



WINDERMERE
SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1863

YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7 TRANSITION GUIDE

A Warm Welcome from our Head



We are so excited to welcome you to our Senior School, based at Browhead Campus. The beauty of our location, the expertise of our staff, and the wealth of facilities are enhanced by our size. Windermere is a deliberately small school. Pupils are known and cherished for who they are, every family is a vital part of our community and the voices of everyone are heard. Our classes are small, our pupils are happy, our education is bespoke and the results are stunning.

My door is always open, to both pupils and parents, and I very much look forward to getting to know you all better throughout your time in our Senior School.

Meet the Head of Lower School



Whether you have been part of the Windermere School community for many years at Elleray, or you are arriving for the first time, I am very much looking forward to welcoming everyone to the Browhead Campus. Starting Senior School is a really exciting time, and there are plenty of great opportunities awaiting the new Year 7 pupils: watersports, adventure sessions, outdoor learning, interactive lessons, a packed extracurricular programme, residentials, the School musical and so much more. However, I am sure that many of you (pupils and parents!) also have a few nerves. As the Head of Lower School, I will be working with tutors to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible. We hope that everyone can settle quickly and really thrive at Browhead. Pupils' wellbeing is at the centre of everything that we do at Windermere, and I look forward to getting to know each and every one of our

new starters. I hope this guide answers many of the questions that pupils and parents may have. If there is anything that is not covered, please get in contact with myself (SRowe@windermereschool.co.uk), or the admissions team (Admissions@windermereschool.co.uk), so that we can answer your questions.

Dates for your Diary

- **Transition Day at Browhead, Wednesday 28 June, 8.30-4pm.** All the new starters are invited for team building and problem-solving activities. The Year 6s will also meet their tutor for next year. Parents are invited into school at 3pm for refreshments and a short presentation from the Head of Lower School about life at Browhead. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions. Tours can also be arranged on request.
- **Afternoon Tea on the Terrace at Browhead, Wednesday 30 August.** All new starters are invited into school before term begins to meet key staff and their tutors, who will run through the arrangements for the first day of term.
- **Autumn Term begins, Thursday 31 August.** There will be an extended tutor time, so that tutors can go through timetables and systems with new pupils. Pupils will be given support logging on to the school network and accessing the electronic resources.
- **Year 7 Residential to Wasdale, 21-23 September.** A fantastic opportunity to bond as a year group. Activities depend on the weather but may include ghyll scrambling, wild swimming, rock climbing and an ascent of Scafell Pike.
- **Meet the tutor, September 2023.** All Year 7 parents are invited into school to meet their child's tutor and discuss how they have settled.

People to know



Mrs Davies
Interim Head



Mrs Overton
Senior Deputy Head
Pastoral & Boarding



Mrs Moses
Deputy Head
Academic



Miss Loughlin
Head of Sixth Form



Mrs Dalzell
Head of Middle School



Mr Rowe
Head of Lower School



Mrs Brown
Head of Safeguarding
& Wellbeing



Mrs Gaskin
Head of Elleray
& DSL



Ms Ambler
School Nurse

The School Day

This is our normal school day.

	Time Starts	Length of Time (minutes)	Notes
Reflection in Crampton Hall	8.25am	5	Most days we meet in Crampton Hall for a short reflection. Pupils should be seated by 8.25am at the latest. A couple of times each week there is an extra tutor period, and pupils go straight to their tutor room.
Period 1	8.45am	55	Each period/lesson is 55 minutes long. There is a 5 minute gap between lessons to allow you to move from one lesson to the next.
Period 2	9.45am	55	
Morning Break	10.40am	20	Fruit, biscuits and water are available in the Dining Room.
Period 3	11.00am	55	
Period 4	12 noon	55	
Lunch	12.55pm	60	Pupils may use the tennis courts, library or Langdale common room once they have eaten.
Tutor Time	1.55pm	10	You will go straight to your tutor room at the end of lunch. Here you will register for your activity session after school and tell your tutor if anything interesting (good or bad) has happened to you so far that day.
Period 5	2.10pm	55	
Period 6	3.10pm	55	
Afternoon Break	4.05pm	15	This is time for you to get a drink/a piece of fruit and get changed for your activity. If you are a day student, you can be picked up to go home at this time.
Main Activity Session	4.20pm	60	There is a weekly programme of activities. This will be shared with you at the start of the term, and your parents and your tutor will help you create a programme that suits you best.
Buses	5.30pm	-	Day students do not need to leave School at 5.30pm – you may wish to stay and join in activities later in the evening.

