

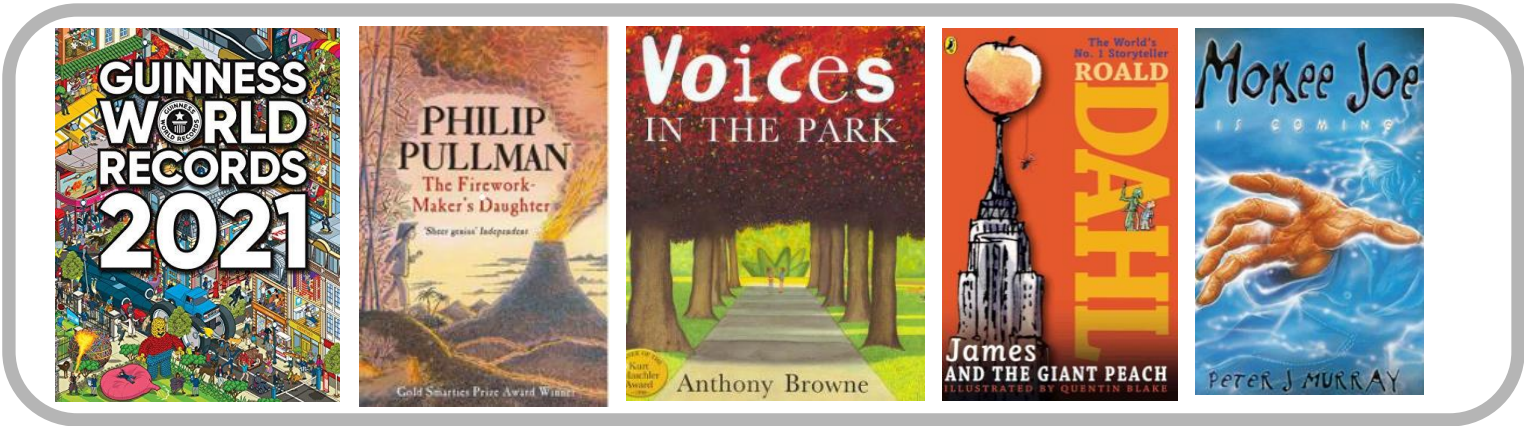
# 10 books to read before you leave Year 4



How many can you complete?



Sometimes as parents it can feel like we're working flat out just to fit everything in! But remember, although we all find it hard to make the time to read and play with our children, when it comes to reading just a few simple things can make all the difference. Talking about what you've just read together helps children think about what they've read, boosts their imagination and grows their confidence. It's also a good way to pick up on new words and check that they understand what they've read.



# Why is reading so important?



## 1. Children who read often and widely get better at it.

After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.

## 2. Reading exercises our brain.

Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain compared to watching TV, for example. Reading strengthens brains connections and builds connections.

## 3. Reading improves concentration.

Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.

## 4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.

Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience.

## 5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.

Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.

## 6. Reading develops a child's imagination.

As we read, our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.

## 7. Reading helps children to develop empathy.

As children develop they begin to how they would feel in that situation.

## 8. Reading is fun.

A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you take it anywhere. You can never be bored if you have a book in your bag!

## 9. Reading is a great way to spend time together.

Reading together on the sofa, bedtime stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.

## 10. Children who read achieve better in school.

Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

