year 8

Tecla O, Matilda S, Callie B, Lilli C

Year 9

Lyra Toon, Red Smith, Hannah S,
Libby A, Isabel M, Holly H

Year 11

Travis W

Lexia Legends

Year 7

Tallula JB, Lucas O, Leo E, David B,
Dorian D, Harry M, Ethan T, Emily S

Year 8

Jack F, Jacob M, Poppy C, Ikramul I,
David O, Robbie Y, Thomas C, Alexis M,
Oliver LG, Harvey T, Ruby S, Menderes M

Year 9

Larissa DS, Harry BS, Daniil K, Gui T,
Archie S, Sophie C, Esandi R, Freya B,
Amy R, Waahidul I

Year 10

Alicia G, Nadia D, Lacey S, Connor G

Get Caught Reading

We caught an amazing **78** students in the **last two months** of **April** reading in school during their free time. Every student received achievement points for their efforts.

Prize draw winners:

Tecla O, Haven K, Red S, Rae W

Vista Book Explorers Award



Here are some reasons why you should pick up a book:

- **Emphasis on empathy.** Reading is the best way to discover how other people think and feel and to understand those whose lives are different from yours.
- **Imagination celebration.** Books invite you into other worlds, real or invented, and prompt you to visualise them for yourself.
- **Page engagement.** Nothing focuses your mind and gets you thinking more than books do. Reading a physical book can boost concentration eight times more than reading digitally.³
- **Mental health wealth.** Books help to make sense of the world and allow you to detach yourself when it becomes stressful.
- **Maximising memory.** Reading helps brain development and strengthens the circuits related to memory.
- **Sizing up spies.** The education secretary Bridget Phillipson says that reading helps critical thinking, which is vital for national security. With enemy powers spreading disinformation, "We need a generation of problem-solvers, equipped to dissect what lands in front of them... In short, we need a generation of readers."⁴

Vista Book Explorers Award Checklist



1. CHOOSE THE RIGHT BOOK FOR YOU. LOOK AT THE GENRE, BLURB AND FIRST PAGE OF A BOOK. USE THE FIVE-FINGER WORD GUIDE.



2. READ A BOOK FROM START TO FINISH. READ A PHYSICAL BOOK, E-BOOK OR LISTEN TO AN AUDIOBOOK. BORROW BOOKS FROM HOME, LRC, PUBLIC LIBRARY OR SORA. YOUR READING PROGRESS WILL BE REVIEWED EVERY LIBRARY LESSON.



3. WRITE A BOOK REVIEW ON THE LIBRARY SYSTEM ACCESSIT OR ON A BOOK REVIEW SHEET FOUND ON THE LIBRARIANS DESK.



4. GET YOUR BOOKMARK STAMPED, RECEIVE ACHIEVEMENT POINTS AND PRIZES. EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND YOUR VOCABULARY.

The Carnegies

Medal for Writing
Carnegies.co.uk | #Carnegies2026



Take a look at what our Vista Carnegie Shadowing group thought about the recent virtual author visits they attended.

Recently, we (the Carnegie shadowers) were able to talk to J.P. Rose, author of the book "Birdie" featuring in this year's Carnegie shortlist. It was really great to be able to get more of an insight to the book "Birdie" and how it came to be. J.P. Rose explained how some characters and parts of the book stem from her own personal childhood experiences, I was appreciative that J.P. Rose shared this with us as I found it very interesting to discover more about the background of the book and deeper meaning it had to her.
Review by Libby A - Yr 9

Virtual Author Visits

Held in the LRC at the advertised lunchtimes below, all welcome, meet the Authors and think of some thought provoking questions to ask them!

William Hussey

(Carnegie 2026 shortlisted book 'The Boy I Love') Thursday 26th March at 12:15pm for 30 mins at lunch time in the LRC

J.P. Rose

(Carnegie 2026 shortlisted book 'Birdie') Thursday 16th April at 12:15pm for 30 mins at lunch time in the LRC

Beth O'Brien

(Carnegie 2026 shortlisted book 'Wolf Siren') Thursday 23rd April at 12:15pm for 30 mins at lunch time in the LRC

Rob Harrell

(Carnegie 2026 shortlisted book 'Pop Corn') Tuesday 30th April at 12:15pm for 30mins at lunchtime in the LRC.

