



Farmor's School

LIBRARY

# Impact Report

2023 - 2024

# Introduction

This annual report summarises the impact and progress of development of the library. Focusing mainly on a six month period. In this time the library has:

- Reorganised the library shelving from alphabetical organisation of books to genrefication.
- Implemented a new LMS and catalogued library collection onto new library management system.
- Designed and rolled out a library website to students and parents.
- Planned and hosted a programme of library events, clubs and author workshops.
- Launched a weekly library newsletter.
- Enrolled and trained student librarians.
- Fundraised to improve our book collection.
- Increased inclusive and diverse titles.
- Taken part in a county wide Readathon to raise money for charity.
- Created and maintained a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.
- Collaborated with other Gloucestershire schools as part of the Year of Reading.



The new library management system has enabled us to report and analyse data that was previously unavailable. It shows that our author visits and events programme have had a huge impact on students' enthusiasm to read. It also highlights the importance of the library stocking the latest book releases, capitalising on the buzz around popular titles.



## Most Popular Books:

Loans	Title
19	Heartstopper Vol. 1 by Alice Oseman
15	Blackhole Cinema Club by Christopher Edge
15	Heartstopper Vol 2 by Alice Oseman
10	Heartstopper Vol 3 by Alice Oseman
9	Heartstopper Vol 4 by Alice Oseman
9	The Third Wheel by Jeff Kinney
8	Escape Room by Christopher Edge
7	Lord of the Fleas by Dav Pilkey

**220**

Students  
attended a live  
author event.

**152**

Online book  
reservations.

**789**

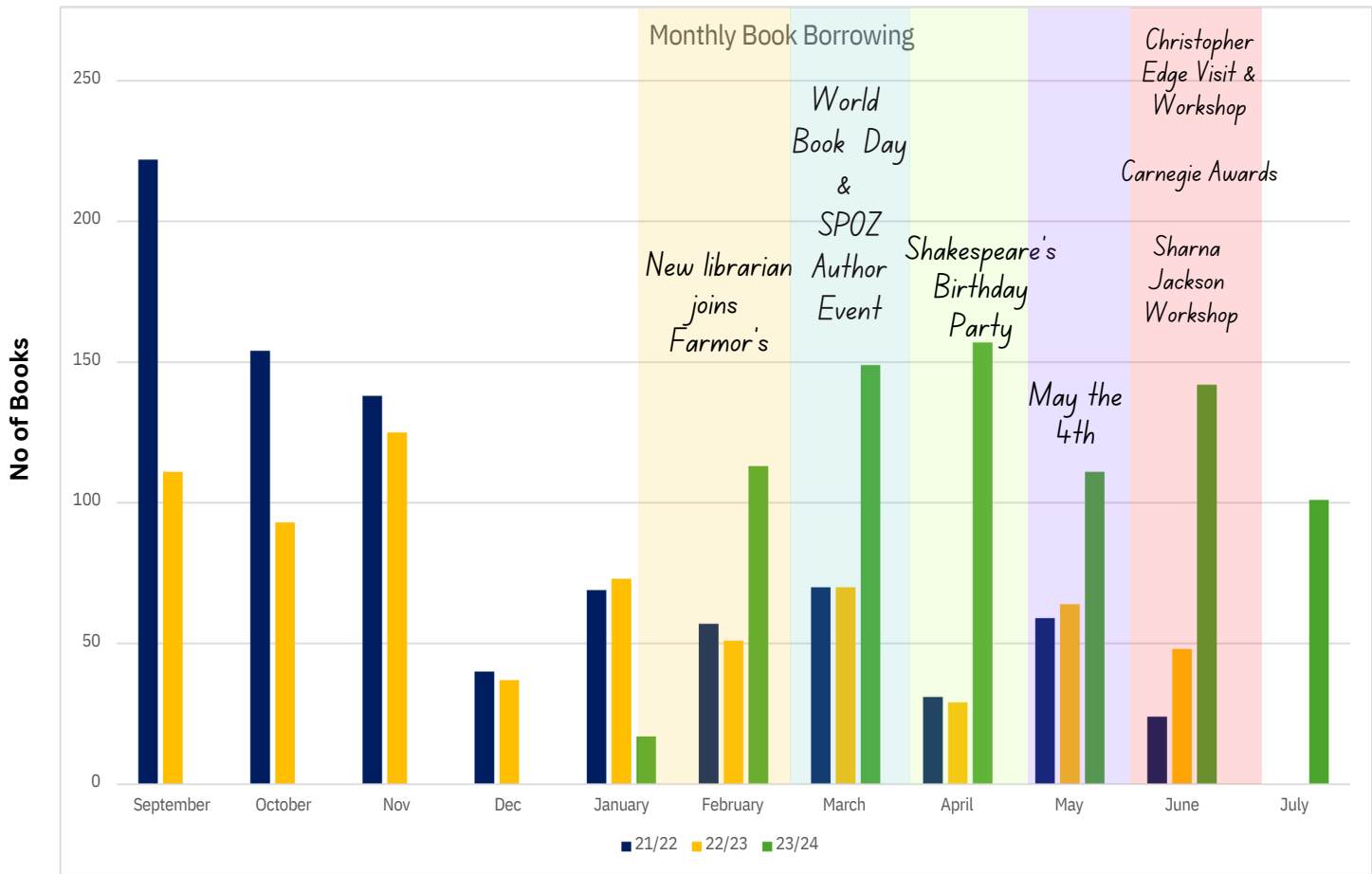
Books Borrowed.

