



Bandon Hill Primary School

January 2021 Reading Newsletter



Welcome to our January reading newsletter. We hope you have been able to enjoy the Christmas break with your loved ones and make new memories. While we have been unable to do the things we usually would do over the holidays, there is one truth that will never change: books give us the opportunity to travel to magical places and see far-away lands. They are a doorway to escapism, and what better way to expand our horizons than to pick up a book?

Once again, we are lucky to have lots of new books coming out this month, so check out our new releases section for some inspiration.

As we head into the spring term, we would ask you to continue encouraging your child to read at home; reading each day really makes a difference on developing their vocabulary, their fluency as well as helping them with ideas in their writing tasks.

You should also have received a VIPERS bookmark before the holidays – this is for you to support your child at home. While reading fluency is important, reading comprehension is key, and this bookmark gives you examples of the types of questions we would be working on in class to assess understanding in the following domains: vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval, summary and sequencing.

As always, your support is hugely appreciated,

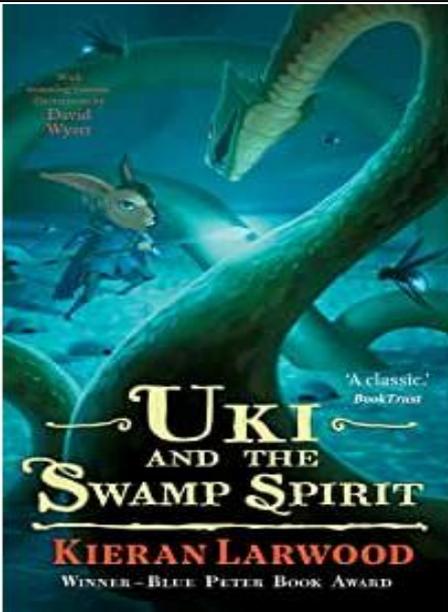
Mrs Welsh

(Reading Lead and Year 6 teacher)



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Author Spotlight... Kieran Larwood



Kieran Larwood is the acclaimed author of the *Five Realms* series, with best-selling book *The Legend of Podkin One-Ear*. The series was chosen by my class a couple of years ago, and they loved it so much that they refused to read anything else, and we read the whole series over the school year. Kieran's latest instalment in the series, *Uki and the Swamp Spirit* is out on 5th of January and promises to be another fantastic read.

A special message from Kieran...

Dear superstars of Bandon Hill,

I have been asked to tell you a bit about my favourite books. If you've read any of my work, then I'm sure you can guess that I love reading fantasy and science fiction! It all began when I found a copy of *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkein on my mum and dad's bookshelf when I was little. I was absolutely fascinated by the idea that a writer could create an entire world in their imagination, and that readers could go and visit it whenever they wanted.

Since then, I have always loved to read fantasy stories, and if they have a map to go with them, all the better. (If you like drawing your own maps of fantasy worlds, there is a video on my website with some tips). Some of the books I have loved the most are: *The Hounds of the Morrigan* by Pat O'Shea, *The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper and the *Earthsea* books by Ursula Le Guin.

They all inspired me to create my own world, called 'The Five Realms', which is a place filled with rabbits. The latest book is called *Uki & The Swamp Spirit* and it is out in January. Writing my own fantasy stories is almost as much fun as reading them!

Happy reading, guys, and keep up the good work,

Best Wishes,

Kieran Larwood



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Local Libraries

We are fortunate here in Wallington to have not one but two libraries! Both Wallington Library and Westcroft Library are open and running. They are a fantastic way to access a wide range of children's books absolutely free!



Wallington Library opening times:

Tuesdays (9.30am – 7pm), Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays (9.30am – 5pm), Thursdays (9.30am – 6pm).



Westcroft Library opening times:

Monday - Thursday (9.30am – 7pm), Fridays and Saturdays (9.30am – 5pm).