COMING SOON!

Tia Fisher

(Carnegie 2026 shortlisted book 'Not Going to Plan') Thursday 14th May at 12:15pm for 30mins at lunchtime in the LRC.

The visit of William Hussey, author of the Carnegie-nominated book "The Boy I Love" was informative. The writer told us about his research process, which apparently included reading through archives and books written about the First World War! After he finished describing the book, we asked him some questions, so he told us his favourite character of the book- the General- and that he didn't have a favourite place to write, although he did particularly like sitting outside to write. The visit ended with a question about Percy Jackson- he hadn't read it but said it was top of his list! I particularly enjoyed finding out about the writing process, and the research needed to write an historically correct novel. Overall, it was a great author visit- 5/5!

Review by Elijah P - Yr 9

We enjoyed it because we found out a lot about how this story came about and we also got to know more about Beth's life and writing career so far. 5/5
Review by Holly H & Libby A - Yr 9

Last week at lunch we visited an online author visit in the LRC with Rob Harrell, who wrote Carnegie shortlisted book Popcorn. He spoke to us first about all of his previous books, and what led to write Popcorn. He explained, how it got its title from the fact that anxiety can feel like a popcorn kernel, just waiting to pop. He told us it was based off the anxiety he had also suffered from as a child. Then we were able to ask him questions. I really enjoyed this author visit, because it helped me to get an insight into the inspiration behind the book. It also intrigued me, and helped me learn more about the writing process, from an initial idea to publishing the final copy.
Review by Catelyn P - Yr 7

Library Clubs

VISTA ACADEMY VISTA LIBRARY

BOOK CLUB

BRING YOUR LUNCH
EVERY THURSDAY LUNCH

See Mrs Burley to sign up

We discuss a wide range of topics and recommend books we love.
Biscuits provided!

VISTA ACADEMY

BOARD GAMES CLUB

EVERY FRIDAY LUNCH
IN THE LRC

SEE MRS BURLEY FOR MORE DETAILS

VISTA ACADEMY

Homework Club

Every day after school
3pm to 4pm in the LRC

See Mrs Burley for more details

VISTA ACADEMY

WELLBEING WEDNESDAY LUNCH TIME IN THE LRC

WAYS TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- ENJOYING ART ACTIVITIES
- CATCHING UP WITH FRIENDS
- READING A BOOK
- WRITING A DIARY OR JOURNAL
- WELLBEING LEAFLETS AND BOOK RESOURCES AVAILABLE
- LISTENING TO AN AUDIO BOOK OR PODCAST

SPEAK TO MRS BURLEY FOR MORE INFO

Competitions

BOOK REVIEWER of the Month

Complete a Book Review after every book you read. Either type it on your school Library account or collect and complete a review sheet from Mrs Burley. Achievement points for every great review. An extra reward for Book review of the Month!

READ, GROW & INSPIRE!

VISTA ACADEMY

Library Competitions

Top Student Borrowers
At the end of each month one student in each year group will be awarded achievement points for borrowing and reading the most books.

Top Borrowing Tutor Group
Help your Tutor Group win the award for Best Borrowers by taking out and reading books. Termly yummy prizes awarded to winning Tutor Group

Good Luck!

VISTA ACADEMY

Get Caught Reading!

It's simple! Every time a member of staff catches you reading a book (other than when you are told to obviously!) they will email Mrs Burley with your details or give you a **GCR ticket** to post in the box in the LRC. You will be awarded achievement points and will be entered into a prize draw. The more you read, the more likely you are to 'get caught' and the more chances you will have to win.

Good luck and Get Caught Reading!

