



Our Lady & St Bede  
Catholic Academy

# READING MATTERS





Dear Readers,

As 2025 draws to a close, December has been a joyful and vibrant month in the library, full of creativity, celebration, and a real sense of community. The library truly came alive this term, offering pupils a space to connect, create, and celebrate the season together.

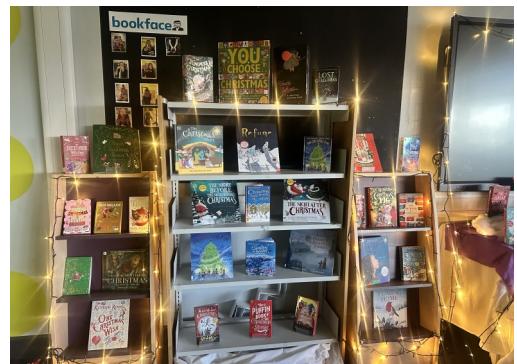
Throughout December, the library was also beautifully transformed with festive displays, twinkling lights, and themed book selections, making it a warm and welcoming space for pupils to spend time during breaks and lunches. Whether crafting, reading quietly, or chatting about books with friends, pupils used the library with enthusiasm and care.

As we prepare for Christmas and look ahead to the new year, we are grateful for the wonderful energy pupils bring into the library every day.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a joyful, peaceful holiday season.

And as always, happy reading,

*Mr. Jawaid*

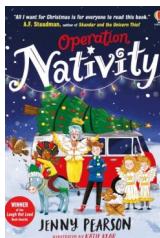




# LIBRARIAN'S Recommendations



Our Storytime theme this month was The Nativity, a story of love and joy. Here are some festive reads full of the same feelings.



## **Operation Nativity by Jenny Pearson**

Two children are on a mission to save Christmas after the Angel Gabriel crash lands in the back garden

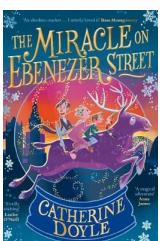
Charming story full of humour and hope.



## **A Swallow in Winter by Timothee Fombelle**

On a quiet Christmas night, a swallow takes flight from Africa, searching for something

A beautiful picture book, perfect for a read-aloud with the message of perseverance and kindness.



## **The Miracle on Ebeneezer Street by Catherine Doyle**

A young boy, still grieving for his mother three years after her death, finds an old snow globe that shows him and his distant father three Christmases - one each from the past, present, and future.

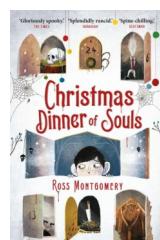
Clever retelling of a classic with moments of heartbreak sprinkled with humour and magic.



## **The Girl who Saved Christmas by Matt Haig**

A young Victorian chimney sweep and Father Christmas help each other out at their time of need at Christmas time.

Creative and innovative story of a plucky Victorian heroine.



## **Christmas Dinner of Souls by Ross Montgomery**

To repay his breaking of a college window, 11-year-old Lewis is tasked to serve dinner to a party of ex-college students who have congregated for an evening of gruesome storytelling.

Gleefully macabre festive fear!

# LIBRARY

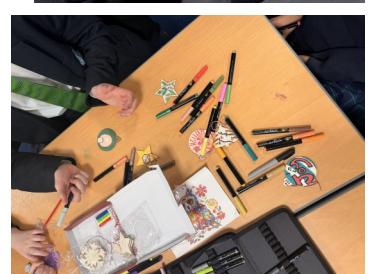
## Events

We kicked off the festivities with Christmas craft sessions, which were a huge success. Pupils enthusiastically took part in making decorations, bookmarks, cards, and small gifts, filling the library with colour, conversation, and creativity. These sessions were a wonderful opportunity for pupils to unwind, express themselves, and enjoy the simple joy of making something by hand.

Our Christmas-themed Enrichment included Christmas Around the World presented by the Multicultural Club, sharing yuletide traditions all over the world.

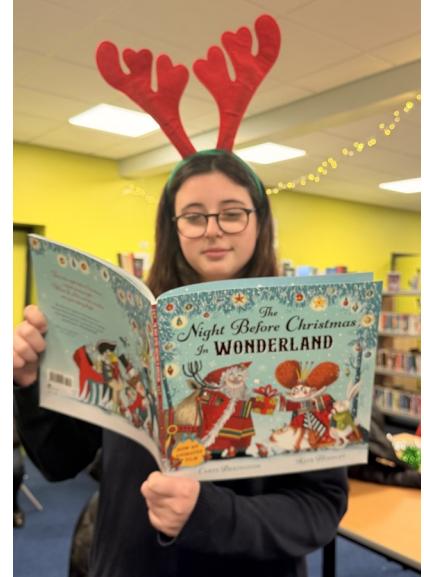
One of the most exciting events was our Christmas book exchange. Pupils loved choosing books for one another, sharing recommendations, and discovering new authors and genres.

The Christmas themed quiz was a massive hit especially with Y11! It was a chance to kick back and try out their knowledge for sweets, like did you know that the Christmas tree tradition started in Germany? But that was the only chance to win prizes, pupils who quizzed successfully won lots of little prizes all month!



# STUDENT LIBRARIANS

## Special Thanks



As the year draws to a close, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for the incredible effort and dedication you've shown throughout this festive season. Your hard work has made our holiday events truly magical. From decorating shelves to helping with special events, you've spread joy to everyone who stepped through our doors.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to share that the new year will bring even more opportunities to shine with upcoming projects and programs. Your talents and teamwork will continue to make the library a vibrant place for all!

Wishing you a holiday season filled with peace, joy, and a little well-deserved rest.