Book talk with... Mrs Rogers



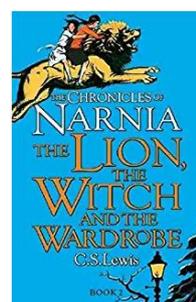
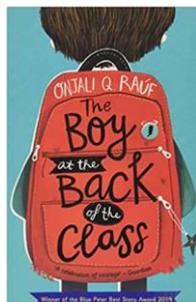
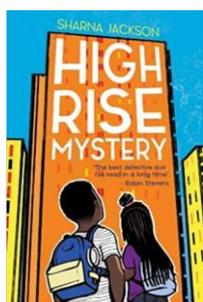
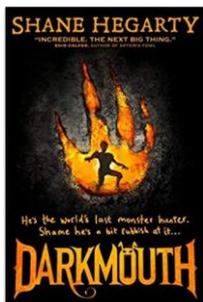
What's your favourite children's book and why? *Nora – the girl who ate and ate and ate*. I love this book as I would read it to my youngest daughter most bedtimes. It is a story about a girl called Nora, who is always hungry (a bit like my daughter) so eats everything including her bed and wardrobe! She then gets a tummy ache and lets out a massive burp which sends her flying to the moon! But it's ok as the moon is made out of cheese so she won't be hungry! We would giggle at this bit of the book.

Paper book or kindle? Paper books at home but kindle on holiday as I can take so many more books this way and it doesn't weigh down my luggage!

Currently reading? *The Star Outside my Window* by Onjali Q Rauf.

Why is reading important to you? Reading is important to me as I can forget all about the chaos and busyness of life and work and lose myself in the writing on a page. I find it a great way to relax and recharge after a hard day's work at school.

Some of the books we are reading in class...

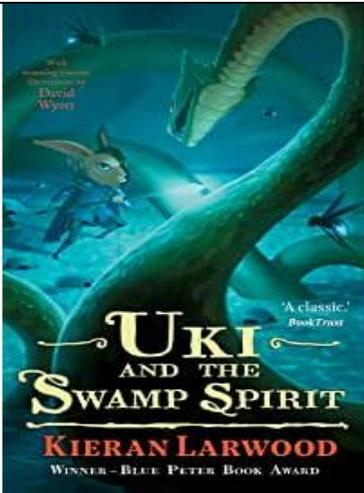




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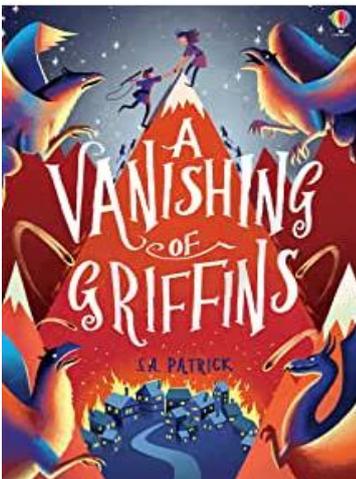
Hot new releases

Here are some of the new books coming on to the market this January 😊



From bestselling author and winner of the Blue Peter Best Story Book Award, Uki and the Swamp Spirit is the fifth title set in the world of Podkin One-Ear. Uki had the sensation of a sickly green light, spreading out through the networks of water. Of tendrils connecting all the creatures of the marsh in a web . . . Linking itself so it could poison it all and destroy it. Uki and his friends have two more spirits to find and capture. After defeating Valkus, they make for Charice, who is spreading disease through the swamps. Can Uki and his friends outwit him - all whilst they themselves are being chased by the Endwatch and Jori's clan of assassins? 'Storytelling perfection.' Sophie Anderson 'One of my sons very favourite authors.' Romesh Ranganathan 'Superb.'

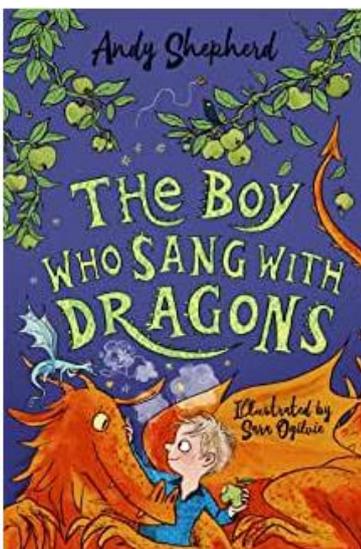
(age 9+)



Join the brave friends Patch, Wren and Barver for another adventure of magic and music! Thrill as they meet the Pirates of the Eastern Seas! Marvel as they venture to the only city where dragons and humans live side by side! Gasp as they journey high into the snowy peaks, where the greatest secret of the griffins lies hidden! And tremble as they come face to face once more with the increasingly powerful and evil Hamelyn Piper...

The second book in the Songs of Magic series, the adventure continues in this highly-anticipated sequel to award-nominated and former Waterstones Children's Book of the Month, *A Darkness of Dragons*.

