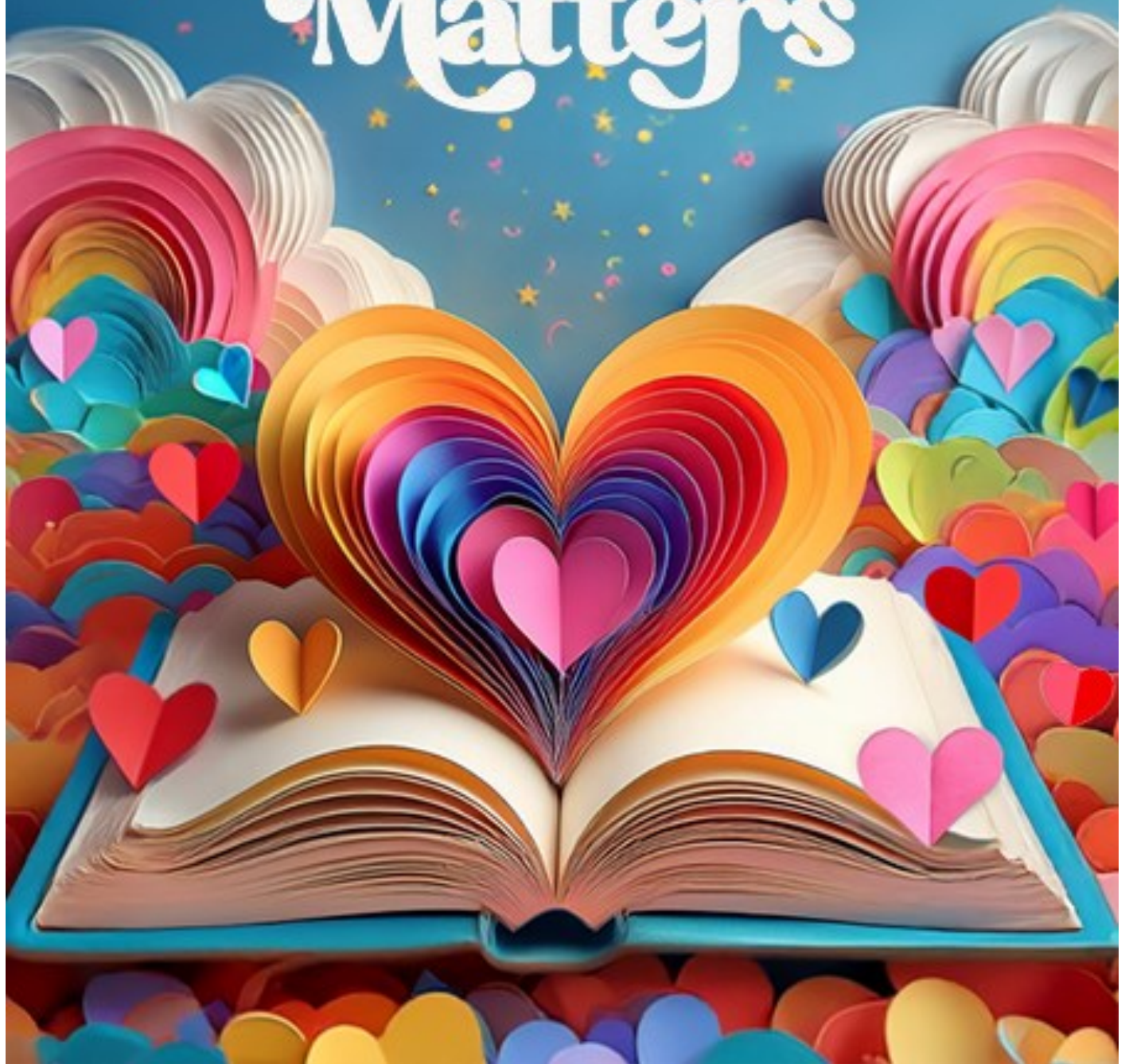




Our Lady & St Bede  
Catholic Academy

# Reading Matters





# Hello!



Dear Readers,

February has been a month filled with warmth, kindness, and a celebration of love in all its forms! Our library embraced the spirit of Valentine's Day with a series of themed activities that encouraged students to explore and share what love and kindness mean to them. From heart-shaped crafts to thoughtful discussions, our space transformed into a haven of literary love.

