

Reading for Pleasure at KS2: Empowering Pupils Through Book Choice

2 June 2026



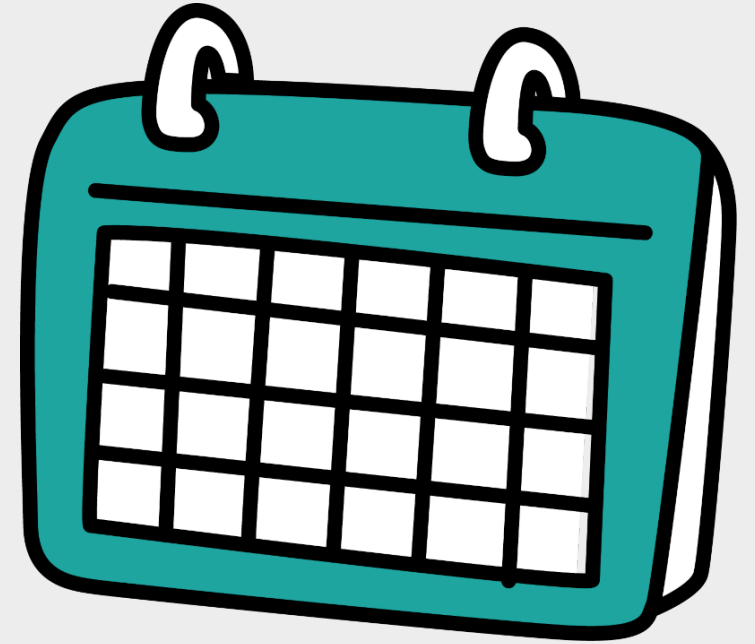
Housekeeping

- We will be recording this webinar and will share it with you all afterwards.
- We will also share these slides with you, so watch out for an email from us in your inbox in a couple of days.
- Your microphone is muted, but please submit any questions in the Q&A or chat box and our panel will answer as many as they can.

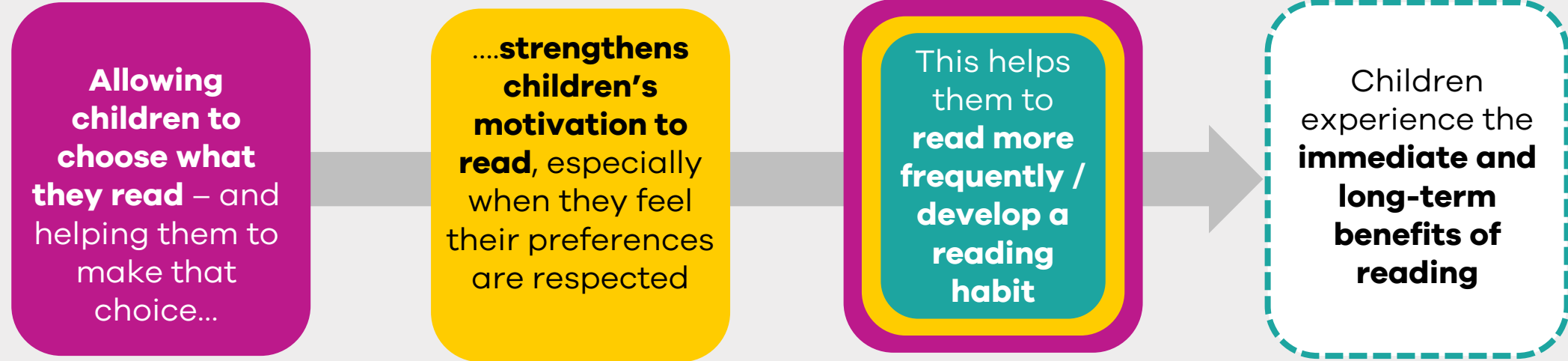


Agenda

- Welcome and introduction.
- BookTrust's Emma Zipfel sharing research on why book choice matters.
- Esther Brown and Jon Biddle discussing how they support book choice in their classrooms.
- Conversation with Eric Huang about his series, *Guardians of the New Moon*.
- BookTrust's Rachel Boden sharing how Bookbuzz Primary can support book choice in KS2.



