Weston St Mary Church of England Primary School

Literature Spine

2025-26

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

Rationale

The Weston St Mary Literature Spine has been designed by the staff at Weston with the intention of ensuring that all children at the school are exposed to the very best fiction that has been written; enabling them to experience the intrinsic sense of joy that reading can bring, as well as developing their knowledge of the world.
It is to be viewed as their core entitlement – and, as such, is non-negotiable.
The titles have been carefully selected for their quality as stories or poems and in terms of how they can support the children's understanding of the subjects covered in the school's curriculum.
The Literature Spine reflects established children's authors and classics of literature. In addition, we have strived to ensure that the texts are as diverse as possible, in order for it to support the children's development in becoming responsible, tolerant, well-rounded and well-informed young people.
It is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Rather, it is the bare minimum, and our aspiration is that children will use it as a launch pad for their own journeys as life-long readers; where the pure love of reading will ensure that it forms part of their daily routines for the rest of their lives.

Weston St Mary Church of England Primary School Literature Spine						
Reception	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Focus	*What makes me, me?*		*What is happening outside my window?*	*What was life like, once upon a time?*	*Why is water wonderful?*	*Where could I travel to?*
Curriculum Texts	Super Duper You! Piper the Puppy, First day at school Everywhere babies My friends and me Revolting things to touch and feel Funny bones	Where the poppies now grow. The Christmas Story The Diwali Story In every house on every street My map book Clothesline Clues Real Superheroes	Tree Jaspers beanstalk The tiny seed Home Weather The Big Umbrella	Little Red Riding Hood Goldilocks and the three bears The little red hen The Three Little Pigs The day the war came A child's garden Dogger Grandma's House Alfie & Grandma	Get out my bath The crocodile who didn't like water The Water Princess The Snail and the Whale Sharing a shell Lucy and Tom at the seaside	The train ride The dinosaur that pooped a planet 100 decker bus Where on earth- Antarctic Where on Earth-Australia Everywhere bear Tim Peake Man on the moon
Class Novel (to be read by CT)	Monkey Puzzle The colour monster The Gruffalo Whatever next Love makes a family The Smartest Giant in Town I am kind The lion inside	The gingerbread man Stickman The Christmas story We're going on a bear hunt The Jolly Postman The Night before Christmas Remember, remember the fifth of November. Where the Poppies now grow.	Rosie's Walk The very hungry caterpillar Noah's Ark Percy The Park Keeper- The bad storm A perfect day for digging The tiny seed Wow said the Owl Superworm	The Easter Story The Ugly Duckling Magnificent me Little Red Hansel and Gretel The Queen's Knickers The tiger who came to tea	Oliver's vegetables Jack and the bean stalk Jasper's beanstalk Pirates love Underpants Mrs Armitage and the big wave If I had a little dream	How to catch a star Whatever next The smeds and the smoos The invisible string Mrs Armitage on Wheels Grandad's island We all go travelling by Maisy goes by plane
Poetry/Nursery Rhymes	1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish a live 5 little monkeys Baa baa black sheep Twinkle twinkle little star	Head, shoulders, knees and toes Hey diddle diddle 5 little ducks 5 speckled frogs	Old Macdonald had a farm It's raining, it's pouring Hickory, Dickory dock Incy- Wincy spider	Mary had a little lamb The grand old Duke of York 5 current buns 1 finger, one thumb	1, 2 buckle my shoe Polly put the kettle on 10 fat sausages 10 green bottles 10 in the bed	The wheels on the bus Here we go round the mulberry bush Humpty Dumpty Zoom zoom zoom we're going to the moon.