Our Multicultural Club took a global approach, leading a special project on how different cultures celebrate love, from Japan's *White Day* to Pakistan's *Haya Day*. It was a fascinating journey through traditions, highlighting the many ways people express affection worldwide.

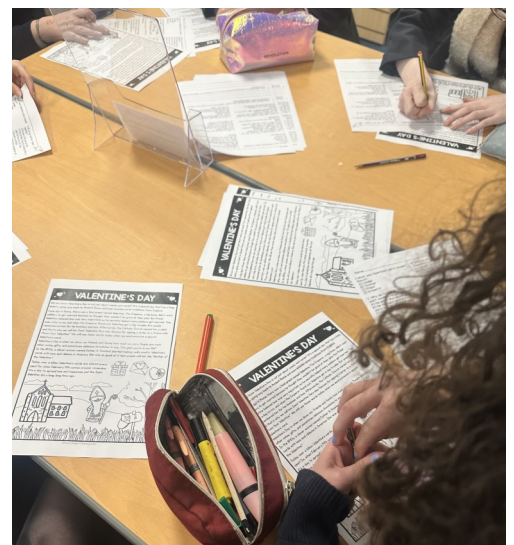
For those who enjoy a literary challenge, our Love in Literature quiz put pupils' knowledge to the test, featuring beloved literary romance leads. We also had a special story time about the history of Saint Valentine and how the day came to become a worldwide celebration.

Finally, we took a moment to celebrate a love that lasts all year: our pupils' passion for books and the library. Whether it's the thrill of discovering a new favourite series or the comfort of a familiar reading nook, it's clear that our students' love for stories continues to grow.

Thank you to everyone who participated, shared a kind word, or simply stopped by to soak in the bookish atmosphere. Stay tuned for more exciting adventures, because the next chapter of library fun is just around the corner!

Happy Reading!

Ms. Jawaid



# Library FAQs

Your school library is a hub of knowledge, culture, learning, and growth. It is a safe space to sate your curiosity and grow your mind through reading. You can find the answers you seek—just ask! Ms. Jawaid is your school librarian.

The library is open every day at break, lunch, and after school.

Our hours are:

Monday and Wednesday: 8:40 AM— 4PM

Tuesday and Thursday: 8:15 AM—4PM

Friday: 8:40 AM—3:30 PM

The library provides access to a range of resources to support your reading, research, and information literacy. We have over 4,500 books across several genres and subjects available for check. You can borrow books for two weeks at a time. Books can be renewed, should you need more time, with Ms. Jawaid.

Reference books for core subjects and periodicals are available to read with the library.

You can also sign up to use laptops during lunch to complete any school work.

We hold several exciting Enrichment clubs . Sign up for your place to attend in the library.

Mondays— Multicultural Club

Tuesday—Dungeons and Dragons Club

Wednesdays—Pokémon Club

Thursdays—Student Librarians Meetings

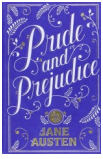
Fridays—Social Justice Club

The library hosts special events every month. Sign up is required for attendance.



# Librarian's Recommendations

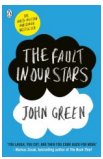
Love has always been one of the most captivating themes in literature. From timeless classics to modern-day bestsellers, romance fiction continues to explore the joys, heartbreaks, and mysteries of human connection.



"You have bewitched me, body and soul, and I love, I love, I love you."

— Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

Mr. Darcy's confession to Elizabeth Bennet reminds us that true love sees beyond flaws and societal pressures. It is a powerful declaration of love that transcends pride, prejudice, and social expectations.



"You don't get to choose if you get hurt in this world...but you do have some say in who hurts you."

— Augustus Waters in *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green

Love often involves risk, but the right person is always worth it. It's a testament to the courage it takes to love, even when heartbreak feels inevitable.



"Sometimes you can do everything right and things will still go wrong. The key is to never stop doing right."

— Starr Carter in *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

While not a traditional romance novel, this quote reflects the importance of resilience and integrity—values that are just as vital in love as they are in life.



"The world needs your voice. If you have a story to tell, or something to say, say it loud and say it proud."

— Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Love isn't just about relationships with others—it's also about loving yourself enough to speak your truth. Mia's journey shows how being true to yourself helps you connect more deeply with others.



