



BIRCH HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY
Learn, believe, achieve together

Year 3

Reading list for families

September 2026

Books linked to every Year 3 topic this year, including our guided reading and daily read texts, alongside favourite classics and new books chosen by BookTrust for 2026–27.

How to use this list

Reading together and alone

Books for our topics

One set for each half-term

Year 3 favourites

Chosen by our teachers

New books for 2026–27

From BookTrust's Great Books Guide

Finding more books

Libraries and websites

How to use this list

In Year 3, children start to read longer books on their own, but sharing books is just as important as ever. Reading aloud to your child lets them enjoy stories and ideas that are a little beyond what they can manage alone.

Reading alone

Chapter books with short chapters and pictures, comics and graphic novels are perfect for building independence and stamina. They all count as real reading.

Reading together

Longer or more challenging books, and those marked "class read", are lovely to share. Talk about characters' choices, new words and what might happen next.

Let your child choose

Children read more when they choose books they feel drawn to. Use this list as a starting point, and let your child explore different kinds of books: funny stories, mysteries, poetry and information books.

In the topic lists, **Guided reading** marks the book your child studies in class, **Daily read** marks the book read aloud to the class, and **Writing** marks the model text for that half-term's writing.

Books for our topics

Each half-term our learning is built around a big question. Reading a book linked to the topic at home helps your child build knowledge and vocabulary, and gives you lots to talk about. Tap a title, where there is a link, to see its cover.

Autumn 1 How do we move?

Animal fact files [Guided reading](#) Non-fiction selection

Our guided reading this half-term uses a selection of non-fiction fact files about animals.

Planet Omar [Daily read](#) Zanib Mian

Funny diary-style stories about Omar, his family and his very big imagination.

Coming to England [Daily read](#) Floella Benjamin

Floella's true story of moving from Trinidad to England as a child.

The Animal Detectives Moira Butterfield and Merle Goll

Solve mysteries from the animal world in this funny fact book. New for 2026–27.

Simon Gets Sneezed Adam Kay and Henry Paker

Real science about how our bodies protect us, told by a piece of snot. New for 2026–27.

Autumn 2 What have we adopted from prehistoric man?

Stig of the Dump [Guided reading](#) Clive King

Barney falls into a chalk pit and meets a Stone Age boy. A much-loved classic.

Wolf Road [Daily read](#) Alice Roberts

Tuuli travels across a prehistoric landscape with her tribe and befriends a wolf. An adventure set in the Ice Age.

The Wild Way Home Sophie Kirtley

Charlie finds a Stone Age boy injured in the woods, and slips back in time.

Stone Age Boy Satoshi Kitamura

A picture book journey into Stone Age daily life.

Life in the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age Information book

Our guided reading text for the topic.

Spring 1 What's beneath our feet?

The Pebble in My Pocket [Guided reading](#) Meredith Hooper and Chris Coady

The story of one pebble across hundreds of millions of years, from volcano to pocket.

The Firework-Maker's Daughter [Daily read](#) Philip Pullman

Lila journeys to the fiery mountain home of a volcano spirit. Links to volcanoes and rocks.

Tom and the Island of Dinosaurs [Writing](#) Ian Beck

Tom's adventure on a prehistoric island; our model text for writing adventure stories.

The Street Beneath My Feet Charlotte Guillain and Yuval Zommer

A fold-out journey from pipes and tunnels down to fossils and the Earth's core.

I, Rock Eoin McLaughlin and Mark Chambers

A very old rock looks back on Earth's history. Funny, with real geology. New for 2026–27.

Spring 2 How can we look after our world?

There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom **Guided reading** James Sellick and Frann Preston-Gannon

A girl finds out why an orang-utan has moved into her bedroom, and what is happening to its forest home.

One Plastic Bag **Guided reading** Miranda Paul

The true story of women in Gambia who turned plastic waste into something useful: perfect for 'Trash to Treasure'.

The Song of the Dolphin Boy **Daily read** Elizabeth Laird

Finn befriends the dolphins and fights to protect the sea. Best shared together.

Cities Going Wild Catherine Barr and Christiane Engel

A tour of the world's greenest cities. New for 2026–27.

The Elementals: Wanzu Sets Sail Love Ssega and Erika Meza

Wanzu and friends use the wisdom of nature to save their island from flooding. New for 2026–27.

Summer 1 What did the Romans do for us?

Romans on the Rampage **Guided reading** Jeremy Strong

Perilus dreams of racing chariots in Ancient Rome, with a talking raven for company. Very funny.

The Accidental Prime Minister **Daily read** Tom McLaughlin

Joe writes a video complaining about his local park and somehow becomes Prime Minister.

Escape from Pompeii Christina Balit

Two children flee the eruption of Vesuvius: links to our diary writing.

Summer 2 What is on our doorstep?

Just So Stories **Guided reading** Rudyard Kipling

How the leopard got his spots, how the camel got his hump, and other playful tales to read aloud.

The Tunnel **Writing** Anthony Browne

A brother and sister, a mysterious tunnel and pictures full of hidden detail: our model text for writing.

The Dot Peter H. Reynolds

Vashti thinks she can't draw, until one small dot changes everything.

The Magic Paintbrush Julia Donaldson and Joel Stewart

Shen's paintbrush brings whatever she paints to life, but a greedy emperor wants it.

