



Mathematics Reading List

Byrchall High School · Mathematics Department

Raising aspiration through reading

Year 7

Ages 11–12

KS3 Year 1

Recommended reading for Year 7 — Ages 11–12

33 books selected from the Byrchall Mathematics Reading List

Murderous Maths: The Essential Arith...

Humour

Kjartan Poskitt

Arithmetic made funny through cartoons and mischievous characters — the classic entry to the series.

How to be a Maths Genius

Reference

Dr. Mike Goldsmith

Engaging introduction to maths topics with puzzles, games, and real-world connections.

Murderous Maths: Desperate Measures

Humour

Kjartan Poskitt

Tackles measurement, area, and volume with the series' trademark irreverent humour.

How Much Is a Million?

Picture Book

David M. Schwartz

Visualises enormous numbers in imaginative ways — perfect for building early number sense.

Maths Curse

Humour

Jon Scieszka & Lane Smith

A child wakes up to find everything is a maths problem — witty, curriculum-linked and irresistible.

The Magic of Maths

Enrichment

Arthur Benjamin

America's Mathemagician reveals tricks and patterns that make arithmetic feel like real magic.

Maths with Bad Drawings

Humour

Ben Orlin

A teacher explains maths through intentionally terrible diagrams — charming, funny and genuinely illuminating.

Go Figure!

Reference

Johnny Ball

A DK-style guide packed with puzzles, history, and brain-teasers for younger maths enthusiasts.

The Number Devil

Fiction

Hans Magnus Enzensberger

A boy dreams of a number devil who introduces him to fascinating maths ideas — great for reluctant readers.

Maths Quest

Puzzle

David Glover

An interactive adventure book where maths problems drive the story forward.

Professor Astro Cat's Frontiers of Sp...

Science

Dr. Dominic Walliman

Space science explained with maths — great for cross-curricular engagement.

Murderous Maths: Numbers – The Ke...

Humour

Kjartan Poskitt

Explores number theory including fractions, decimals and powers with cartoons and jokes.

The Phantom Tollbooth

Fiction

Norton Juster

A classic adventure through the Kingdom of Mathematics — logic and wordplay throughout.

Figuring: The Joy of Numbers

Enrichment

Shakuntala Devi

The 'human computer' shares her secrets for mental arithmetic and number tricks.

The Adventures of Penrose the Mathe...

Fiction

Theoni Pappas

A cat explores fractals, infinity and topology in story form — perfect KS3 enrichment.

It's a Numberful World

Popular Maths

Eddie Woo

YouTube's favourite maths teacher reveals the hidden maths in everyday life — warm and accessible.

Murderous Maths: The Fiendish Angl...

Humour

Kjartan Poskitt

Geometry and angles explained through the series' trademark cartoon humour and puzzles.

The Maths Behind Football

Popular Maths

Rob Eastaway

Tactics, statistics and geometry explored through the beautiful game — hugely engaging for sports fans.

Maths is Everywhere

Popular Maths

Bobby Seagull

Football, food and finance — Bobby Seagull shows how maths appears in everyday life for younger readers.

Murderous Maths: The Vicious Circles

Humour

Kjartan Poskitt

Circles, pi and curved shapes tackled with the series' trademark irreverent style and cartoons.

The Indisputable Existence of Santa ...

Humour

Dr. Hannah Fry & Thomas Oléron Evans

Uses statistics, graph theory and game theory to solve Christmas — funny and genuinely mathematical.

Secrets of Mental Maths

Mental Maths

Arthur Benjamin & Michael Shermer

Learn to perform extraordinary calculations in your head — builds number sense and confidence.

Ruler and Compass: Practical Geome...

Geometry

Andrew Sutton

A hands-on guide to classical geometric constructions — perfect for extending geometric understanding.

Maths on the Go

Enrichment

Rob Eastaway & Mike Askell

101 maths activities to do anywhere — brilliant for sparking curiosity outside the classroom.

The Murderous Maths of Everything

Humour

Kjartan Poskitt

Brings together the best of the Murderous Maths series — a brilliant KS3 enrichment companion.

What's the Point of Maths?

Reference

DK

Explores why maths matters in the real world through bold graphics and fascinating facts.

Murderous Maths: Savage Shapes

Humour

Kjartan Poskitt

Shape and space — angles, area and symmetry via the Murderous Maths formula — ideal KS3 enrichment.

The Joy of x

Popular Maths

Steven Strogatz

A brilliant tour through all of mathematics from counting to calculus, written for the general reader.

Maths on the Back of an Envelope

Estimation

Rob Eastaway

Teaches estimation and number sense in a fun, practical way — relevant for all GCSE students.

Can You Solve My Problems?

Puzzle Book

Alex Bellos

A wide range of puzzles from simple to challenging — builds logical thinking and perseverance.

Maths in 100 Key Breakthroughs

Reference

Richard Elwes
100 key moments in maths history explained accessibly — great as a dip-in reference.

The Maths Book

Reference

DK
A beautifully illustrated chronological journey through 250 mathematical milestones.

Once Upon a Prime

Popular Maths

Sarah Hart
Explores the relationship between mathematics and literature — a unique and endlessly fascinating perspective.