Weston St Mary Church of England Primary School Literature Spine						
Year 1/ 2 (Year A)	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English Texts	Narrative: Grandad's Island by Benji Davis (3 weeks) Recount: Our trip to the woods (2 weeks) Information text: Seasons by Hannah Pang (2 weeks)	Traditional tale (with twist): Little Red Riding Hood by Lucy Rowland (2 weeks) Poetry: Firework Night (2 weeks) Letter: Meerkat Christmas by Emily Gravett (3 weeks)	Narrative (adventure)The Building Boy by Ros Montgomery & David Litchfield (3 weeks) Report: Toys from the past by Sally Hewitt (2 weeks) Instructions: How to make a bird feeder (2 weeks)	Narrative (legend): George & the Dragon by Christopher Wornell (3 weeks) Non-chronological reports: Habitats by Dorling Kindersely (3 weeks)	Persuasive letter: The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Darwell (2 weeks) Narrative: The Owl who was afraid of the dark by Jill Tomlinson (2 weeks) Information text: Plants by DK (2 weeks)	Poetry: Desk Diddler by Michael Rosen (2 weeks) Biography: Neil Armstrong by Brad Melter (2 weeks) Narrative: The Friendship Bench by Wendy Medour (3 weeks)
Class Novel (to be read by CT)	The Mog Treasury by Judith Kerr	Gobbolino the Witch's Cat by Ursula Williams	The Dragonsitter by Josh Lacey	I was a Rat! By Phillip Pullman	Rescue on Nim's Island by Wendy Orr	The Magic Finger by Roald Dahl
Poetry/Nursery Rhymes.	Please don't feed the animals by Robert Hull	Uphill by Vernon Scannell	The Months by Sara Coleridge	The Quangle Wangle's Hat by Edward Lear	Owl by Pie Corbett	Dad and the Cat and the Tree by Kit Wright
Whole Class Key Texts	The snail and the whale by Julia Donaldson Grace and Family by Mary Hoffman Funny Bones by Allan Ahlberg Lost & Found by Oliver Jeffers Black Dog Princess Smartiepants	The Emperor's Egg by Martin Jenkins Winter Sleep by Alex Moss The Polar Express Oops by Colin McNaughton The Three Little Wolves & the big bad pig	The Story Machine by Tom McLaughlin Pattan's Pumpkin by Chitra Soundar Not Now Bernard Dark dark tale Dogger How to catch a star by Oliver Jeffers	The star in the forest by Helen Kellock Journey by Aaron Becker The Ice Bear by Jackie Morris Mr Magnolia Julian is a mermaid The Sea Monster by Christopher Wormell	The Diary of a Killer Cat by Anne Fine Traction Man The Twits	Dr Xargles Book of Earthlets by Jeanne Willis Unusual Day by Sandi Toksvig The Hodgeheg

Weston St Mary Church of England Primary School Literature Spine						
Year 1/2 (Year B)	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English Texts	Recount & Narrative: Can I Build Another Me? By Shinsuke Yoshitate	Non-chronological report: The Big Book of the Blue by Yuval Zommer Letter Writing: The Jolly Postman by Allan Ahlberg	Narrative unit- traditional tale: Little Red Riding Hood Newspaper writing: A Wolf at the door and Who's been eating my porridge? By Nick Ward & Inside The Villains by Clotilde Perrin	Instructions: How to wash a Woolly Mammoth Recount:	Persuasive leaflet- caring for the environment Narrative- adventure story: A River by	Non-fiction- Travel journal Poetry – Humorous poems
Class Novel (to be read by CT)	The Giraffe the Pelly and Me by Roald Dahl Mrs Pepperpot Stories by Alf Proysen	The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton	Winnie the Pooh by A.A Milne	The Owl who was afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson	Fred Wizard in Training by Simon Philip	George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl
Poetry/Nursery Rhymes.	Poems Out Loud – Various	Poems to perform by Julia Donaldson 'Twas the Night before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore	The Owl and the Pussy Cat by Edward Lear	On the Ning Nang Nong by Spike Milligan	Poetry For change A National Anthology – Various	The Chocolate Cake by Michael Rosen
Whole Class Key Texts	The Tin Forest by Helen Ward The Last Wolf by Mini Grey The Slightly Annoying Elephant by David Walliams	The Lion Inside by Racheal Bright Little Beauty by Anthony Browne The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka	The Legend of Spud Murphy by Eoin Colfer	Gobbolino the Witch's Cat by Ursula Williams	Marge in Charge by Isla Fisher	The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me