**1209**

Library website  
searches.

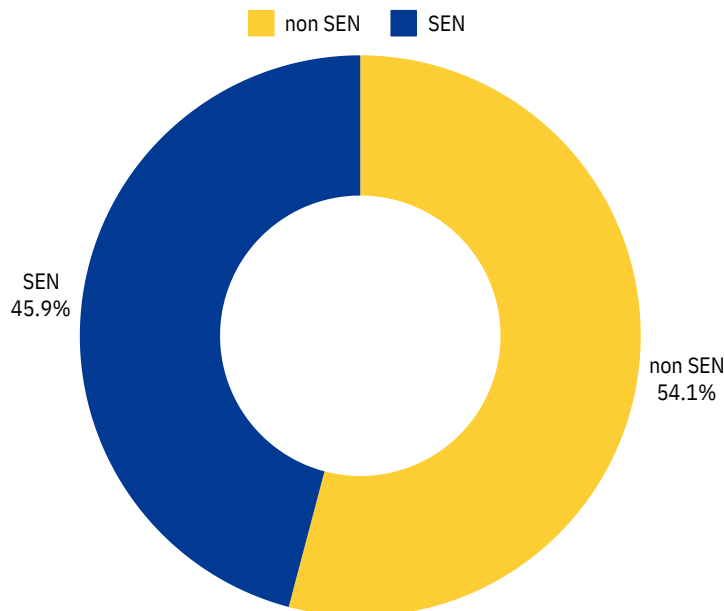
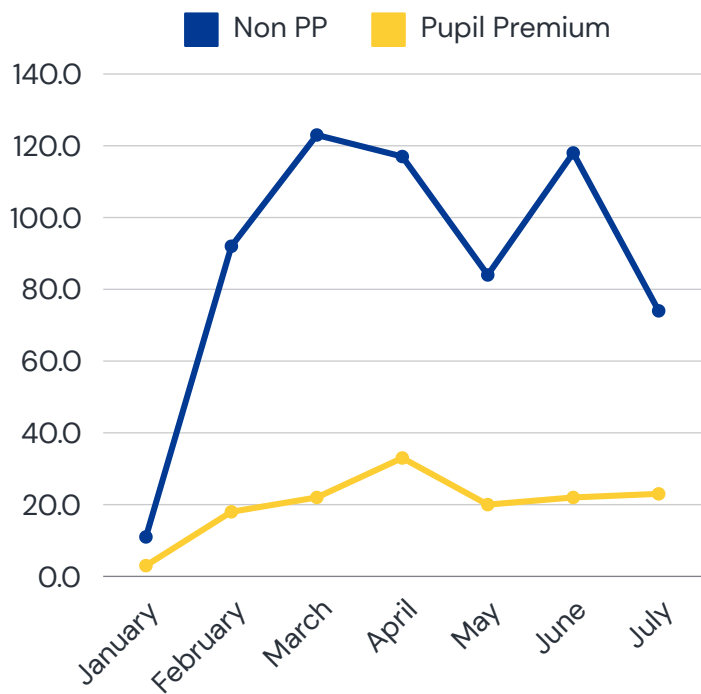
# Monthly Book Loans

Here we can see the total number of loans made each month including our programme of enrichment events that punctuated the year. Our comparative data begins in earnest in January 2024 due to incomplete data from previous years.