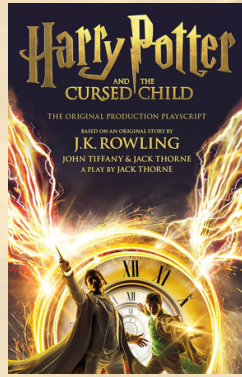
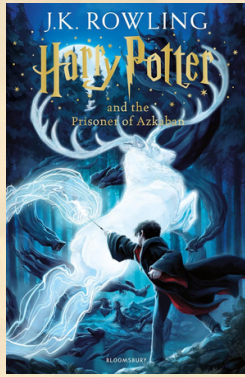
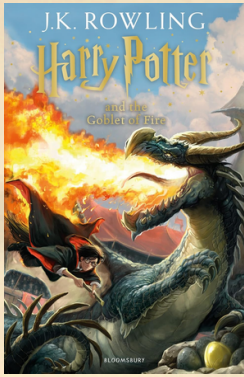
May 2026 Awareness Dates

Get Caught Reading Month
National Share a Story Month
Short Story Month
Local & Community History Month
2nd National Harry Potter Day
2nd Free Comic Book Day
3rd World Press Freedom day
4th May Bank Holiday
4th Star Wars Day
4th Screen Free Week
4th International Firefighters Day
4th Deaf awareness week
6th Holly Bourne (Author) Birthday

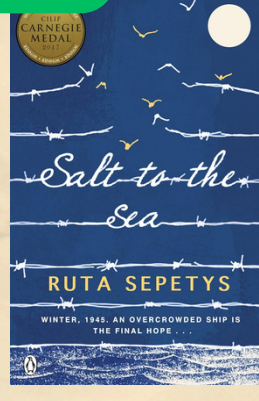
7th Michael Rosen (Author) Birthday
8th VE Day
9th Europe Day
11th National Sun Awareness Week
11th Mental Health Awareness Week
12-16 Eurovision Song Contest
12th International Nurses Day
14th Tia Fisher - Virtual Author visit in LRC
18th Walk to School Week
18th International Museums Day
20th World Bee Day
22nd Sherlock Holmes Day
25th World Football Day / Bank Holiday

Look out for activities during break and lunch time in the LRC related to the dates above.

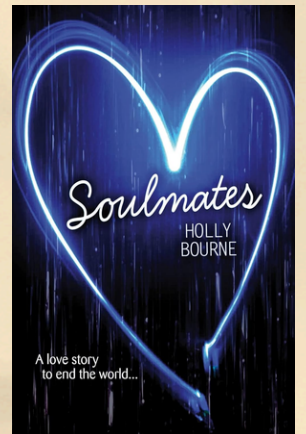
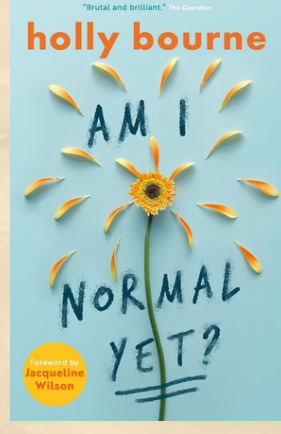
2nd-National Harry Potter Day



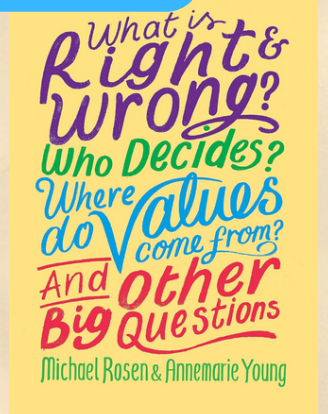
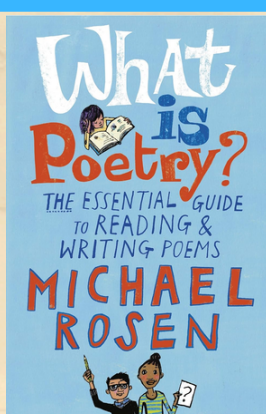
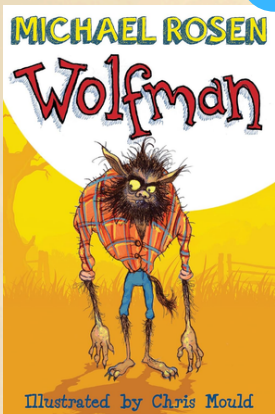
8th- VE Day



