

Simon Balle All-through School

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



Welcome to the Year 7 Summer Reading Challenge!

Get ready to turn pages and unlock worlds. This summer, we are inviting all new Year 7 students to take part in an exciting reading journey designed to boost your imagination, build confidence, and prepare you for the adventure of secondary school.

Why join the challenge?

- 📖 Reading strengthens vocabulary, focus, and creativity.
- 🌍 It broadens your understanding of the world.
- 🏠 Some of the books will reflect and explore the values of our school, helping you understand what we stand for and how we support each other.
- 💬 It helps build empathy and communication skills - great for making new friends in Year 7!

Get Ready for Secondary School with the Summer Reading Challenge!

This summer, dive into the *reading list set by Simon Balle*. It is a great way to get ahead and discover some exciting new books before September.

How to take part:

- Read the books on the list below.
- Keep track of your reading progress.
- Share your favourite reads with friends or your new classmates when term starts.
- **Bonus challenge:** Not a library member yet? Sign up at your *local library* - it is quick and free! Show your brand-new library card to the librarian when you join school in September, and you will earn a house point!

This summer, grow your mind and fuel your future.

Your next chapter starts here.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Theme: Embracing differences, respect

A heartwarming and eye-opening story about a boy with facial differences navigating a new school.

Teaches kindness, courage, and empathy.

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf

Theme: Respect, empathy, new beginnings

Told from a child's perspective, this is a powerful tale about a refugee student and the friends who welcome him.

The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Theme: Internal struggles, respect, independence

A gripping mystery with a protagonist dealing with difficulties. Offers insight into internal struggles and resilience.

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Ghost by Jason Reynolds

Theme: Accountability, independence

The first in the "Track" series. Ghost wants to outrun his past - literally. A fast-paced, powerful story about owning your actions and growing up.

The Unadoptables by Hana Tooke

Theme: Friendship, new beginnings

Set in 19th-century Amsterdam, five orphans embark on a journey to find family. A quirky adventure full of heart.

Boy 87 by Ele Fountain

Theme: Refugee journey, courage, respect

A gripping story about a boy fleeing a dictatorship. Encourages empathy and awareness of global issues.

Ella on the Outside by Cath Howe

Theme: New beginnings, friendship, choices

Ella is starting over at a new school with secrets to keep. A subtle, realistic portrayal of friendship, trust, and fitting in.

The House with Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson

Theme: Identity, independence, self-discovery

A lyrical reimagining of Slavic folklore, this novel explores choosing your own path and living beyond others' expectations.

A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll

Theme: Embracing differences, accountability

A neurodivergent girl campaigns for a forgotten cause in her town. Inspires readers to stand up for what is right, even when it is hard.

Can You See Me? by Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott

Theme: Independence, acceptance

Based on Libby Scott's real-life experiences of autism, this story challenges preconceptions and celebrates inner strength.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss

