

National Year of Reading 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of the National Year of Reading 2026, Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council have launched a Community Book Club for all ages, running from now until October. This is a wonderful opportunity for families across our community to celebrate reading together.

The challenge is simple: children (and adults!) are encouraged to read at least one classic book from the age-appropriate reading list provided by the Parish Council – or even all three if they would like an extra challenge.

To celebrate everyone's reading achievements, the Parish Council will be hosting a Community Book Celebration Event **on** Saturday 10th October **at the** Vestry Hall.

Books can be:

- Borrowed from the **local library**
- Collected from the **Parish Council office**, where a supply will be available to borrow

We would love as many families as possible to take part. Reading together at home is one of the most powerful ways to support children's learning, imagination, and love of stories. Taking part in a community challenge like this can make reading even more exciting!

[National Year of Reading 2026: Join our Community Book Club! - Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council](#)

Look below for more information.

Thank you for your support in helping us celebrate reading this year.

Mrs Desai



**National Year of
Reading 2026**

The banner features the text 'National Year of Reading 2026' in a bold, dark blue font. The background of the banner is white with a light blue and orange gradient. Behind the text, there are several colorful, stylized illustrations of books of various sizes and colors (red, blue, green, yellow, orange) standing on a shelf.

CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING IN CRANBROOK AND SISSINGHURST

2026 is the National Year of Reading! This is a Department for Education initiative designed to inspire more people across the UK to make reading a regular part of their lives. Reading expands minds, builds confidence and fuels creativity for everyone, whatever your age. Yet with more distractions and less time, reading for pleasure is in decline across many groups. The National Year of Reading 2026 is here to change that, and Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council are on board to get our community reading more for pleasure, relaxation and well-being.

Here's what we are doing to celebrate and encourage reading in our community. We are running a community book group for all ages with a challenge to read at least one classic book from the list below – or all three if you have more time! There will then be a community celebration of books and reading in the autumn in the Vestry Hall for everyone of all ages to come together and chat about the books we loved – or hated!

You, or your children, may have read the books on the list before but it is always good to re-visit classic stories to see if you enjoy them more, or less, as a re-read.

Books can be sourced from the library, charity shops, second hand online such as Abe Books or ask around and borrow from friends and family and the Parish Council is aiming to help make the books available too. Here are the classic books to read over the next few months:

Age 5 to 7 Years

The Puffin Keeper – Michael Morpurgo
George's Marvellous Medicine – Roald Dahl
The Worst Witch – Jill Murphy

Age 8 to 11 Years

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

Age 12 to 14 Years

The Hobbit by J R R Tolkien
Animal Farm by George Orwell
Northern Lights by Philip Pullman

15 plus to adult

The Darling Buds of May – H E Bates
1984 by George Orwell
Brighton Rock by Graham Greene

JOIN IN AND CELEBRATE COMMUNITY READING!