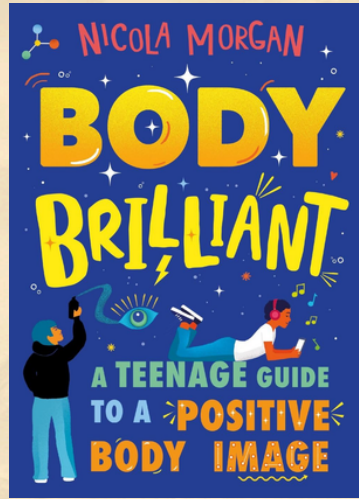
6th -Holly Bourne Birthday



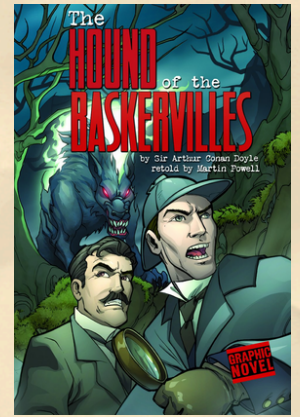
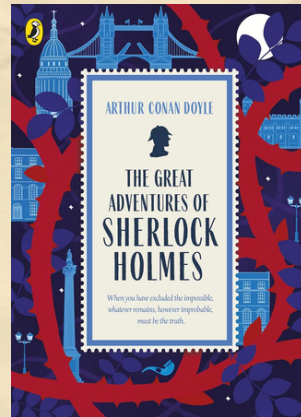
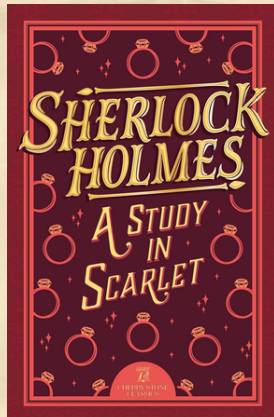
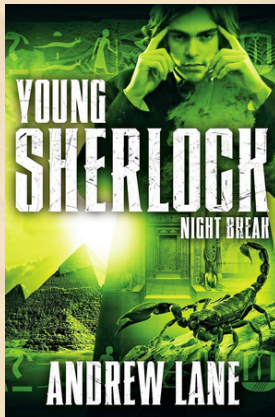
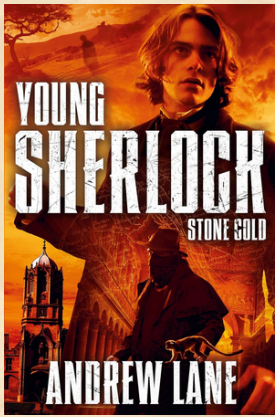
7th- Micheal Rosen Birthday



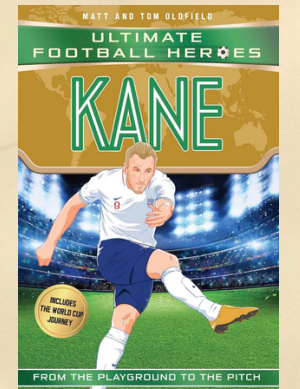
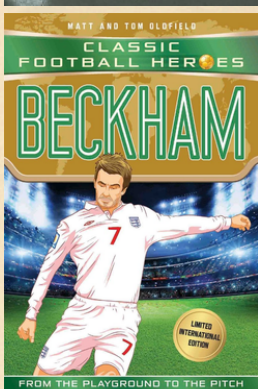
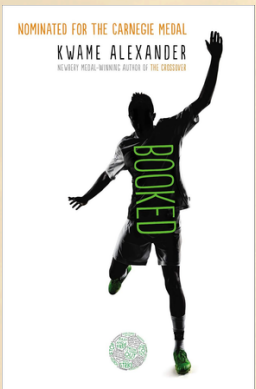
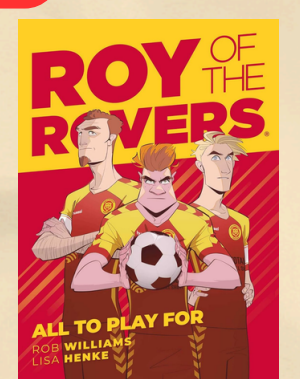
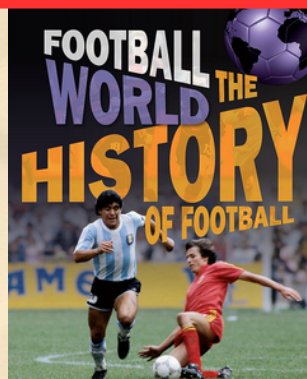
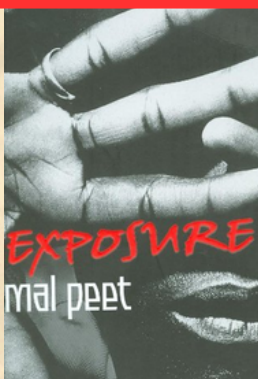
11th - Mental Health Awareness Week



22nd - Sherlock Holmes Day



25th - World Football day



Become a Library Ambassador!