## Six Month View

Each event brings new students into the library who hadn't visited previously. It has been interesting and encouraging to see that PP students are steadily increasing their library usage. Importantly, our aims of ensuring the library is a welcoming, accessible and inclusive space is vital, with 45.9% of library users having special educational needs.



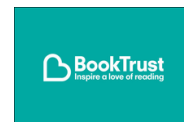




Farmor's School

£900

Value of free books acquired from library activities and partnerships with organisations and charities. A huge thank you to everyone who has generously given their time and effort to collaborate with us to enhance, increase and improve the reading opportunities at Farmor's School.



"Before the library was reformed, I didn't go much since the books there were not that challenging or interesting for me to read. But since of the great work of our school librarian, I have been given loads of great challenging books that I have very much enjoyed reading. She is an astoundingly great librarian with a great skill for recommending absolutely smashing books." - Student

"My two girls have loved spending time in the library and their deep love of books has been very well nurtured. There are so many opportunities with book clubs and visiting authors." Parent

"Ms Barker-Harrolds' arrival at the library at Farmors has been like a breath of fresh air. She has a seemingly boundless enthusiasm for books and children alike, which makes her perfect for this role. She has a rare ability to bring this enthusiasm to both a large scale (with things like the School Library Newsletter, which is brilliant), and at a small scale, by engaging with library goers like our daughter, making a great connection with her, and not only maintaining her love of books but also nurturing it and encouraging it. Ms Barker-Harrold has made the library a place everyone is welcome, it has given our daughter a place to feel like she belongs and positively contribute to the school. Our daughter has struggled at school at times, and Ms Barker-Harrold and the environment she has created in the library have been central to her well-being.

I know I speak for my daughter by saying Mrs Barker-Harrold makes her time at school so much more entertaining and enjoyable. For that, I am extremely grateful". - Parent

"Our library is a vibrant, inclusive, community space. This is entirely down to Amber's kind, creative, positive approach. Everyone is welcome. The space is visually inviting and friendly. The range of tastes catered for is broad and thoughtful. The activities, events and clubs create a buzz around reading that I've not seen elsewhere. Amber is super engaged and dedicated - joining in with teacher training on reading to learn, creating posters for teachers' classrooms and helping out with anything that requires a little creative sparkle. I've been teaching for 17 years and have honestly never seen a school library with so much going on and with such a lovely atmosphere. Just wonderful!" - Ms Hubbard-Miles, Languages Teacher

"I've never worked in a school (20 years experienced teacher) with such a colourful and well displayed library! It is continually refreshed, themed and the publicity reaches far beyond the four walls of the building. If anyone can get teenagers excited about reading, it is Amber!" - Ms Wood, Teacher

"Amber is the best school librarian I've ever worked with! Her passion for reading, and her heart for helping students engage more in the literacy world is evident daily. She creates a safe space for everyone who visits the library, and plans some of the most fun events throughout the year! I know the students really appreciate everything she does, and she really goes above and beyond what a school librarian would normally do, which is shown in how much students are engaging in the space and with the events." - Mrs Taylor

"Since Amber has been at the school, it has been a far more inviting space. The children seem to really enjoy going there now especially since the introduction of graphic novels, magazines and request purchases. I myself use the library and she has given me some excellent recommendations for books which I would never have thought to read. Amber is very knowledgeable about the content of the library and is able to take the information you give her and instantly find books for you. All in all I really do think she has improved the library."  
Ms Carpenter, Teaching Assistant

"The school library has never been so popular and busy. There is always a real buzz and this is down to Amber who is always really helpful and always smiling and the students find her so approachable. Amber also arranges lots of events to make sure the Library isn't a forgotten space." Ms Simmonds, finance.

Miss Barker-Harrold has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to Farmor's School, along with a positive and caring attitude in all that she does. She has worked wonders in turning around our library, where she has transformed the entire place, making it a colourful, warm and inviting environment to be in. It is now bustling with students eager to be a part of all it has to offer, from newsletters, competitions, online book reservations, donations, talks by authors and so much more. She should be very proud of what she has achieved, as we are of her. Miss Barker-Harrold goes above and beyond with her commitment to her role, and outside of it and always with a sunny disposition. She is a credit to the school. - Ms Greenway