Year 3 favourites

Much-loved stories, chosen by our teachers. Tap any title with a link to see its cover and find out more.

Stories to love

Fantastic Mr Fox Roald Dahl and Quentin Blake

Mr Fox outwits three nasty farmers to save his family. Short, funny and perfect for reading aloud together. [Classic](#)

The Diary of a Killer Cat Anne Fine

Tuffy the cat tells his side of the story, one outrageous day at a time. Very funny and short enough to read independently. [Funny](#)

The World According to Humphrey Betty G. Birney

Humphrey the class hamster solves problems for everyone in Room 26. The first in a much-loved series. [Series to get hooked on](#)

Charlotte's Web E. B. White

A clever spider sets out to save her friend Wilbur the pig. A classic about friendship to share chapter by chapter. [Classic](#)

Krindlekrax Philip Ridley

Small, squeaky-voiced Ruskin is the unlikely hero who takes on the monster under Lizard Street. Best shared as a read-aloud. [Read it together](#)

The Boy Who Grew Dragons Andy Shepherd

Tomas plants a strange fruit and grows a tiny, fire-breathing dragon. Hilarious and warm.

Harriet's Hare Dick King-Smith

Harriet befriends a talking hare from another planet. A gentle, funny classic.

The Journey Francesca Sanna

A family leave their home to escape war. A beautiful, thoughtful picture book; best shared with an adult who can talk about it together. [Talk about it together](#)

Myths, legends and fables

Tiny Hercules Jon Lock and Nich Angell

The hero of Greek myth, shrunk to tiny size and banished to the human world, needs help to defeat a lion. Action-packed and very funny. [Myth, graphic novel](#)

More classics to try

There's a Pharaoh in Our Bath! Jeremy Strong

A mummified pharaoh comes back to life in a very ordinary house. Silly and fun.

- Horrid Henry – Francesca Simon
- Ottoline and the Yellow Cat – Chris Riddell

- Spooks and Scooters – Elen Caldecott
- The Railway Cat – Phyllis Arkle
- Fairy Tales – Terry Jones
- King Midas and the Golden Touch – Charlotte Craft and K. Y. Craft
- The Sorcerer's Apprentice – retold by Inga Moore
- The Magician's Elephant – Kate DiCamillo (to share)

New books for 2026–27

Recently published books from BookTrust's Great Books Guide 2026–27 for 8 to 9-year-olds. Others from the guide appear in our topic lists above.

Funny chapter books

Postman Planet Ben Davis and Yasmin Sheikh

A 9-year-old secret superhero and his robot dog save the day. Short chapters and brilliant pictures.
Funny

Kid Potato Neil Coslett

Five ridiculous adventures, from befriending an alien to escaping a robot toilet. **Funny short stories**

Koalas in Capes: The Zombie Chickens Terrie Chilvers and David O'Connell

Two superhero koalas take on a villainous ostrich on their first mission. **Funny**

Adventure, magic and mystery

Animagicals: Mia's Tiger Paula Harrison and Erwin Madrid

Mia can turn into an animal and joins a magical school. Kindness, friendship and adventure. **Fantasy**

The Accidental Vikings Karen McCombie and Anneli Bray

Alfie and Kat are stranded in Viking times. A time-travel adventure in a dyslexia-friendly format.
Dyslexia-friendly

Graphic novels and comics

Unfairies Huw Aaron

Clueless fairy Pip gets caught up in chaos when the fairies' food goes mouldy. Full colour and very funny. **Graphic novel**

Chicken Hill: Attack of the Zombie Cactus Beccy Blake

Ferdy the inventor investigates weird goings-on in his town. **Graphic novel**

Pets Tell Tales: Ancient Egypt Rik Worth and Jordan Collver

A funny comic-book guide to every part of Ancient Egyptian life.

Poetry

A Poem for Every Question Brian Bilston and Joe Berger

100 funny, thoughtful questions answered in poems. Great for our poetry recital. **Poetry**

Ridiculous Raps and Rhymes Michael Rosen, MC Grammar and Mike Byrne

A hilarious rhyming journey around town, made for performing aloud. **Poetry**

Shorter reads to build confidence

The Runaway Tortoise Holly Webb and Ocean Hughes

Ava's tortoise has gone missing. A short, warm story designed for beginner readers, in a dyslexia-friendly format. **Dyslexia-friendly**

Froggy Paige Walshe

A brave little frog sets out to explore the big wide pond. A funny comic-book adventure about friendship. **Comic book**

Fairytale Fiasco: Hansel and Gretel Evgenia Golubeva and Myles McLeod

A silly modern twist on the classic fairy tale, with short chapters and bright pictures. Read it alongside the original. **Fairy tale with a twist**

Finding more books

You don't need to buy books to read widely. Joining the library is free, and children can borrow lots of books at once.

Your local library – free to join, with books, audiobooks, eBooks and the Summer Reading Challenge.

BookTrust Great Books Guide 2026–27 – 100 recommended new books across all ages.

booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/great-books-guide

BookTrust Bookfinder – search thousands of recommended books by age and interest.

booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/bookfinder

BooksForTopics: Year 3 recommended reads – 50 books chosen for 7 and 8 year olds.

booksfortopics.com

Learn, believe, achieve together

Happy reading! If you would like more book ideas for your child, please ask their class teacher.

Birch Hill Primary School and Nursery, part of Maiden Erlegh Trust. September 2026.