

Devon School Library Service Newsletter March 2026

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Centre news for March

The **Primary network library update** for Spring term is now on our webpage. It is full of useful information with the focus on 'Families as reading partners', found in the 'Engaging parents' section.

There is still time to book on to our **Secondary network library meetings** this term, so email us to confirm your place.

Tuesday 17 March at The Spires College, Torquay

Wednesday 18 March at West Buckland School

Meetings begin at 1.30pm.

Focus: Inspiring reading through library displays



We will also be attending several **conferences this month** and have themed booklists for both events which can be viewed on our website.

Early Years music conference 2026 Tuesday 10 March at the Future Skills Centre
Outdoor learning conference: Let's just go outside Friday 20 March at Exeter Racecourse

[Email us](#)

Topic box collections and deliveries



Topic Collections - Spring term

These will be collected from **23 March** and an email will be sent shortly detailing your scheduled collection date. Please have your boxes ready in reception.

Topic requests - Summer term

Please submit your topic box requests for the Summer term by **2 April** for delivery from **23 April**.

[Topic box request](#)

SLS Spring term activities for The National Year of Reading 2026



March - World Book Day competition WINNERS!

Thank you all so much for your entries - we were incredibly impressed by the imaginative and creative designs. You made judging very difficult!

After much deliberation the winners are:

EYFS - Evie, with the Gruffalo from Bradley Barton Primary

KS1 - Archie, with the BFG from Willand Primary

KS2 - Ellie, with the White Fox from Milton Abbot Primary

KS3 - Aliana, with Bastion from the NeverEnding Story from The Maynard School

All designs from our winners can be viewed on our website [Devon SLS World book day competition 2026 winners](#)

Our new World Book Day quiz is available for you to download and enjoy with your class! Just click on the button below to access all the resources.

April - Our planet, our stories

As part of the National Year of Reading 2026, our April theme celebrates 'Our Planet'—a chance for pupils to explore the wonders of the world around them. We've put together a vibrant booklist of non-fiction, poetry and picture books that highlight nature, sustainability and the incredible environments we call home.

Visit our [National Year of Reading](#) page for more information.



[National Year of Reading 2026](#)

The Carnegies 2026



We are running our popular Carnegie Writing Celebration Event for secondary schools and will be joined by acclaimed author and poet **Luke Palmer**.

We are also holding a Carnegie Illustration Celebration Event for primary schools.

Please email us to book your place at schoollibraryservice@devon.gov.uk.

Click the button for more information.

[Carnegie celebration events](#)

New resource - Bridging Library!

Inspire your emerging independent readers with our inclusive collection of short chapter books, covering a wide range of books bands from purple to brown.

Help children move confidently from guided reading to choosing and enjoying books on their own by using our Bridging Library resources and booklist.



[Bridging Library resources](#)

EmpathyLab booklists

EmpathyLab **#ReadforEmpathy** book collection 2026.

Each title in the collection has been chosen by a panel of judges to do a specific empathy-building job. The list has been created as a practical tool to help young people learn more about empathy and put it into action, giving adults the resources they need to raise an empathy-educated generation.

Please use the button below for Primary & Secondary booklists.

[EmpathyLab booklists](#)

Secondary pre-publications booklist for April



With a long list of new titles scheduled for publication in April, we've carefully curated a selection of standout books that are likely to generate strong interest and high demand within your library.

[April pre-pubs booklist](#)

Devon Education Services - English team

The English Team: Rebecca Cosgrave, Jenny Core, Alison Braddon and Rebecca New are now working as independent English consultants.

They remain working closely with Devon Education Services to share expertise and develop resources, and continue to provide essential English and literacy support for schools across the South West and further afield.

[English team webpage](#)

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