Waterloo Primary School Reading Curriculum 2026–2027

LB = learning block • RWI = Read Write Inc. • ARK = English Mastery • Whole-school poetry festival in LB6

Pathway	Development throughout the year
Pre-formal Pegasus / Aurora / Lyra Engagement Steps	Communication and interaction; cognition and sensory exploration; attention and engagement; play and social development; physical and sensory development; independence and early learning behaviours. Personalised learning through routines, play, sensory experiences and meaningful interactions. Progression follows the school's Pre-formal Developmental Progression Framework, individual starting points and EHCP outcomes.

Reading across the six learning blocks

Year / pathway	LB1	LB2	LB3	LB4	LB5	LB6
Nursery 2 RWI / Phase 1	Explore texts through linked activities and related pretend play.	Explore colour, fruit and vegetable vocabulary; answer simple questions about texts.	Share books with an adult; begin retelling with props; explore key vocabulary.	Repeat familiar words and phrases; pretend play; retell with pictures and props; answer who, what and where questions.	Notice familiar print: first letter of own name, numbers and logos; use props in play around favourite stories.	**Understand that print carries meaning, including signs and logos.** Poetry: familiar action rhymes, repeated words, sounds and movements.
Nursery 3–4 RWI	**Lulu's First Day; A Splendid Friend Indeed.** Join in rhyme, rhythm and repetition; discuss vocabulary through pictures; nursery rhymes.	**The Enormous Turnip; When It Rains; Lost and Found; Arctic Animals.** Weather/harvest vocabulary; retell through actions and play; name non-fiction text features.	**Mr Gumpy's Motor Car; The Train Ride; The Naughty Bus.** Retell with photographs; vary rhythm and tempo; identify title, blurb and front cover.	**Farmyard Hullabaloo; Farmer Duck; Rosie's Walk; What the Ladybird Heard.** Distinguish environmental and speech sounds; suggest rhymes; identify matching initial sounds.	**The Three Little Pigs; Little Red Riding Hood; The Gingerbread Man.** Recite stories; turn pages; read left to right; identify rhymes; retell with instrumental sound effects.	**Dear Zoo; We're Going on a Lion Hunt; Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** Retell independently while turning pages; clap syllables; sort by initial sound.
Reception RWI	What I Like About Me; What Makes Me a Me?; Usborne All About Families; Me and My Amazing Body.	People Who Help Us non-fiction series; Supertato; Juniper Jupiter; Rama and Sita The Story of Diwali; The Jolly Christmas Postman.	Castle non-fiction; The Very Last Castle; George and the Dragon.	Jack and the Beanstalk; The Enormous Turnip; What Can You See in Spring?	The Jolly Postman; A Walk in London; All Aboard the Bobo Road.	Tree; Handa's Surprise; Whatever Next!
Year 1 RWI	**47 sounds • Purple books** Jack and the Beanstalk; The Enormous Turnip; Handa's Surprise (Reception revisits). Poem: Stack Some Blocks. Non-fiction: toys. Reading focus: Discuss texts, titles, vocabulary and key events; link to experience; join predictable phrases; explain understanding and listen to others.	**52 sounds • Pink books** Colour Monster; Stick Man; The Snowman and song. Poem: Deciduous and Evergreen. Non-fiction: autumn/winter seasons. Reading focus: Retell and sequence traditional tales; recognise features; clarify vocabulary; check sense; predict and infer from characters' words/actions.	**58 sounds • Orange books** The Gingerbread Man; Goldilocks and the Three Bears; The Three Little Pigs; Billy Goats Gruff. Poem: Hullabaloo. Non-fiction: transport; animals. Reading focus: Discuss varied genres; retell events; use background knowledge; explore vocabulary; check understanding; predict, infer and explain orally.	**64 sounds • Yellow books** Little Red Riding Hood; We're Going on a Bear Hunt; The Tiger Who Came to Tea. Poem: Hatching. Non-fiction: keeping healthy. Reading focus: Discuss titles and events; justify predictions and inferences; explore vocabulary; link to experience; sustain discussion and retell independently.	**69 sounds • Yellow books** The Gruffalo; A Squash and a Squeeze; Monkey Puzzle. Poem: Sports Day. Non-fiction: United Kingdom. Reading focus: Apply across genres; clarify vocabulary; combine background knowledge and text; check sense; summarise, predict and explain inferences.	**75 sounds • Blue books** Handa's Hen (Reception link); Barbara Throws a Wobbler; Bumblebear. Poem: The Seaside. Non-fiction: seaside. Reading focus: Consolidate vocabulary, monitoring, retelling, prediction and inference; refer to text; listen, respond and apply skills independently.