Why does book choice matter?



Our research highlights that enjoyment of reading decreases as children progress through primary school and this is an increasing concern for teachers. Our Teacher Survey (2024) with 2,942 primary school teachers in England around 48% of Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 teachers express concern over reading enjoyment levels in their class, and this continues to rise to 63% of Key Stage 2 teachers.

Evidence shows that when children choose a book...

..it gives them a sense of autonomy



...which encourages children to read for personal reasons rather than for external goals (e.g. earning rewards).



Evidence shows that when children choose a book...

...it enables children to shape and articulate who they are as a reader



...which helps to develop a strong reader identity, and increases self-motivation and enjoyment of reading.



Evidence shows that when children choose a book...

..it allows them to select books which align with their own personal interests and identities



...which boosts the likelihood of experiences (e.g. pleasure, amusement, fascination) that build positive attitudes to reading.

**GO
ALL
IN.**

National
Year of
Reading
2026

Diversity and representation in books matters

Representation is vital in helping motivate children to read. Diversity in stories, characters and illustrations in children's literature affect how young readers see themselves, different lives and cultures, and the world around them.



Diversity and representation in books matters



Books as mirrors

Representative literature helps children to develop a positive self-identity



Books as windows

Diverse, representative and inclusive texts help children develop an empathetic understanding of other people



 **BookTrust**
Represents



Wednesday 24 June, 11am

[Booktrust.org.uk/represents](https://booktrust.org.uk/represents)

What is Bookbuzz Primary?

Bookbuzz Primary supports Key Stage 2 children to develop reading for pleasure and book choice skills by picking a book to take home and keep from a selection of 16 diverse and inclusive titles.



1. Your launch pack arrives in September with two copies of each book.



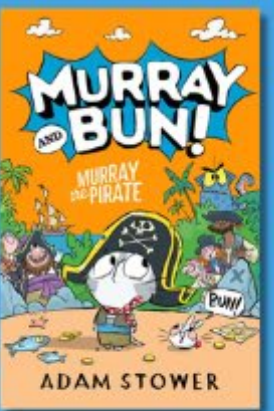
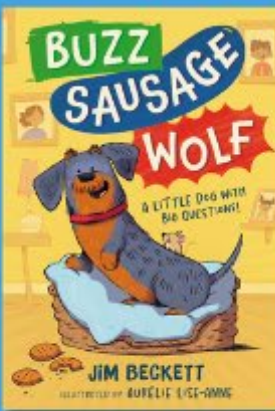
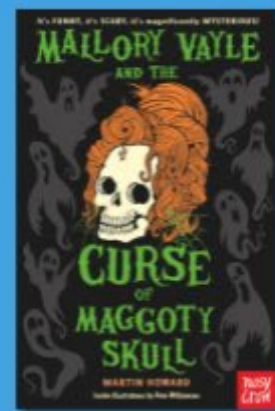
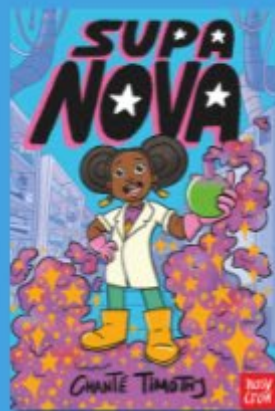
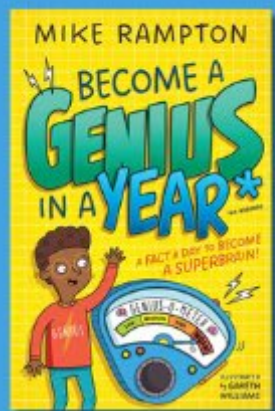
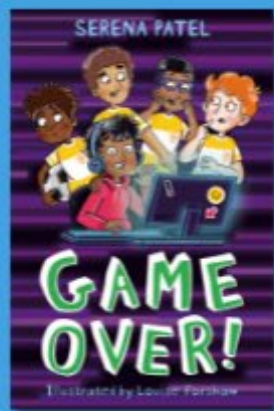
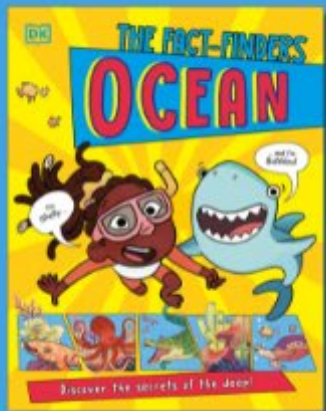
2. Pupils make their choices and you send them to us.