Vista Library is looking for Ambassadors for each Tutor Group



How to sign up:

Ask your Tutor to put your name forward or speak to Mrs Burley

What will you be doing?



Promote library events, activities and competitions to your Tutor group. Support your Tutor to collect overdue books. Represent your group to help promote reading for fun!



Why volunteer?

Promote reading for fun.

Achievement points to be gained.

Improving your school library.

Being part of a team.

Skills to add to your personal statements and college applications.



Ambassadors will meet with Mrs Burley in the LRC regularly to collect information to take to your Tutor group.



VISTA LIBRARY
MAY
QUIZ

Tease Your Brain

COME AND HAVE A
GO AT OUR QUIZ
AT BREAK OR
LUNCH IN THE LRC



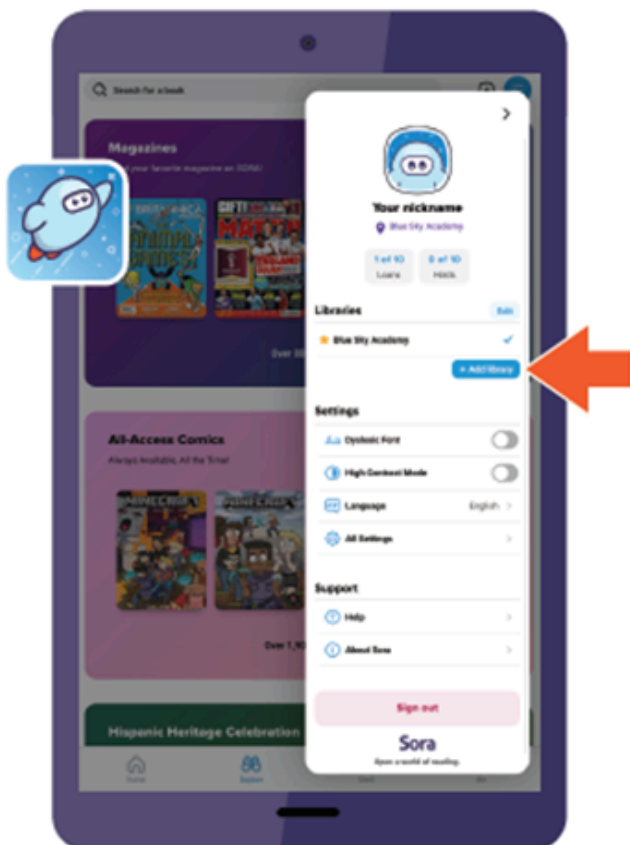
POINTS AND PRIZES
TO BE WON

Sora

The student reading app



Sora offers the ability for students to explore age-appropriate digital books from Cambridgeshire County Council



Here's how to access titles from the library through Sora:

1. In Sora, sign into your school with your school credentials.
2. Click or tap menu icon and select Add library.
3. Use the search box to find and select Cambridgeshire County Council. The library will open in the Explore tab.
4. You will be prompted to sign in when you borrow a book or place a hold. Select your school to continue.
5. Sign in with your school credentials.



How to use the Library Webpage



Did you know you can access our library catalogue from your computer, tablet or phone?

You can access it by going to the **VISTA website**



Or typing in the link below in your search bar

uk.accessit.online/ltt03/#!dashboard

The Accessit system is our online 24 hour library catalogue.

By logging in you can do the following:

- Browse the LRC information
- Check your LRC account (borrowing and overdues)
- Browse the catalogue
- Reserve books you would like to read
- Find out about LRC events and competitions

This video will give you information on Accessit and how to use your Library account