"I know, of course, that humans can be very bad. But they can also be very good. And sometimes, that's enough to make up for all the bad."

— *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

The bond of friendship between Ivan the gorilla and his friends teaches us that love and kindness can triumph over hardship. It's a beautiful reminder of how our connections to others help us find goodness in the world, even when it's hard to see.





# Student Librarian's Recommendations

Here are some perfect reads to celebrate love selected by our wonderful team!



## Love in the Library by Maggie Tokuda-Hall

Set in an internment camp where the United States detained Japanese Americans during WWII and based on true events, this moving love story finds hope in heartbreak. Cute story about how love can be found in the most unexpected places and times.—Chloe



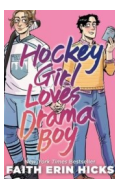
## Saint Valentine: The Patron Saint of Love by Kerri Anne Jelinek

Discover the real history behind St. Valentine and his acts of kindness, faith, and love. Interesting facts about the history of the many Saint Valentines.—Lauretta



## Rent a Boyfriend by Gloria Chao

Romantic comedy about a college student who hires a fake boyfriend to appease her traditional Taiwanese parents, to disastrous results. Gives insight on the romantic cultures of East Asian households in a fun way! - Aryanna



## Hockey Girl Loves Drama Boy by Faith Erin Hicks

Graphic novel romance about a hot-headed hockey player who asks for temper management lessons from the cool, calm boy in drama club. Two opposites fall in love, like they say "opposites attract!" - Isabelle



## A Season for Scandal by Laura Woods

Marigold's family is in trouble when a chance encounter with the handsome and bad-tempered Oliver leads her a secret agency of women who specialise in blackmailing troublesome men. Two completely different people find love in an unusual circumstance.—Anastasia



## The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich by Deya Muniz

A romantic comedy about mistaken identity, true love, and lots of grilled cheese. Really cute art style and a rollercoaster of a story I couldn't put down.—Ellie



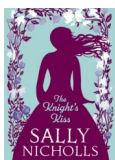
## A Tale of Two Knights by James Persichetti

Reimagining of an Arthurian legend, Knights of the Round Table Lancelot and Tristan set out on a quest to find the missing magician Merlin but instead discover an unexpected romance. A story to make you feel cozy even during a lonely Valentine's Day.—George



## Loveless by Alice Oseman

Teenager Georgia discovers that everyone has different experiences of personal relationships. This is for people struggling with their identity and adjusting to a new place.—Grace



## The Knight's Kiss by Sally Nicholls

A mediaeval lady falls in love with her cousin, but their love is thwarted by her father. Short and easy, perfect for young readers who want to try romance books.—Lauren



## Icon and Inferno by Marie Lu

Sydney and Winter are thrown together again as they track down a Panacea agent in danger in Singapore who happens to be Sydney's ex. A roller coaster of emotions that pulls you into a thrilling story.—Sophia

# Library Events

## Multi Culture Club

Over 50 amazing pupils gather weekly for the Library's Multicultural Club, bringing together diverse traditions and creativity!

To celebrate Valentine's Day, we explored how different cultures around the world express love and friendship. Our students researched their countries and crafted beautiful, meaningful valentines inspired by global traditions.

