

Happy New Year and a very **Happy National Year of Reading!** Welcome back to the first edition of 2026. We have some interesting topics to cover this issue, including: Valentine's Day, Joyful January reads and information on the National Year of Reading!

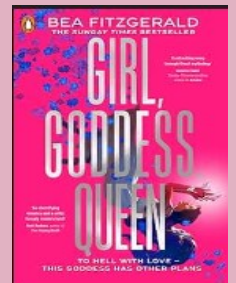
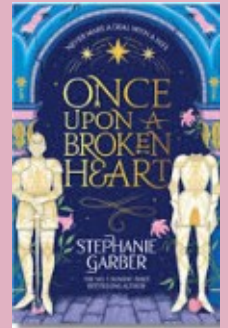


## Why is it 'National Year of Reading?'

This is a campaign to help people rediscover the joy of reading! Only 1 in 3 children read for pleasure, but reading boosts literacy, is linked to higher academic achievement and better mental health. There are so many benefits of reading!

## Lit Soc read because:

- ⇒ It's fun
- ⇒ It's very good for mindfulness
- ⇒ It can help you sleep
- ⇒ It takes you somewhere else to take your mind off of problems
- ⇒ It expands your knowledge of language
- ⇒ It helps you connect to others and their experiences
- ⇒ It expands your imagination
- ⇒ It's cathartic!



## January Joy

The start of the year can sometimes be gloomy, so we've created a list of reads for January Joy! Enjoy!

**Divine rivals** by Rebecca Ross - an epic love story and a war between gods.

**Bloom** by Nicola Skinner - This book is a beautiful read for winter to brighten your day.

**Bramble Fox** by Kathrin Tordasi - A fairytale read where a young girl finds a magic door leading to another land. There, she must find a way to defeat the king and save the creatures.

**The Last Bear** by Hannah Gold - A lovely book about a girl becoming friends with a polar bear. A peaceful read.

## Love is in the Air

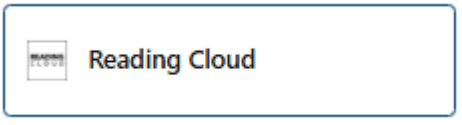
Here are our top picks for Valentine's Day reads.

**Better Than the Movies** by Lynn Painter—A cute 'boy-next-door' romance

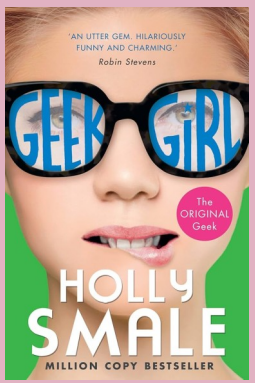
**Loveless** by Alice Oseman — a girl goes to university unsure about her love life... she discovers that there are other kinds of love that are much more important

**Girl Goddess Queen** by Bea Fitzgerald —A feminist spin on the classic Greek Myth of Hades and Persephone.

**Once Upon a Broken Heart** by Stephie Garber - A hopeless romantic who seeks help and makes a dangerous deal...



- Use Reading Cloud to:
- Browse and reserve books
  - Check out the most popular books each week
  - Write/read student reviews
  - Read the latest reading news



TCS: January's Most Popular Library Book!

Mrs Squire has been busy revamping 'Reading Cloud' to celebrate the National Year of Reading 2026!

1. Select the 'Reading Cloud' icon on Sharepoint
2. Enter login details (p.41 of student handbook).

## World Book Day Vouchers 2026

Tutors will issue a World Book Day voucher at the end of Term 3! Sneak a peek at the new titles for this year's free books below. You will be able to get your hands on these from 12th February - 15th March.

Available at participating retailers including The Corsham Bookshop and Asda in Melksham (amongst others)

Which will you choose?



- ### Sneak peek of World Book Day 2026:
- ◆ TCS Sponsored Read
  - ◆ Staff 24 hour reads
  - ◆ Design a book token competition