



## Welcome to Reading Together

Hello Families! We're back with our second newsletter for the National Year of Reading. We wanted to get this out to you before half term so you can attempt the CELT World Book Day competition.

Have you started the 10 minute challenge? It's not too late and every minute counts towards a child's future success.

★ **THE 10-MINUTE CHALLENGE** ★  
**Can your family read together for just 10 minutes every day?**  
**That's all it takes!**



- Why 10 minutes?
- It fits into the busiest lives
- Children look forward to it when it's part of the routine
- Over an hour each week adds up!
- It shows reading is important AND enjoyable

Part of the  
National Year of Reading 2026

**GO  
ALL  
IN.**

### Story-telling

Did you see Mr Pollard telling stories each evening during National Story Telling week? Darcey, Reggie and Bertie from Port Isaac Academy certainly did! If you missed them and want to catch up then you will find them on the CELT website: [www.celtrust.org](http://www.celtrust.org)





## Why Read Together?

- Children read to daily before the age of 5 enter school with a 1.4 million word advantage.
- In early childhood the brain builds over 1.4 million neural connections a second.
- Reading doesn't activate one area it lights up many at once:
  - Language
  - Attention
  - Emotion
  - Memory
- Storybooks use up to 3x more unique words than everyday conversation.
- When a parent reads aloud, the child practices stillness, listening, waiting and following a sequence.

## This Month's Fun Challenge

### CELT Reading Champions Hall of Fame

### Celebrate World Book Day with us!

This World Book Day, we're launching something special across all CELT schools – the Reading Champions Hall of Fame.

We're inviting every child to share their love of reading by creating a special page about a book they've enjoyed.

What to do: Choose any book you've loved reading and create ONE page (A4 or A5) to tell us why it's brilliant! You can do this however you like:

- Draw your favourite scene with a few sentences about why you loved it
- Write a letter recommending it to a friend
- Create a comic strip of the best bit
- Write a poem about the book or its characters
- Make a "top 5 reasons to read this" list
- Draw a character portrait with speech bubbles

Be as creative as you like – there's no right or wrong way to do this!

The rules:

- Your page must be handwritten or hand-drawn (no typing or printing)
- It can be about ANY book you've genuinely enjoyed
- One entry per child
- **Bring your entry to school by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March (World Book Day) 2026**

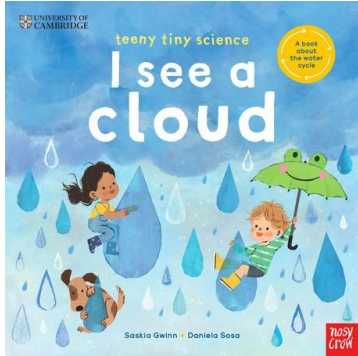
What happens next: All entries will be displayed in your child's school so everyone can see your fantastic work. Then, each school will choose ONE Reading Champion whose page will be displayed in the special CELT Hall of Fame and celebrated across all our schools. This is completely free – just use paper and pens/pencils you have at home or at school.

We can't wait to see which books you love!



## Book Recommendations This Month

### EYFS



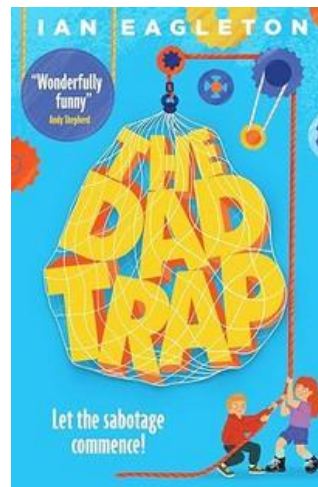
### Key Stage 1



### Lower Key Stage 2



### Upper Key Stage 2



## Share Your Reading Story!

### The Best Family - St Mewan

We love reading, especially whilst sat in boxes!  
The Happy Families series that Father Christmas brought us is a firm favourite at the moment.  
We like Mr Creep the Crook because he is funny and we like the 'fool proof plans' that he draws!



If you have a reading story to share we'd love to hear from you. Email: [info@celtrust.org](mailto:info@celtrust.org)



## Coming Soon...

**March: World Book Day (5th March) - celebrating books in accessible ways for everyone**

**June: St Austell Festival of Children's Literature - our BIG celebration!**

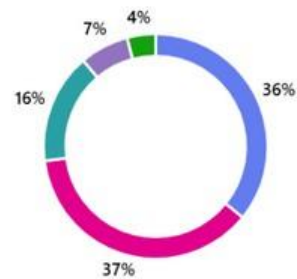
**July - August: The Summer Reading Challenge**

## January Reading Survey Results

We asked how often you read at home. We had 170 responses and among those responses there was a good start for our everybody 10 minutes everyday campaign with over half reading 5+ times a week.

1. How often do you read with your child for at least 10 minutes?

● Every day	61
● Most days (5-6 times a week)	63
● Several times a week (3-4 times)	27
● Once or twice a week	12
● Less than once a week	7



There are still hundreds who haven't answered the survey yet! If you haven't please scan the QR code to answer now. It's anonymous and we'd like to collect a clear baseline. The survey closes on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.



**Every minute counts. Every book matters.  
Together, we can make 2026 a brilliant year for  
reading!**