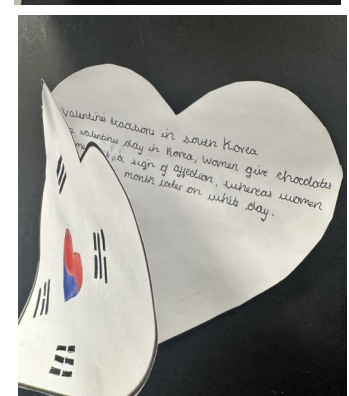
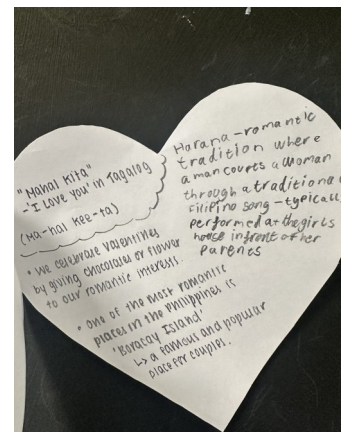
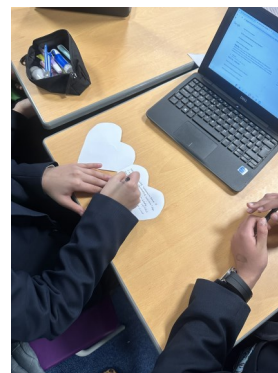
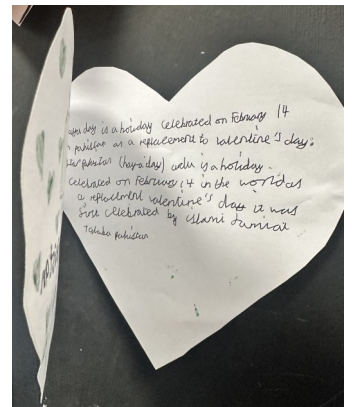
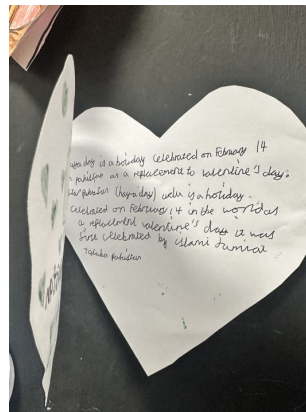
As part of the Valentine's Around the World project, pupils honed essential research skills that will benefit them far beyond the library walls. Using a combination of books, encyclopaedias, and trusted internet resources, pupils learned how to gather, evaluate, and synthesize information. They discovered that the library isn't just a place to find a good story—it's a gateway to understanding the world.

Our pupils navigated reference books, cultural studies, and online databases to uncover fascinating facts: Did you know that in Finland, *Ystävänpäivä* (Friend's Day) focuses on celebrating friendship more than romantic love? Or that in South Korea, different days of the year are dedicated to various expressions of love?

By practicing these research techniques, pupils developed critical thinking, digital literacy, and a healthy curiosity about the world around them. These skills are fundamental to becoming lifelong learners—whether they're researching for a school project, planning future travels, or simply feeding their curiosity about global traditions.

It was a heartwarming session full of learning, laughter, and cultural appreciation!

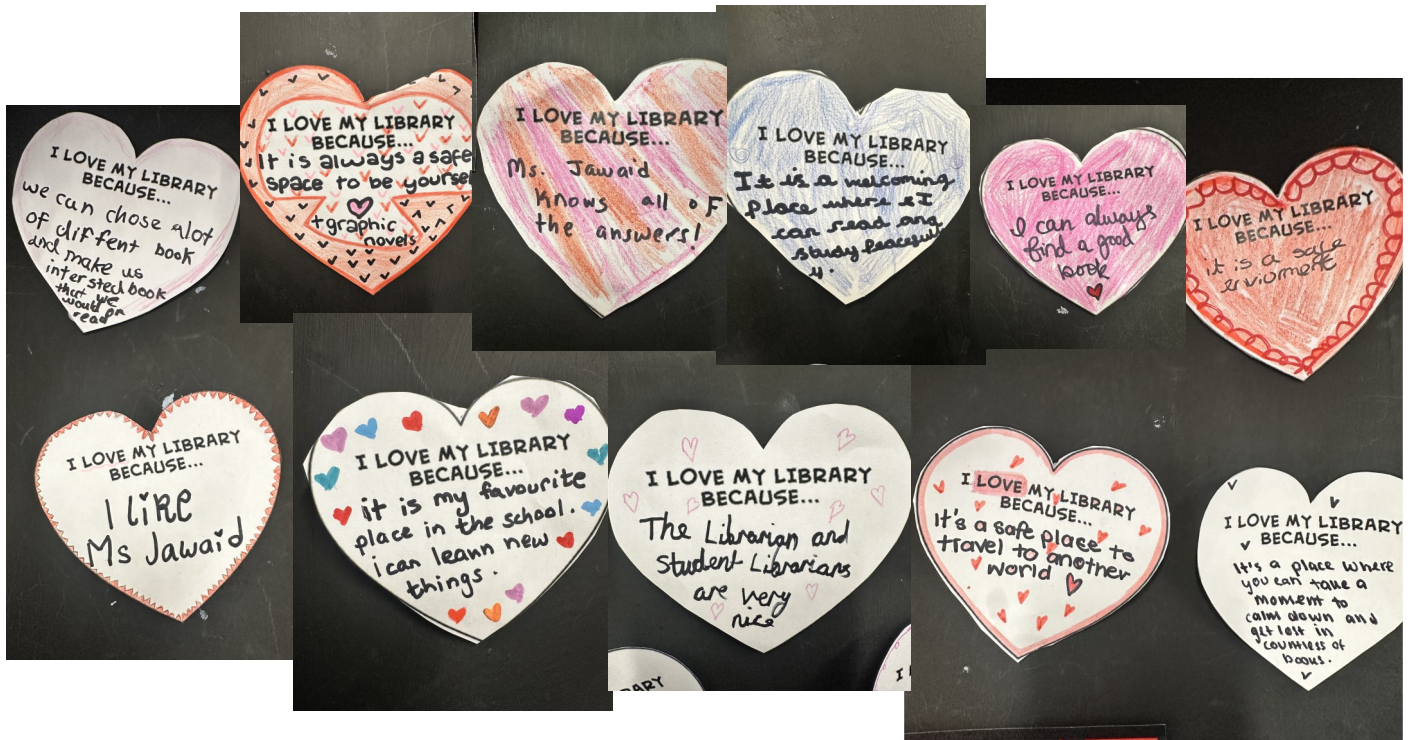
The Multicultural Club meets every Monday in the library, register with Ms. Jawaid if you're interested!