Weston St Mary Church of England Primary School Literature Spine						
Year 3/ 4 (Year A)	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English Texts	Explanation texts- Once upon a raindrop by James Carter (3 weeks) Narrative- The Magic Paintbrush by Julia Donaldson (2 weeks) Narrative- adventure: The Last Bear by Hannah Gold (2 weeks)	Non-chronological report: Skeletons & Muscles (An Anthology of Intriguing Animals by Ben Hoare) (3 weeks) Narrative: Flood by Alvaro F.Villa (3 weeks) Poetry- using imagery: The River by Valerie Bloom (2 weeks)	Persuasive (advert): An alternative to plastic straws (2 weeks) Narrative (time slip): Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura (2 weeks) Newspaper report: The Wizards of Once by Cressida Cowell (2 weeks)	Personal recount- diary entry: Secrets of a Sun King by Emma Carroll (3 weeks) Narrative (adventure): Journey by Aaron Becker (3 weeks)	Playscripts: The Plague (3 weeks) Narrative: fArTHER by Graheme Baker Smith (2 weeks) Balanced argument: Should we feed animals in national parks? (2 weeks)	Narrative (mystery): The Whale by Ethan Murrow and Vita Murrow (3 weeks) Explanation: How a robot dog works (3 weeks) Poetry- (performance/ choral poetry) Still I rise by Maya Angelou (2 weeks)
Class Novel (to be read by CT)	Stig of the Dump by Clive King		How to Train your Dragon by Cressida Cowell		The Firework Maker's Daughter by Phillip Pullman	*Street Child by Berlie Doherty*
Poetry/Nursery Rhymes.	It was long ago by Eleanor Farjeon	The River by Valerie Bloom	The Burp by Walter Miring'u Nyagah	The Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll	The night of the junk monsters by John Foster	Still I rise by Maya Angelou
Whole Class Key Texts (guided reading)	Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl The Sheep Pig by Dick King-Smith	Featherlight The Ice Palace by Robert Swindells	Varjak Paw by S F Said Charlotte's Web	The Land of Roar by Jenny McLachlan	The Infinite by Patience Agabei Why the Whales Came by Michael Morpurgo	The Great Elephant Chase by Gillian Cross

WSM Church of England Primary School Literature Spine						
Year 3/4 (Year B)	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English Texts	Narrative (Myths & Legends) – 'Theseus and the Minotaur' by Jean Menzies Non-chronological report – So you think you've got it bad?	Newspaper report – 'The Rainplayer" Persuasive leaflet – 'Skara Brae' by Dawn Finch	Poetry – 'I asked the little boy who couldn't see'Anon – supported by 'The Colour of History' by Clive Gifford Personal recount – diary entry - Roman Diary – The Journey of Iliona – A Young Slave by Richard Platt	Non-Chronological report - 'Earth-Shattering Events' by Robin Jacobs. Illustrated by Sophie Williams. Narrative – Setting Description – The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry	Explanation – 'The Street Beneath My Feet' by Charlotte Guillain & Yuval Zommer Letters - 'This Is How We Do It' by Matt Lamothe	Narrative - Fantasy – 'Wisp – A story of hope' by Zana Fraillon & Grahame Baker Smith Poetry – 'Summer is here' Anon.
Class Novel (to be read by CT)	Mr Majeika	The Great Chocoplot	The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd	Leonora Bolt by Lucy Brandt	The Accidental Prime Minister by Tom McLaughlin	The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane
Poetry/Nursery Rhymes.	Poetry Pie by Roger McGough	Lost by James Godden The Sad Story of a Little Boy That Cried (anon.) The Complacent Tortoise by Brian Patten The Unicorn by EV Rieu The Crunch by Gerda Mayer	Jelly Boots, Smelly Boots by Michael Rosen	I am a Jigsaw: Puzzling Poems to Baffle Your Brain by Roger Stevens	I Don't Like Poetry by Joshua Seigal	The Lost Words by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris
Whole Class Key Texts (guided reading)	Billy and the Minpins	The Matchbox Diary by Paul Fleischman	My Friend Walter by Michael Morpurgo	Mr Gum by Andy Stanton	The Nothing-to-see-here Hotel by Steven Butler	Tilly and the Time Machine by Adrian Edmondson

