Surely we all agree with Nora Ephron on this: we would love a bouquet of new pencils for back-to-school season. And what better pairing for your new stationery than a book-bag that’s fit-to-bursting? Here’s what we think you should stash it with...

**THE FRAUD**  
**BY ZADIE SMITH**  
**FICTION - 7TH SEPTEMBER**  
**Penguin £20**

The notorious Tichbone Trial of 1873 grips the country, including a skeptical Scottish housekeeper and a partially enslaved man. This part-fact part-fiction novel juxtaposes the Dickensian feeling of everyday Victorian life with the grief and pain of slavery across Britain and the Carribean.

**LAND OF MILK AND HONEY**  
**BY C PAM ZHANG**  
**FICTION - 28TH SEPTEMBER**  
**Cornerstone £16.99**

As her industry disappears, a chef escapes the grey of London in favour of clearer mountain air in an isolated community. This love letter to food is a wild and delightfully sensuous experience, made clearer by deeply descriptive and original writing.

**STELLA MARIS & THE PASSENGER**  
**BY CORMAC MCCARTHY**  
**FICTION - 28TH SEPTEMBER**  
**Pan Macmillan £9.99 each**

*The Passenger*: salvage diver Bobby investigates a mysterious plane crash whilst grappling with the legacy of his father’s role in the Manhattan Project. *Stella Maris*: Bobby’s sister Alicia arrives at a mental hospital with $40k in cash, ready to thrash out the mysteries of the universe. This monumental duet confirms McCarthy’s greatness.

**SO LATE IN THE DAY**  
**BY CLAIRE KEEGAN**  
**FICTION - 1ST SEPTEMBER**  
**Faber & Faber £8.99**

Spare, haunting, and human, Claire Keegan’s stories are a masterclass in writerly precision. This beautiful short story follows Cathal, who’s watching the weekend roll out ahead of him after another average week at the Post Office. But alone with his thoughts, Cathal ruminates on a life that could have been.
The Vaster Wilds
by Lauren Groff
Fiction - 21st September
Cornerstone £20
A servant girl escapes from a settlement in colonial America, into the arms of the vast, unknowable wilderness. Alone, she must fend for herself. But what she encounters is beyond anything she could have imagined, leading her to question everything civilisation has taught her.

Everybody Knows
by Jordan Harper
Fiction - 28th September
Faber & Faber £8.99
Mae is a publicist at Hollywood’s most powerful PR firm. She spends her days covering up the worst celebrity crimes and scandals. But when her boss is shot outside the Beverly Hills Hotel, Mae must discover and reveal the truth instead of concealing it.

Really Good, Actually
by Monica Heisley
Fiction - 28th September
Harper Collins £9.99
TV screenwriter Monica Heisley delivers a profoundly relatable debut novel about Maggie, who’s just got divorced but she’s doing “Really Good, Actually”. This bitingly funny novel combines a discussion on the uncertain nature of modern love with one woman’s chaotic new routine.

Infinity Gate
by M.R. Carey
Fiction - 28th September
Cornerstone £22
In the vast multiverse, one scientist enters a war far bigger than imagined to save her one world among the many, at odds with the motivations of the all-powerful Pandominon. This thrilling, action-packed, and dimension-hopping novel is a must read for sci-fi fans.

A Study in Drowning
by Ava Reid
Fiction - 19th September
Cornerstone £16.99
Shop favourite Ava Reid returns with another incredible atmospheric novel, combining dark academia with the chill of old folklore. Academic rivals Effy and Preston are forced to conspire, uncovering nefarious forces at work whilst redesigning the decrepit Hiraeth Manor.

The Wake-up Call
by Beth O’Leary
Fiction - 26th September
Quercus £19.99
The dazzling author of The Flatshare Beth O’Leary delivers another swoon-worthy rom-com. As the hotel they love begins to fail, arch nemeses Izzy and Lucas compete to support the hotel by reuniting couples with lost wedding rings.

The Hexologists
by Josiah Bancroft
Fiction - 28th September
Little, Brown £9.99
Private investigator couple the Wilbies specialise in all things strange; when the King falls into madness, they find themselves caught up in a royal deception. From forest golems to alcoholic imps, this is a captivating mystery with a charming wit to top it off.

