



WEEKLY NEWS

Friday 30th January 2026

Issue 439

NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK 2026



Created by the Society for Storytelling, National Storytelling Week is a fantastic annual event and joyful celebration of the power of sharing stories.

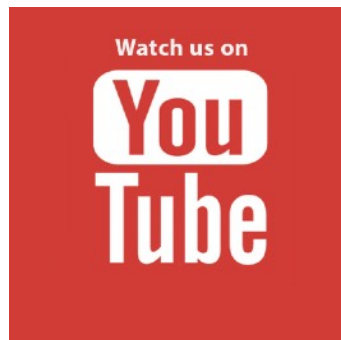
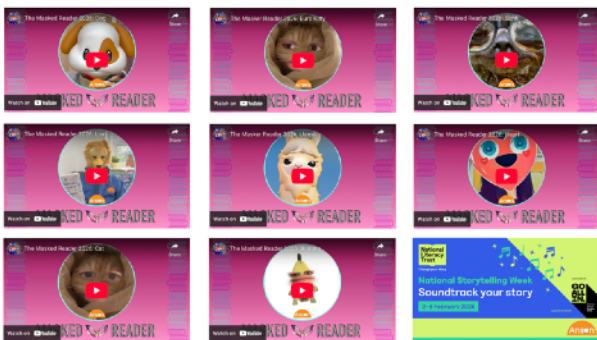
The theme for National Storytelling Week 2026 is "Soundtrack your story". Many people have their own musical story -

whether it's in the songs we love and the music we dance to, through British Sign Language and the rhythms we feel, the soundscapes of everyday life, or the soundtracks we hear in films and games. Music connects us to words. It helps us express who we are and how we see the world.

Research highlights that exploring stories through lyrics can be an effective way to engage young people with reading for enjoyment and writing for pleasure. Slightly more than 3 in 5 (60.7%) children and young people age 8-18 regularly read song lyrics digitally. Writing song lyrics is also popular among children and young people age 8-18, with slightly less than 1 in 5 (17.8%) reporting that they write lyrics on a screen at least once a month. Throughout the week, we will explore the magic of storytelling through sound, lyrics and rhythm.

The staff have also come together to create a link between music and reading with our version of the Masked Reader, inspired by the Masked Singer. You can watch the staff on Anson TV or by clicking the image below. Can you guess the teacher behind the mask?

WATCH THE 2026 MASKED READERS



Anson
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
COFFEE MORNING
Monday 9th February
9am
How can you support your child with AI?
www.ansonprimaryschool.com

DATES

Monday 2nd February
National Storytelling Week

Thursday 5th February
Victoria Class Assembly
9:10am

Friday 13th February
Festival of Food
5pm - 7pm

CLICK THE IMAGE BELOW FOR TOP TIPS WITH

Supporting your child's reading



Book lists for children and young people

Read now



Make reading fun with Chase Bank

Read now



Using hobbies to help your child read

Read now



Reading with your child

Read now

HALF TERM

Monday 16th February
to
Friday 20th February



friends of Anson
Festival of Food
FREE ENTRY
Friday 13th February
5:00pm to 7:00pm
Bring a dish to share with the community.
Friends of Anson will be selling drinks.



Schoolgateway
Keeping you informed of what's going on at school.
Download the app
Android and iPhone
or visit the website: www.schoolgateway.com
Turn on notifications



THE POWER OF READING

Sharing stories with young children is one of the most powerful ways to support early literacy and language development, according to research by the **National Literacy Trust (NLT)**.

By sitting with children and sharing stories at home and at school we can improve young children's communication and vocabulary.

For parents it is about being confident to create rich, language-filled home learning environments. Parents involved in the NLT programmes report that their children pay more attention to stories and interact with books more often, which helps build children's early literacy engagement.

The NLT also emphasises that sharing books and stories from a very young age supports the sounds, rhythms and meanings of language, builds early listening skills, and strengthens emotional bonds between children and caregivers. Even babies benefit from hearing the patterns and cadence of speech, laying a foundation for future reading and communication.

Overall, the Trust's research highlights that story experiences don't just teach words — they nurture curiosity, confidence and a lifelong love of reading.

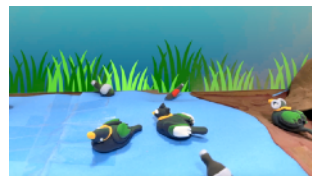
WHERE HAVE THE GLADSTONE DUCKS GONE?



It has been six-months in the making but this week Daphne and Mira (5K) released their film, **Where have the ducks gone?**

The filming began in July 2025, when the girls noticed that the ducks had disappeared from the famous pond which sits in front of the ruins of Dollis Hill House in Gladstone Park.

They set about trying to work out where the ducks had gone and how to get them back. Following emails to Brent Council workers began clearing the issues in the park and in association with Friends of Gladstone Park the pond area was transformed. By January 2026 the ducks had returned and there are even sightings of moorhens and wild geese.

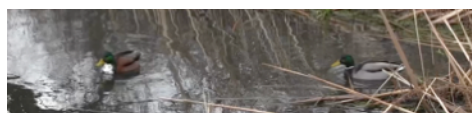


The film is the story of the transformation of the pond from the moment Daphne and Mira noticed the ducks had vanished, through research into the disappearance and the clean up operation.

The pond is now well worth a visit this spring to see which birds come back to this wonderful section of the park.

Congratulations to Daphne and Mira on a remarkable project:

<https://youtu.be/UEqtiNSGG2w>



Spanish:

Puede traducir este boletín a 41 idiomas en la dirección a continuación

Arabic:

يمكنك ترجمة هذه النشرة الإخبارية إلى 41 لغة على العنوان أدناه

Polish:

Możesz przetłumaczyć ten biuletyn na 41 języków na poniższy adres

Urdu:

آپ اس نیوز لیٹر کو نیچے دیئے گئے پتے پر 41 زبانوں میں ترجمہ کرسکتے ہیں

French:

Vous pouvez traduire cette newsletter en 41 langues à l'adresse ci-dessous

German:

Sie können diesen Newsletter unter der unten angegebenen Adresse in 41 Sprachen übersetzen

Ukrainian:

Ви можете перекласти цю розсилку 41 мовою за адресою нижче.

<https://tinyurl.com/APStranlatenews>