# Library Events

See what our pupils have to say about why they love the library...



**READ  
YOUR WAY**



Get ready to immerse yourself in the magic of stories because World Book Day is just around the corner, and we want YOU to join in the fun! World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday, 6th March and the school library will be the place to be!

Our library will be showcasing a fantastic range of books across all genres! Whether you're into action-packed adventures, thrilling mysteries, heartwarming tales, or fantastical worlds, we've got something for everyone.

Don't miss out on fun events throughout the day, like reading challenges, book-themed quizzes, and more! It's the perfect chance to discover new books and meet fellow bookworms.



**FREE Book Tokens:** When you visit the library between 13th February to 22nd March, you'll receive a special £1 Book Token! Use it to get a brand-new book at participating retailers. It's easy to redeem — take your token to any participating retailer like Waterstones, WHSmith, and many more!

There will also be the Great Booky Quiz with an award for the winners. Pupils can also participate in The Reading Expedition and Book Hunt on the day to win special books and prizes.



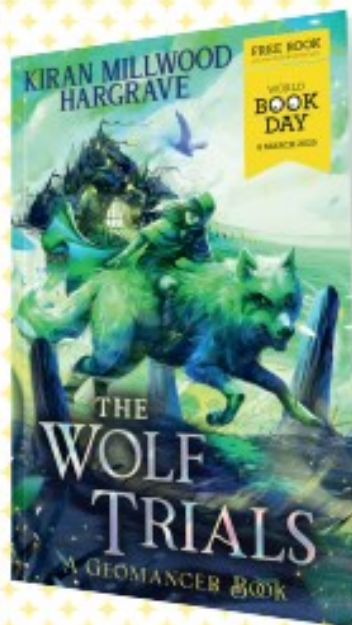
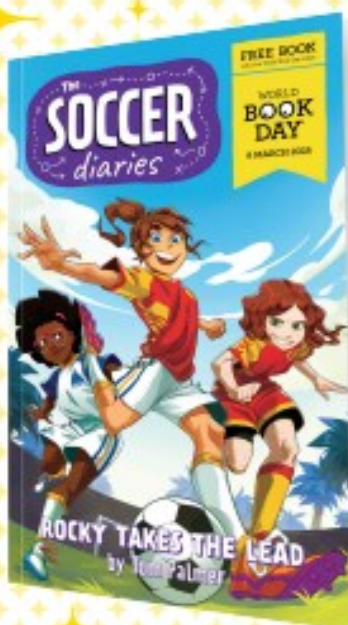
WORLD  
BOOK  
DAY

6 MARCH 2025

# READ YOUR WAY

## THIS WORLD BOOK DAY

### 6 MARCH 2025



Choose a World Book Day book for **FREE** with your £1/€1.50 book token.

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