

## MSF Science Department Reading List

### Non-Fiction

1. "A Short History of Nearly Everything" by Bill Bryson  
Summary: An engaging exploration of scientific discoveries and the people behind them.
  - For Higher-Able Readers: Broad range of topics and in-depth exploration.
2. "Hidden Figures" by Margot Lee Shetterly  
Summary: The true story of African-American women mathematicians at NASA who helped win the space race.
  - SEN Friendly: Inspirational and relatively accessible.
3. "Astrophysics for Young People in a Hurry" by Neil deGrasse Tyson  
Summary: A concise and engaging overview of the universe and our place in it.  
SEN Friendly: Simplified and engaging for younger readers.
4. "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot  
Summary: The story of Henrietta Lacks and the immortal cell line, HeLa, that changed medical research.
  - For Higher-Able Readers: Ethical discussions and scientific detail.
5. "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer  
Summary: A young Malawian boy builds a windmill to save his village from famine.
  - SEN Friendly: Available in young readers edition; inspirational story.

### Recommendations for Special Educational Needs (SEN)

1. "George's Secret Key to the Universe" by Lucy & Stephen Hawking  
Summary: A blend of adventure and factual information about the universe.
  - SEN Friendly: Engaging narrative with simple explanations.
2. "Science Comics" series (various authors)  
Summary: Each book covers a different scientific topic in a graphic novel format.
  - SEN Friendly: Visual format aids comprehension and engagement.
3. "The Magic School Bus" series by Joanna Cole  
Summary: Adventures that teach various scientific concepts in a fun and engaging way.

### Fiction

1. "The Martian" by Andy Weir  
Summary: A gripping story of astronaut Mark Watney stranded on Mars, showcasing problem-solving and survival using science.
  - For Higher-Able Readers: The detailed scientific concepts make it a great choice.
2. "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle  
Summary: A classic tale blending science and fantasy as young protagonists travel through space and time to rescue their father.
  - SEN Friendly: Simplified language versions available; strong, engaging narrative.
3. "Ender's Game" by Orson Scott Card  
Summary: Set in a future where children are trained in battle schools for an impending alien invasion.
  - For Higher-Able Readers: Complex themes and strategic thinking.
4. "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley  
Summary: The classic tale of a scientist who creates a living being, raising ethical and scientific questions.
  - For Higher-Able Readers: Rich language and complex themes.
5. "Holes" by Louis Sachar  
Summary: A young boy is sent to a detention camp where he uncovers a secret. Includes themes of geology and environmental science.
  - SEN Friendly: Clear narrative and accessible language.

Please Note: Some of these titles have been selected from national recommended reading lists for this subject. We advise that you review the books prior to your child's reading journey to ensure they are suitable. If you have any concerns, you can also contact the school reading team for further advice and guidance.