Tutor Time

Tutor time is a very special part of your day. It is a time when your tutor can check that you are okay, and when they will sign you into each day's after school activity programme.

Your tutor has many roles. They will:

- Act as the person you and your parents/guardians go to with any good news or any questions.
- Check that you are up to date with all your classwork and prep – this might be by looking at your exercise books, checking Show my Homework (Satchel One), talking to you or looking at how many merits or detentions you have received recently.
- Help you create targets so you can keep making good progress, both academically and socially.
- Celebrate important occasions, such as success you have achieved or the birthday of each person in the group.

Activities

We run an extensive programme of activities between 4.20 and 5.20pm. The focus of these is enrichment, either for physical activities, such as netball, hockey and football, or for creative activities. Normally in Year 7 we expect you to sign up for three activities a week.

Prep sessions are also available during the activity session or in the boarding houses after 5.30pm, but these prep sessions do not count as an activity!

We encourage you to join in with the activity programme and become fully involved in school life. This can be a good way to make friends with students in other classes and year groups. **'Opt in, not out!'**

Prep

One of the biggest concerns many students have when they start at Browhead is 'will I cope with prep?' You will find that you get between 2 and 3 prep tasks every day, and each prep task should be no more than 20 minutes long. However, some teachers may give you a longer task, such as a project, and this means they will give you a much longer period of time to complete the task.

Each subject uses the prep timetable and you will be given a copy of this at the start of the Autumn term. If you have any concerns about your prep timetable, you should speak to your tutor.

You might like to follow this advice to avoid struggling with your prep load:

- Use Show my Homework (our homework platform) to track tasks and work out which task is the priority each night.
- As well as using Show my Homework, also make a note of each task in an academic diary.
- It is useful to keep a running 'to do' list. Cross things off as you do them.
- **Where possible do each task on the day it is set. Don't leave things to the last minute!**
- Work somewhere quiet so you can focus. This will help you work more quickly.
- If you find that a task is taking longer than 20 minutes, don't panic! Sometimes you may find a particular prep really interesting and want to give it more time.
- If lots of prep tasks are taking too long, you should talk to your tutor. They will help you work out how to resolve this issue.

Being Organised

Always pack your school bag the night before. This will help you have a more relaxed morning.

Use your timetable to help you pack. It is a good idea to create your own list of what you should pack for each subject. Don't try to carry around every single thing you own in your school bag. Pack for one day at a time. To make things easier, all day pupils are allocated a locker. You will need a small padlock for your locker.

Don't leave sheets lying around your school bag. Either glue them into the relevant exercise book, or buy a plastic wallet file to keep sheets in.

Make sure you have a suitable pencil case for the start of term. Pencil cases should contain:

- Black and/or blue pens for writing – these can be ink pens, biro or gel pens. (Do make sure the ink doesn't leach through a page of normal paper when you write).
- A few coloured writing pens (e.g. purple, red, green, etc).
- Coloured pencils.
- HB pencils.
- 30cm ruler.
- Eraser.
- Protractor and compass.
- A pencil sharpener.
- A highlighter pen.
- A glue stick.
- Scissors that are safe for school.

Please make sure everything you bring into School, including uniform, pencil cases, books, bags and home clothes, is named. Lost property is full of unnamed belongings...especially socks!

Learn to check your school emails and Microsoft Teams at least once a day. Your teachers may well email you with extra resources for prep tasks, or send you more general messages. You will be given a School email address on the first day of term if you don't already have one, and shown how to log-in to access your emails. The school calendar shows the key dates throughout the year and is updated regularly. It can be found at **Windermere School Calendar**.

Other Top Tips

- We recommend that you don't bring your phone into school during the day. If you want to bring it in, it must be switched off and kept in your bag during the school day unless there is specific permission given by a teacher. Phones can be used in the Langdale House common room at lunch times but we would rather that pupils go out and get fresh air.
- If you are unable to attend a lesson, e.g. because you have a dentist's appointment or you are playing in a fixture, it is essential that you excuse yourself from the lesson(s) you will miss.
- Only use your School email address to email your teachers.

Help!