WSM Church of England Primary School Literature Spine						
Year 5/6 (Year A)	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English Texts	Biography: Hatsheput Egypt by Kate Pankhurst (2 weeks) Persuasive letter: Letter to Mr Scrooge (3 weeks) Narrative (adventure): Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo (2 weeks)	Narrative (science fiction): Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce (2 weeks) Non-chronological report: The Origin of Species by Sabrina Radeva (3 weeks) Poetry (narrative): Moth by Isabel Thomas (2 weeks)	Journal writing: Mars Transmission (3weeks) Narrative writing (adventure): Tyger by S F Said (3 weeks)	Speech: Refugees (3 weeks) Narrative writing: Varmints by Marc Craste (3 weeks)	Narrative: The Explorer by Katherine Rundell (3 weeks) Recount (Scott of the Antarctic by E & J Dowdeswell and Angela Seddon (3 weeks) Poetry: Thinker's Rap by Eloise Greenfield (2 weeks)	Persuasive writing (speech): Anglo Saxon Battle (3 weeks) Narrative: The Nowhere Emporium (3 weeks)
Class Novel (to be read by CT)	Tom's Midnight Garden by Phillippa Pearce		Skellig by David Almond		The Nowhere Emporium by Ross Mackenzie	
Poetry/Nursery Rhymes.	Moth by Isabelle Thomas	In Flanders Field by John McCrae	On the Move- Poems about Migration by Michael Rosen	The Listeners By Walter de la Mare	The Tyger by William Blake	The Magic Box by Kit Wright
Whole Class Key Texts (guided reading)	The Iron Man by Ted Hughes Clockwork by Phillip Pullman	Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo	Illegal by Eoin Colfer	Malamander by Thomas Taylor	Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke	Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver

WSM Church of England Primary School Literature Spine						
Year 5/6 (Year B)	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English Texts	Biography: David Attenborough unit Journalistic: Goldilocks- guilty or not guilty unit Non-chronological reports: Everest by Sangma Francis and Lisk Feng	Poetry: Narrative poem- The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes Narrative-adventure: The Firework Maker's Daughter by Phillip Pullman Narrative-science-fiction: War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells	Explanation texts: Non-chronological reports: Emperor Penguins unit Narrative: The Arrival unit	Persuasive: Kick by Mitch Johnson unit Balanced argument: Screen Use unit	Historical narrative: Rose Blanche by Christophe Gallaz and Roberto Innocenti Recount: Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll Journalistic writing	Persuasive writing Poetry: The Malfeasance by Alan Bold
Class Novel (to be read by CT)	Just So Stories by Edward Lear	The Hobbit by J R R Tolkien	*Holes by Louis Sachar*	Wonder by R.J Palacio	Cogheart by Peter Bunzi	The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Poetry/Nursery Rhymes.	Silver by Walter De La Mare	The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes	From a railway carriage by Robert Louis Stevenson	Go to the Back Rosa Parks By Nikki Giovanni	If by Rudyard Kipling	The Malfeasance by Alan Bold
Whole Class Key Texts (guided reading)	The Tiger in the Tower by Julia Golding	War of the Worlds (Usborne Young Readers) by H.G. Wells	The Valley of the Lost Secrets by Lesley Parr	Cloud Busting by Malorie Blackman	How High the Moon by Karyn Parsons	The Fastest Boy in the World by Elizabeth Laird