Year 2	**RWI** Monkey Puzzle (Y1 revisit); The Highway Rat; The True Story of the Three Little Pigs. Poem: Feelings Are Like the Weather. Non-fiction: London. Reading focus: Sequence and connect events/information; use prior knowledge; clarify vocabulary; question, predict, explain understanding and express views.	**RWI** The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig; Mr Wolf's Pancakes; Zog. Poem: Your Majesty It's Time for Tea. Non-fiction: Royal Family. Reading focus: Retell traditional tales; recognise recurring language; sequence, infer and predict; discuss favourite phrases; question; explore non-fiction structure.	**RWI** The Day the Crayons Quit; The Book with No Pictures; The Pirate Next Door. Poem: A Pancake Rap. Non-fiction: owls. Reading focus: Infer from words/actions; check sense; question to clarify; explore vocabulary and recurring language; explain understanding; connect non-fiction information.	**RWI** The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark; Coming to England. Poem: A Spring in Your Step. Non-fiction: owls. Reading focus: Develop inference and prediction; connect events; explain views; ask purposeful questions; use background knowledge; connect non-fiction information.	**The Enormous Crocodile (introduction to Roald Dahl). Poem: Wiggly Worm. Non-fiction: Africa.** Reading focus: Independently infer, predict, question and sequence; clarify vocabulary and favourite phrases; explain understanding; compare non-fiction structures and connect information.	**The Magic Finger. Poem: Very Hot Today. Non-fiction: farming. ARK Transition Unit.** Reading focus: Secure inference, prediction, questioning, vocabulary, sequencing and retelling; check sense; express views; explain understanding; navigate varied non-fiction structures.
Cognition and Learning ARK	**The BFG** Roald Dahl biography; What are dreams?; Poem - Queen Elizabeth II		**Cloud Busting** What is bullying?; Food allergies; Malorie Blackman biography		**The Queen's Nose** What are riddles?; Caring for your rabbit.; Poem - Wishing	
Year 3 ARK	**The BFG** Roald Dahl biography; What are dreams?; Poem - Queen Elizabeth II	**Cloud Busting** What is bullying?; Food allergies; Malorie Blackman biography	**The Queen's Nose** What are riddles?; Caring for your rabbit.; Poem - Wishing	**Fearless Fairy Tales** Konnie Huq biography; What is equality?; What is a fairy tale?	**The Wild Robot** Adaptation & survival; Ecosystems and food webs; Artificial intelligence	**The Adventures of Odysseus** Greek myths & The Trojan War; Ancient Greek ships; How did the Ancient Greeks change the world?
Year 4 ARK	**Charlotte's Web** Biography - E.B.White; Poem - The Spider and The Fly; The lifecycle of a spider	**Varjak Paw** Creating Varjak Paw; Karate; S.F. Said	**The Explorer** Rainforests; Animals in the Amazon; Percy Fawcett	**The Explorer** Diary of the unknown explorer; Amazon Survival Guide; Poem- Beneath the Canopy	**The Boy at the Back of the Class** Refugees: seeking safety; Poem- Kindness; What's the truth?	**Race to the Frozen North** Biography - Matthew Henson; Sailing around Britain; Climate change in the Arctic
Year 5 ARK	**Beowulf** Beowulf- what you need to know; Graphic Novel: Beowulf the Hero; Nessie- Monster, Mistake or Mystery?	**Riddle of the Runes** Who were the Vikings?; Animals in the Viking World; What can Viking Treasures teach us?	**The Girl Who Stole an Elephant** Sri Lanka; Temples in Sri Lanka; Sri Lankan Elephants; Interview with a conservationist; Women who rule; Poem: Heart of the Island		**The Closest Thing to Flying** The Fight for Votes for Women; Protecting Britain's Birds; Spotlight on: Sir Mo Farah	**Cogheart** Growing up in Victorian Britain; The age of airships; Poem: Tick-Tock, Clockwork
Year 6 ARK	**Wonder** Interview with RJ Palacio; Choose Kind: Embracing Empathy and Spreading Good Vibes; Broarwood Nature Reserve Leaflet	**Holes** Rattlesnakes; Professional cover letter; The USA Civil Rights Movement	**Letters From the Lighthouse** Evacuation In World War II: A Journey to Safety for British Children; Journeys of Hope: Understanding the Refugee Experience; Echoes of Resilience (poetry)	**Windrush Child** The Windrush Generation; Amnesty International	**The Other Side of Truth** Interview - Uncovering the Story: What is it like to be an Investigative Journalist?; Crocodiles in Nigeria: Protecting Our Precious Reptiles	**Macbeth** Non-fiction text – William Shakespeare