

Walton-on-the-Hill PS: Guided Reading Curriculum Map 2025-26



Reception

- **Themes:** Friendship, Imagination, Growth
- **Books:** *Mr Wiggle and Mr Waggle, The Gingerbread Man, The Gruffalo, Billy Goat's Gruff, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, How To Catch A Star*
- **Focus:** Oral storytelling, sequencing, nature, aspiration

Year 1

- **Themes:** Belonging, Nature, Fantasy
- **Books:** *Funny Bones, Lost in the Toy Museum, Where The Wild Things Are, Just Ducks, Jack and the Beanstalk, There Are Aliens in Year 1, The Snail and the Whale*
- **Focus:** Emotional literacy, traditional tales, non-fiction features

Year 2

- **Themes:** History, Exploration, Morality
- **Books:** *James and the Great Fire, Lost and Found, The Great Explorer, Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom, Kassim and The Greedy Dragon*
- **Focus:** Historical empathy, cultural tales, resilience

Year 3

- **Themes:** Time & Place, Identity, Science
- **Books:** *Stone Age Boy, Evil Emperor Penguin, Egyptian Cinderella, Iron Man, Journey to the Centre of the Earth, Planet Omar*
- **Focus:** Prehistoric life, graphic novels, classic adventure

Year 4

- **Themes:** Environment, History, Adventure
- **Books:** *Escape from Pompeii, Boudica's Army, The White Fox, Shackleton's Journey, The Firework Maker's Daughter, The Puffin Keeper, How to Build a Lighthouse, The Great Kapok Tree, The Rain Player, The Chocolate Tree, The Boy Who Biked The World*
- **Focus:** Global citizenship, myth, nonfiction narrative

Year 5

- **Themes:** Heroism, STEM, Myth
- **Books:** *Hidden Figures*, *Space Boy*, *Orchard Greek Myths*, *Kid Normal*, *Beowulf*, *Chair at the Back of the Classroom*
- **Focus:** Classical literature, identity, ethical dilemmas

Year 6

- **Themes:** War, Science, Transition
- **Books:** *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *Armistice Runner*, *Black Poppies*, *World Burn Down*, *On The Origin of Species*, *Holes*, *The Final Year*, *Undercover Robot*
- **Focus:** Legacy, activism, layered narrative, emotional growth

Thematic Overview by Strand

Theme	Reception → Year 6 Progression
Identity	Belonging (<i>Gruffalo</i>) → Self-worth (<i>Planet Omar</i>) → Ethical dilemmas (<i>Undercover Robot</i>)
Adventure	Curiosity (<i>How to Catch a Star</i>) → Exploration (<i>Great Explorer</i>) → Global journeys (<i>Boy Who Biked the World</i>)
Science	Life cycles (<i>Caterpillar</i>) → Observation (<i>Just Ducks</i>) → Evolution & AI (<i>Origin of Species</i> , <i>Undercover Robot</i>)
History	Oral tales (<i>Billy Goat's Gruff</i>) → Great Fire (<i>James</i>) → WWI & race (<i>Black Poppies</i>)
Environment	Nature (<i>Snail and the Whale</i>) → Rainforest (<i>Kapok Tree</i>) → Climate activism (<i>World Burn Down</i>)
Friendship	Simple bonds (<i>Mr Wiggle</i>) → Empathy (<i>Lost and Found</i>) → Loyalty & justice (<i>Holes</i>)