

Creating a love of learning for LIFE!

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Monday 7th September 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

Studies have shown that reading for fun is the single biggest predictor of a child's future life chances – more than family circumstances, parents' educational background or income. It improves academic results, mental health, wealth, communication skills, ambition and happiness.

www.RaisingReaders.co.uk

Despite this, there is a crisis in children's reading and the number of children reading for fun is in rapid decline. Young people have a lot of competition for their time and the increase of time spent on a screen / online is having an impact. You may have seen that the National Literacy Trust has an ongoing campaign this year: [The National Year of Reading 2026](#) and we will be opening our libraries for parents to come and explore later in the term so you can see how we are trying to support children discover and sustain a love of books and reading!

School staff have spent much time over the summer holidays cataloguing our current **KS2 library** and setting it up with increased organisation so that children can access books and sign them out / return them as they read. There are now 7 – 9 / 9 – 11 fiction and non-fiction areas and quality texts we explore in our weekly Orbital Reading lessons will be available for children to borrow. We hope children are excited by our refreshed library (which feels more like a Waterstones bookshop!) and are busy looking at our KS1 library too.

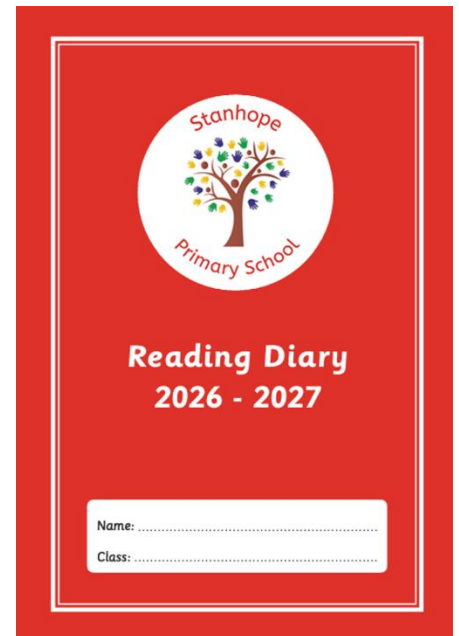
We are also launching a new **"Reading Diary"** this year so that children can keep track of how often and what they read. There is lots of information in these diaries for parents and we hope you find them useful. We will be asking children to look after them / bring them into school on a daily basis and will talk to parents more about them on our Parent Open Afternoon (16th September 3:30 – 4:30pm) to which all parents are invited.

Our ambition is that children read **at least x4 a week** and have their reading diary signed / sign it themselves from Y2 / KS2. Children will come home with their new Reading Diary today and we will be talking to children about how to use them in our assembly this afternoon. Children will also come home with a book from school to get them started but of course children are encouraged to read widely: from books you may have already at home / from Gedling library / different texts e.g. magazines and are welcome to update their diaries with anything they have been reading!

We look forward to supporting every child at Stanhope acquire the skills of reading and gain a love of books!

Best Wishes,

N C Bridges (Headteacher)



Be Kind, Be Safe, Be your Best Self.