Some of the common questions new students ask are outlined in the table below:

What do I do if.....	You should.....
I arrive late to School?	Go straight to reception where you will need to sign in.
I need to leave School early, e.g. to go to a dentist's appointment?	Sign out at the main office.
I am worried about anything?	Speak to your tutor or to your Head of Section (Mr Rowe) – or to any teacher! Mrs Brown is situated in the Wellbeing Room and always ready to help. The School nurse, Ms Ambler has an office in the main Browhead corridor.
I have lost something?	Have a good look and then speak to your tutor if you cannot find it and ask at reception.
I don't understand what to do for a prep task?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for further prep details on Show my Homework. • Speak to a friend to see if they can help. • Ask your teacher (if it is within School hours), or email the teacher and see if they can help (remember, teachers are unlikely to be checking their emails late at night!)
I need to speak to a member of staff outside of lesson times?	Go to the staffroom door and ring the bell. If there is anyone in the staff room they will come to see who has rung the bell, and you can then ask them for the teacher you want to see.
I get lost?	You can use your site map in this booklet to help work out where you are, and where you need to be, or you can ask for help. Anyone will be happy to help! Very soon you will know where all your classes are.
I have forgotten to bring something into School?	At the first convenient time go to the main office and they will help you ring home to see if it can be brought in for you. Stationary can be brought from Reception.
I need to ring home?	You shouldn't use your mobile phone during the School day (8.30am – 4.05pm) – if you need to ring home, please go to the main office.
I feel unwell?	Please go to see the nurses in the Medical Room – your tutor will show you on your first day in School. If there is a problem, they will ring home for you. Simply let a teacher know the minute you feel unwell and we will look after you.
I am unwell and can't come into School?	Your parents or guardians will need to ring into School (015394 46164) and inform the office staff before 8.30am. They can also email in on absences@windermerschool.co.uk please copy in your tutor.
I need to email a teacher?	Each teacher has an email address that is made up of their first initial and their surname followed by @windermerschool.co.uk, so Mr Simon Rowe's email address is srowe@windermerschool.co.uk
I am worried about something over the summer?	You can either email our office staff (reception@windermerschool.co.uk) or call the admissions office (+44 (0)15394 46164 – ext 292). If they can't help you, they will know someone who can!

School Timetable

Your timetable will look something like this;

	AMon	ATue	AWed	AThu	AFri	BMon	BTue	BWed	BThu	BFri
Ref	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC
1	English ENG4 AOP	Mathematic MAT1 8WN	French MF1F DDL	PE A STR ZA	Science SC3B CHO	English ENG4 AOP	Mathematic MAT1 8WN	English ENG4 AOP	Mathematic MAT1 8WN	Spanish B MF2F VB
2	Science SC3B CHO	Music HOL S JMC	Science SC3B CHO	PE A STR ZA	Science SC3B CHO	Humanities HU5H LC	Music HOL S JMC	Mathematic MAT1 8WN	English ENG4 AOP	Drama DRAM RHT
3	Humanities HU5H LC	English ENG4 AOP	Science SC3B CHO	Drama DRAM RHT	TutorTime HU5H LC	Mathematic MAT1 8WN	English ENG4 AOP	LifeSkills HU5H LC	PE SHAL ZA	TutorTime HU5H LC
4	Mathematic MAT1 8WN	LifeSkills HU5H LC	Spanish B MF2F VB	English ENG4 AOP	French MF1F DDL	Computers PI JC	LifeSkills HU5H LC	Science SC3B CHO	PE SHAL ZA	French MF1F DDL
L4A										
Tut	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC	TutorTime HU5H LC
5	PE SHAL ZA	Humanities HU5H LC	English ENG4 AOP	Mathematic MAT1 8WN	Art ART1 CL	PE SHAL ZA	CAS OUT PP	Food & Nut F&N1 JKK	Humanities HU5H LC	Science SC3B CHO
6	PE SHAL ZA	Spanish B MF2F VB	Mathematic MAT1 8WN	Computers PI JC	Humanities HU5H LC	PE SHAL ZA	CAS OUT PP	Food & Nut F&N1 JKK	Art ART1 CL	Science SC3B CHO
ACT							CAS OUT PP			

