



# The Gift of Reading



## The White Horse Federation's 'Gift of Reading'

Dear Parents and Carers,

As Christmas approaches, we are reminded that one of the greatest gifts we can share with children is the joy of reading. A good book can open worlds of imagination, spark meaningful conversations, and bring families together - especially during the festive season.

This year, as part of our **Gift of Reading** initiative, we have selected three wonderful books for each year group, including one festive title. These stories make perfect gifts and are a lovely way to encourage reading over the holidays.

We hope these books bring curiosity and wonder into your homes this Christmas.

### Nursery



**Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** – Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle

A rhythmic, colourful classic that introduces pattern and prediction.



**Peace at Last** – Jill Murphy

A comforting bedtime story full of warmth and gentle humour.



**That's Not My Reindeer** – Fiona Watt

A tactile festive board book perfect for little hands and big smiles.



## Reception



**Gigantic** – Rob Biddulph

A beautiful tale capturing themes of perseverance, friendship and self-belief.



**The Colour Monster** – Anna Llena

A delightful book invaluable for learning about feelings and emotions.



**Stick Man** – Julia Donaldson

A heart-warming Christmas adventure about family and finding your way home.

## Year 1



**Where to Hide a Star** – Oliver Jeffers

An adventure story celebrating dreams and friendship.



**The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark** – Jill Tomlinson

A joyful short chapter book about overcoming obstacles.



**Mog's Christmas** – Judith Kerr

A festive favourite featuring everyone's beloved forgetful cat.

## Year 2



**Fantastic Mr Fox** – Roald Dahl

A fast-paced story of clever thinking and courage.



**The Hedgehog** – Dick King-Smith

A charming animal adventure with a message about perseverance.



**The Snowman** – Raymond Briggs

A wordless, magical classic full of Christmas wonder.

## Year 3



**Coming to England** – Floella Benjamin

An inspiring true story celebrating the Windrush Generation.



**The Butterfly Lion** – Michael Morpurgo

A moving tale about lifelong friendship.



**The Christmasaurus** – Tom Fletcher

An imaginative, heartfelt tale about friendship, families, and Christmas magic.



## Year 4



***The Wild Robot*** – Peter Brown

An action-packed novel exploring what happens when nature and technology collide.



***The Wild Way Home*** – Sophie Kirtley

A time-slip adventure exploring bravery and belonging.



***The Night I Met Father Christmas*** – Ben Miller

A funny and touching story about the true spirit of Christmas.

## Year 5



***The Time Travellers: Adventure Calling*** – Sufiya Ahmed

A diverse historical fiction where time-traveller friends are magically transported to the middle of a women's suffrage demonstration.



***The Last Bear*** – Hannah Gold

A beautifully heartfelt and moving story with strong environmental themes.



***Tinsel: The Girl Who Invented Christmas*** – Sibeal Pounder

A joyful reimagining of the Santa story with courage and creativity at its heart.

## Year 6



***The Boy at the Back of the Class*** – Onjali Q. Raúf

A powerful story about friendship and kindness in the face of adversity.



***When the Sky Falls*** – Phil Earle

A moving wartime story of courage, hope, and unlikely friendship.



***A Christmas Carol*** – Charles Dickens

A timeless story of redemption and generosity - the ultimate festive read.

We encourage families to spend time reading together this Christmas - whether it's a bedtime story, a shared chapter, or a visit to your local library. The simple act of reading can be one of the most memorable and meaningful gifts of all.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas filled with stories to treasure.

**The White Horse Federation**