Black River Orchard
by Chuck Wendig
Fiction - 3rd September
Harper Collins £9.99
When mysteriously addictive new apples begin to grow in the idealistic small town of Harrow, life begins to unravel at the seams. This parable of darkness and obsession is truly nightmare-inducing, and leaves you with that magnificent, unpleasant chill only great horror can give...
WHAT WE OWE THE FUTURE
by WILLIAM MACASKILL
PHILOSOPHY - 7TH SEPTEMBER
Oneworld £10.99
From bestselling author of “Humankind”, philosopher MacAskill argues that the best use of time (and the only way to save ourselves), is to influence the future. This might not advert natural disasters or global pandemics, but will it help us recover from them?

A HEART THAT WORKS
by ROB DELANEY
MEMOIR - 1ST SEPTEMBER
Hodder & Stoughton £10.99
Acclaimed actor, comedian and writer Rob Delaney explores his journey after the loss of his son. Despite it all, Delaney still manages to find humour and love, laid out on the page in this hopeful and truthful memoir. An intimate, beautiful, heart-wrenching examination of grief.

THE VIEW FROM DOWN HERE
by LUCY WEBSTER
MEMOIR/DIVERSITY - 7TH SEPTEMBER
DK £16.99
This powerful memoir from Lucy Webster deals with the adversity she faces as she navigates a world set to disadvantage her. Webster discusses the ableism and sexism she faces and explores life’s trials, tribulations and celebrations with a raw and honest look on modern life.

TWO BROTHERS
by JONATHAN WILSON
SPORT/BIOGRAPHY - 7TH SEPTEMBER
Penguin £12.99
Jack and Bobby Charlton – two very different brothers who both ended up on England’s World Cup winning football team in 1966. Follow their journey through the transforming landscape of late twentieth century English football, and discover how they both became titans of the sport.

THE CURTAIN AND THE WALL
by TIMOTHY PHILLIPS
TRAVEL - 7TH SEPTEMBER
Granta £10.99
Phillips explores the division of Europe, looking at how it changed from 1945 to 1989, and how those changes are still effecting the people on the continent now. This book will send you across time and space in a revolutionary look at European history and politics.

DOPPELGANGER
by NAOMI KLEIN
POLITICS - 12TH SEPTEMBER
Penguin £25
This book is an unsettling and unflinching look at the political binary of internet culture. Upon finding a woman with the same name but her opposite ideas, Klein investigates just how strong online identities become, when reality is rarely as harsh.

CAT ON THE RUN
by AARON BLABEY
CHILDREN’S 6+ - 14TH SEPTEMBER
Scholastic £7.99
Superstar cat Princess Beautiful has been wrongly accused! Fleeing her troubles, she sets about trying to prove her innocence and escape her captors all at once. This super funny and very spoiled cat has to fight mysterious forces to get her old life back in an epic adventure!

LEINA AND THE LORD OF THE TOADSTOOLS
by MYRIAM DAHMAN & NICOLAS DIGARD
PICTURE BOOK - 14TH SEPTEMBER
Hachette Children’s £8.99
When Leina’s friend goes missing in the dangerous woods, Leina embarks on an adventure to find him, meeting the mysterious Lord of the Toadstools who she thinks can help in the hunt. This beautifully illustrated storybook feels like it’s fallen straight from fairyland!
**Kevin the Vampire**
*by Matt Brown*
*Children's 7+ - 14th September*
Nosy Crow £7.99

Thanks to a BatNav error, Kevin and his vampirical family have ended up in a normal human town. But in a genius plan to make some money (and maybe uncover the dark secret of the small town they live in), they put on their very own carnival. Kevin and Susie must save the town - and quick!

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**Impossible Creatures**
*by Katherine Rundell*
*Children's 9+ - 14th September*
Bloomsbury £14.99

Shop favourite Katherine Rundell returns with another whirlwind of a story, with its very own bestiary of magical creatures! When Christopher is dropped into a world full of magic and mythical creatures, he must start on an epic quest with mysterious friend Mal to save the world’s magic.

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**Finding Wonder**
*by Lauren St John*
*Children's 9+ - 7th September*
Faber & Faber £7.99

Orphan Roo is inspired to buy her dream horse by a mysterious letter, but is devastated when he goes missing. Follow Roo as she undertakes a mysterious and dangerous adventure to get the horse she loves so much back.

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**This Dark Descent**
*by Kalyn Josephson*
*Teen/YA - 28th September*
Macmillan £8.99

For a chance at the once-in-a-lifetime prize money, Mikira must enter a deadly horse race, recruiting a team of accomplices, each with their own vendettas to satisfy. This dark and fantastical world is filled with intrigue, romance and (most of all) magic.

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