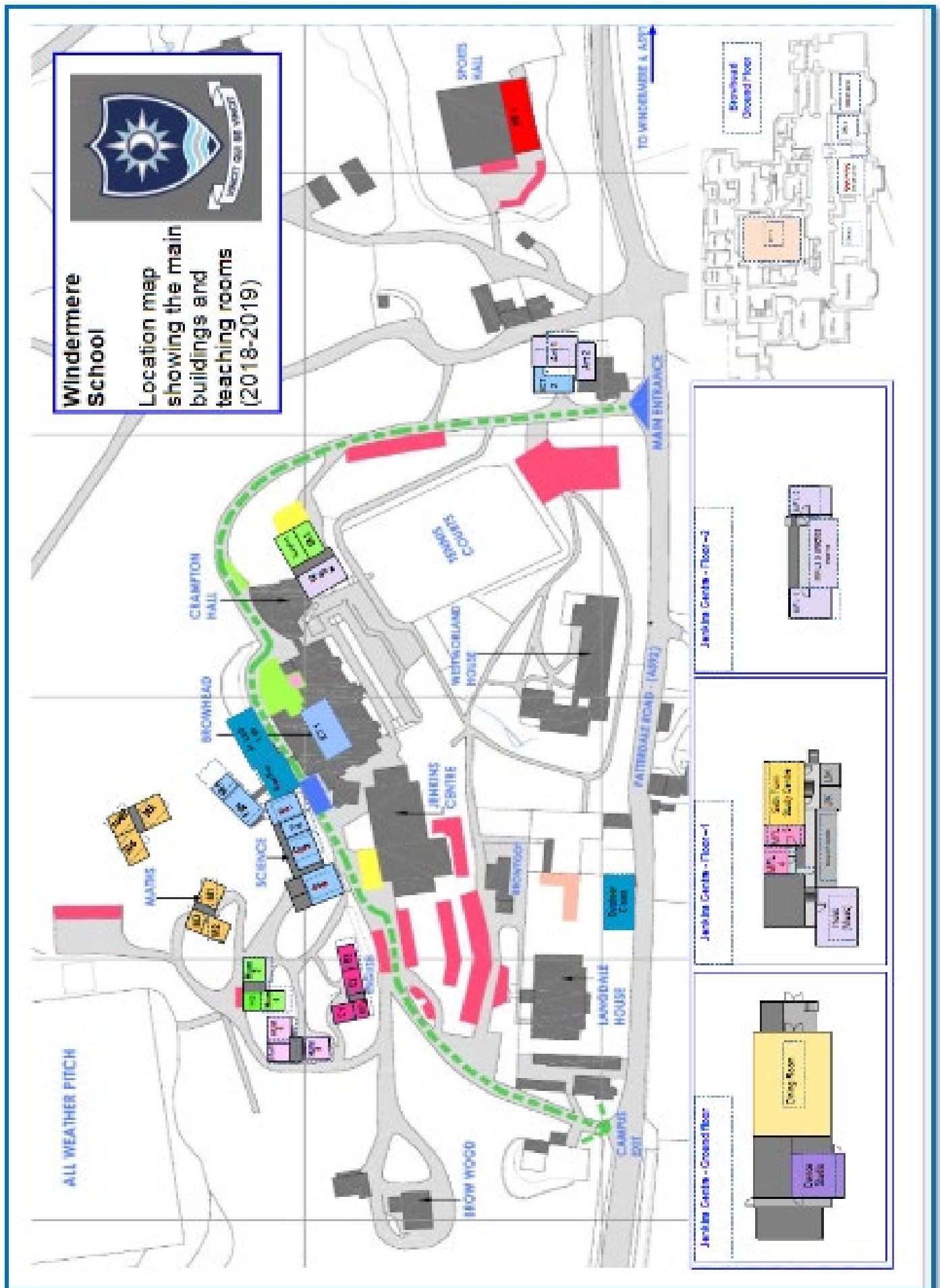
The timetable will tell you the subject.

And the teacher (a list of codes is also provided).

And the room (please see the map on the next page!).

You will notice that we have a two week timetable, Week A and B are different.

School Site Map



Summer Challenge

At Windermere School we pride ourselves on being a supportive, hard-working and adventurous community where each person looks out for everyone else, and where we aren't afraid to work hard or to try something new. To keep these skills going over the holiday why don't you see if you can meet these challenges:

Challenge	Details of what you did (where relevant)	Date achieved	Signed by parent or guardian
I tried something new or outside of my comfort zone			
I have helped a member of my family, or a friend			
I have read at least 3 books over the summer	See reading tracker		
I can pack my school bag without help			
I can spell the words on the commonly used words list	See spelling list below		
I can remember my times tables up to 12 x 12			
I have completed a random act of kindness			
Something extra you want to tell us about....			