"Amber is a wonderful, caring and ever optimistic Librarian. She is committed to putting on experiences regularly in the library to encourage reading and bonding for all students and hosts daily open times for any student to come and feel welcome reading together or playing board games. She is always available for students in need of a calm and reassuring presence should they need a break from a situation. She uses the library for multiple uses and is always accommodating to other departments should they require a quiet space for a 1-2-1 tutoring or reading intervention. Since Amber started the library has become a focal point for many students and the incredible efforts she goes to in order to create a theme or experience is second to none." Ms Hughes, SEN department

“Since Mrs Barker-Harrold has joined us, our Library has become alive! It was once a place that felt grey and empty, where books were left sitting on the shelves just waiting to be picked up and read. To share their words with students and ignite their imaginations. Now it is full of colour and excitement. Students can't wait to go in and see what else Mrs Barker-Harrold has arranged for them to experience. From visiting authors giving talks, Poets running workshops, a party for Shakespeare's birthday, Star Wars and World Book day! Students can now fully immerse themselves in stories of other worlds and become, just for a short while, whilst visiting the Library, someone else, somewhere else.

The Library is a safe haven for so many, they can feel comfortable picking up a book without fear of judgement from their peers, they can leave their worries at the door and escape. Students can read printed words, feel the covers of books and smell the unmistakeable scent of an actual printed book, this you do not get from an electronic version!

It is no longer a room that is down a corridor somewhere, it is Farmor's School Library, that welcomes all who wish to explore all that is hidden behind the covers of those once forgotten books and this is all down to Mrs Barker-Harrold. Thank you for coming to our Library and breathing life into once again, we are very lucky to have you here.” Ms Sampson Head Teacher P.A

“Amber has been a breath of fresh air since taking post as our school librarian. She is always welcoming, polite, friendly and is always happy to help members of staff.

The library has become a real hive of activity for those students who prefer a calmer and more nurturing environment at break and lunchtimes. Additionally, Amber has overhauled the presentation of the library and what it offers, whilst she is often running various literacy competitions from the library, which many of our students buy into. It is a pleasure working with Amber.” - Mr King

“Amber's hard-work and enthusiasm for getting students interested in books and reading has made a huge impact on the pupils and staff at Farmor's School. From re-organising the library itself to make the area a more welcoming place, to organising lunchtime events throughout the year (not just for National Book Week) as well as setting up a more accessible online system for perusing and loaning the library stock, she has been able to increase pupil engagement and raised the profile of the library as a 'place to be' across the school. Amber is also working hard to increase reading with older students to promote their higher level substantive and disciplinary subject knowledge. For example she is working with Head of Subjects to include selected books and reading articles from academic journals and magazines, e.g. articles from Chemistry World (Royal Society of Chemistry). Finally, it is not just Amber's passion for books and reading, but Amber's warm and approachable manner with the students that has helped to make her and the library a destination for the students at our school. Well done Amber!” Dr Bettngton

“Miss Harold Barker provides a welcoming and safe space for all students. She demonstrates how the students welfare is central and plays a crucial role in safeguarding in the school.” Ms O'Rourke, Student Services

“Amber is a real asset to our school - she has made the library a hive of activity and a safe place for our students. She is kind, welcoming and passionate - she has encouraged some of our most reluctant readers to explore the library and the books on offer and has offered leadership opportunities to our more engaged-readers as student librarians. Amber has coordinated a number of special events in the library which have all been a huge success, and it is so wonderful to see how much energy and enthusiasm she has for working with our students and sharing her passion for reading.” Ms Lindsay Head of Year 9

“Every time I walk into the library I am greeted with a lovely smile. I always see Amber interacting with all of the pupils and she makes the library a great place to be.” Miss Barrett, PE teacher

“Amber has created a wonderful environment to encourage the love of reading among the entire school. The library has become a place of peace, safety and belonging for students. Becoming a safe place for students, Amber is excellent at flagging potential safeguarding concerns to the team and she has become a valued and trusted adult in the school for so many students. Her passion for reading and her library shines through and is infectious. She works hard to celebrate calendar events around reading and books, arranges activities for the students and staff to enjoy and makes the library a place of sanctuary and inclusivity for us all. Thank you Amber!” Ms Shipman, Sixth Form Pastoral Manager

“Amber creates a really welcoming atmosphere for students and staff. There are a great selection of books for everyone and very easy to access. She's always happy to help and also help us as teachers with anything book related. Students now really enjoy using the library as a safe and social space to enjoy their books.” Mr Robins, Sociology teacher