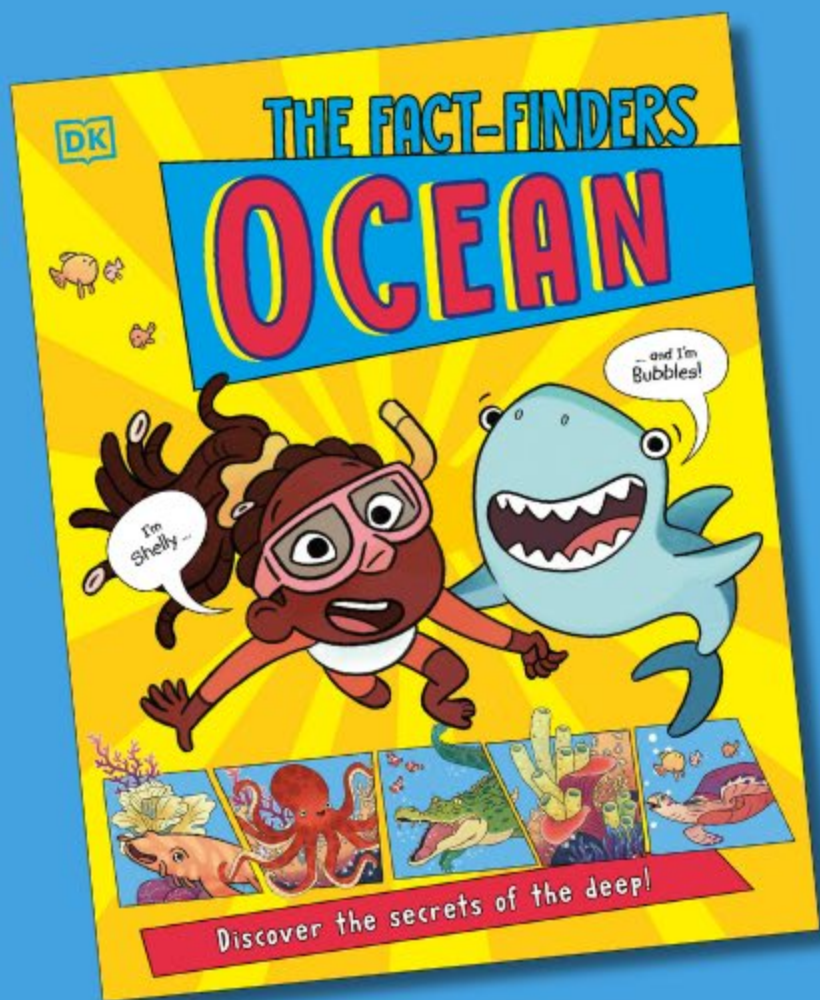
With online and print resources to support each step of the programme.



3. We send each pupil's choice to you, ready for them to take home and enjoy.

2026 book selection





**A full-colour
graphic novel**
packed with
fascinating
ocean facts





An **exciting** story exploring **otherness, friendship** and **empathy**



**Thank
you!**

If you want to find out more about Bookbuzz Primary

book a call.



If you would like to receive a free evaluation pack with four Bookbuzz Primary books

**request a
pack.**