Spellings

The words below are some of the words that we find students misspell most often, with some ideas on how you can avoid getting them wrong. Over the summer holiday, can you learn to spell some of the words you know you struggle with?

Which words do you struggle with?

Get 3 highlighters or coloured pens and colour code your confidence level with each word: **I feel confident today** - **I might need a little more help** - **I am not very confident**.

Tips for learning spellings:

Look
Say
Cover
Write
Check

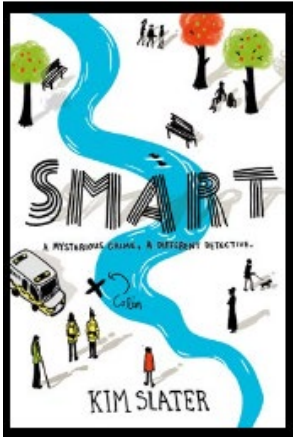
Correct spelling	Spelling advice	My confidence level spelling this word – green, amber or red?	I have tested myself and I am happy with this
accommodate, accommodation	two cs, two ms		
achieve	i before e		
across	one c		
apparently	-ent not -ant		
appearance	ends with -ance		
argument	no e after the u		
basically	ends with -ally		
beginning	double n before the -ing		
believe	i before e		
business	begins with busi-		
calendar	-ar not -er		
coming	one m		
completely	ends with -ely		
conscious	-sc- in the middle		
definitely	-ite- not -ate-		
disappear	one s, two ps		
disappoint	one s, two ps		
embarrass	two rs, two s's		
environment	n before the m		
familiar	ends with -iar		
finally	two ls		
foreign	e before i		
friend	i before e		
further	begins with fur-		
government	n before the m		
guard	begins with gua-		
happened	ends with -ened		

immediately	ends with -ely		
independent	ends with -ent		
knowledge	remember the d		
necessary	one c, two s's		
occasion	two cs, one s		
occurred, occurring,	two cs, two rs, -ence not -ance		
persistent	ends with -ent		
piece	i before e		
possession	two s's in the middle and two at the end		
preferred, preferring	two rs		
really	two ls		
receive	e before i		
referred, referring	two rs		
religious	ends with -gious		
remember	-mem- in the middle		
separate	-par- in the middle		
successful	two cs, two s's		
surprise	begins with sur-		
therefore	ends with -fore		
tomorrow	one m, two rs		
truly	no e		
unfortunately	ends with -ely		
until	one l at the end		



Reading Tracker

One of the best ways to hit the ground running in Year 7 is to keep reading over the summer holiday. You should aim to read **at least 3 books** this summer. We would love to know what you have read, and how much you enjoyed each book, so there is a reading tracker for you to complete on the next pages. If you are not sure what books to read this summer, we think some of the books below are fabulous:



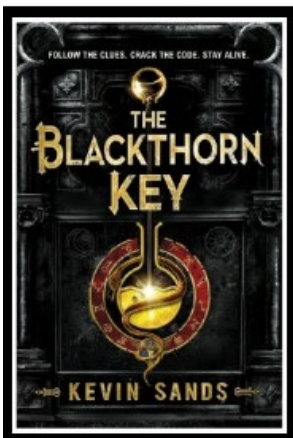
Smart by Kim Slater

Shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the Federation of Children's Book Groups Prize and longlisted for the 2015 Carnegie Medal, Kim Slater's outstanding debut, *Smart*, is a moving and compelling novel with a lovable character at its heart. Kieran cares. He's made a promise, and when you say something out loud, that means you're going to do it, for real. He's going to find out what really happened. To Colin. And to his grandma, who just stopped coming round one day. It's a good job Kieran's a master of observation, and knows all the detective tricks of the trade. But being a detective is difficult when you're Kieran Woods. When you're amazing at drawing but terrible at fitting in. And when there are dangerous secrets everywhere, not just outside, but under your own roof.



Strange Star by Emma Carroll

Switzerland, 1816. On a stormy summer night, Lord Byron and his guests are gathered round the fire. Felix, their serving boy, can't wait to hear their creepy tales. Yet real life is about to take a chilling turn - more chilling than any tale. Frantic pounding at the front door reveals a stranger, a girl covered in the most unusual scars. She claims to be looking for her sister, supposedly snatched from England by a woman called Mary Shelley. Someone else has followed her here too, she says. And the girl is terrified...



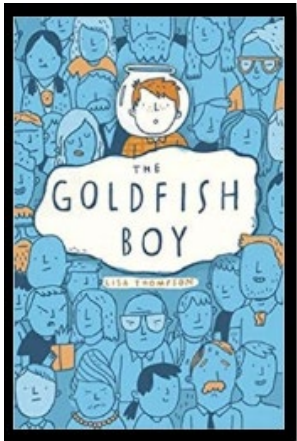
The Blackthorn Key by Kevin Sands

Potions, puzzles and the occasional explosion are all in a day's work for young apothecary Christopher Rowe. Murder is another matter. It's a dangerous time to be the apprentice of Benedict Blackthorn. A wave of mysterious murders has sent shockwaves through London, and soon Christopher finds himself on the run. His only allies are his best friend, Tom, courageous Molly, and a loyal feathered friend, Bridget. His only clues are a coded message about his master's most dangerous project, and a cryptic warning - 'Tell no one!' The race is on for Christopher: crack the code and uncover its secret, or become the next victim...



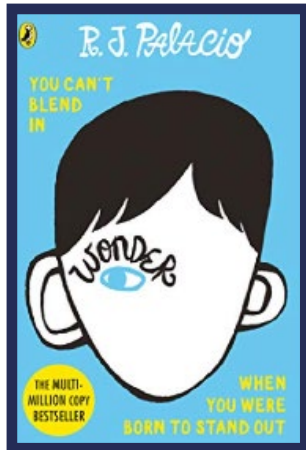
Cogheart by Peter Bunzl

Lily's life is in mortal peril. Her father is missing and now silver-eyed men stalk her through the shadows. What could they want from her? With her friends – Robert, the clockmaker's son, and Malkin, her mechanical fox – Lily is plunged into a murky and menacing world. Too soon Lily realises that those she holds dear may be the very ones to break her heart...



The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. Until the day he is the last person to see his next door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing. Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance - with the help of a brilliant cast of supporting characters.



Wonder by R J Palacio

It tells the story of August (Auggie) Pullman, a ten-year-old boy with a severe facial difference that makes him stand out. Auggie is starting school for the first time. His story is told from six different characters' viewpoints, including his own. All the viewpoints share the same message about the importance of kindness.

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Year 7 Reading List

Book	Author	Comment
Alex Rider (series)	Anthony Horowitz	Action and adventure. Think James Bond, the teenage spy...
Artemis Fowl	Eoin Colfer	A fantasy adventure featuring a criminal mastermind...
The Breadwinner	Deborah Ellis	A wonderful story about Parvana, a girl living in Afghanistan under Taliban rule.
Coraline	Neil Gaiman	A gripping story about a young girl and her dreamlike adventure.
The Dark is Rising	Susan Cooper	Fantasy and mystery – a great year 7 choice in this genre.
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series)	Jeff Kinney	Good for reluctant readers and very funny.
The Goldfish Boy	Lisa Thomson	A clever murder mystery.
Harry Potter (series)	JK Rowling	Start with Philosopher's Stone and just keep going!
Horrible Histories	Terry Deary	Non-Fiction
The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe(series)	CS Lewis	Children's fantasy classic.
Minders	Diana Hendry	An easier read with a trainee wizard.
Mud, Sweat and Tears	Bear Grylls	Non-Fiction – a good choice if you don't enjoy novels as much.
Percy Jackson (series)	Rick Riordan	An exciting retelling of the Greek myths. If you get hooked on the first one you'll want to read them all! Mrs Nield's favourites.
Redwall (series)	Brian Jacques	Great adventure.
Skullduggery Pleasant	David Landy	Good for reluctant readers.
Smart	Kim Slater	A brilliant detective novel with a loveable character at its heart.
Some Places More Than Others	Renée Watson	A beautiful novel about friendship, identity and belonging.
The Seeing Stone	Kevin Crossley-Holland	Medieval life meets Arthurian magic.
Swallows and Amazons (series)	Arthur Ransome	Children's classic, and a must for a Lake District education!
The Weirdstone of Brisingamen	Alan Garner	A brilliant fantasy novel
War Horse	Michael Morpurgo	The incredibly moving story gives us insight into how animals were used during the war.
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aiken	A children's classic set in alternative 1832 when England was ravished by wolves

We are so excited to welcome
you to Year 7 in September!

Windermere School, Patterdale Road, The Lake District, LA23 1NW

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