(ages 9+)



Tomas is a fully-fledged expert dragon grower and protector of the dragonfruit tree. He has eyes in the back of his head for watching over those sneaky dragons, awesomely fast reflexes for putting out sparks and dodging the diving antics of whirling newly hatched dragons. He's got it all down pat - and managing his little lightning bolt dragon Zing, too.

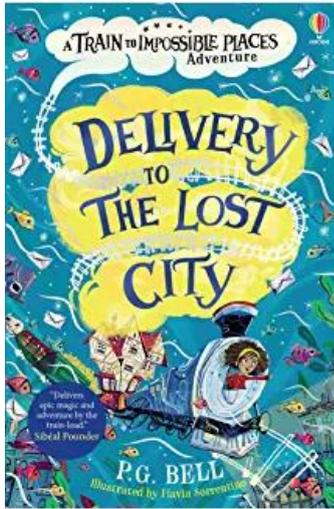
But he's not quite prepared for the adventure that awaits him when a huge secret is revealed about his new friend, Aura. A thrilling secret that will take Tomas and Aura on a journey of discovery that will finally unlock the last mysteries of the dragonfruit tree. A journey of discovery that all the dragons will be in on - and just what will happen when lightning bolt dragon Zing and storm dragon Flicker get together?

Get ready for the ride of your life in this fizzing, sparkling final story in THE BOY WHO GREW DRAGONS series.

(age 7+)



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From the award-winning P.G. Bell, with dazzling illustrations from Flavia Sorrentino, join Suzy on this magical adventure, where the journey will never, ever take you where you expect it to.

When the Impossible Postal Express magically arrives to collect Suzy, she sets off on her most difficult delivery yet. A mysterious talking book is stealing words and causing chaos across the whole of the Impossible Places!

The book must be returned to a city that's been lost for thousands of years. But without a map to get there, Suzy and Wilmot's journey plunges them into grave danger. And with time running out, it might not just be the knowledge in the Impossible Places that is lost for ever - Suzy and Wilmot could be too...

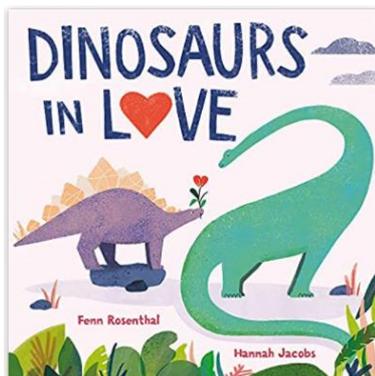
"Delivers epic magic and adventure by the train-load." - Sibeal Pounder

(age 9+)



The world was too bright for Leo. And too loud. "I must be living on the wrong planet," Leo thought. Leo struggles to make sense of the world. He doesn't understand the other children in his class, and they don't seem to understand him. But then one day, Leo meets Maya. Maya is an octopus, and the more Leo learns about her, the more he thinks that perhaps he isn't alone in this world, after all.

(age 6+)



Based on the viral, heart-melting song 'Dinosaurs in Love', comes a sweet and deceptively simple story about love, longing, and loss by three-year-old Fenn Rosenthal.

*Dinosaurs eating people
Dinosaurs in love
Dinosaurs having a party
They eat fruit and cucumber*

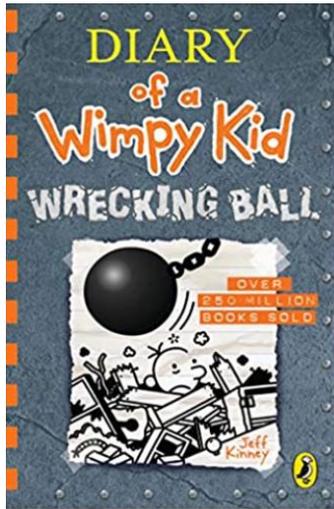
When singer-songwriter Tom Rosenthal and his daughter Fenn posted their original song, 'Dinosaurs in Love', it became an instant classic. Just as Fenn's dinosaurs fell in love, so did the world.

Now readers of all ages can enjoy Fenn's heartfelt, poignant lyrics again and again in this irresistible, sing-aloud picture book, featuring charming illustrations from Hannah Jacobs (animator of the viral music video).

(age 3+)



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The fourteenth laugh-out-loud, fully-illustrated Diary of a Wimpy Kid book from #1 international bestselling author Jeff Kinney! A global phenomenon with 250 million copies of the series sold worldwide!

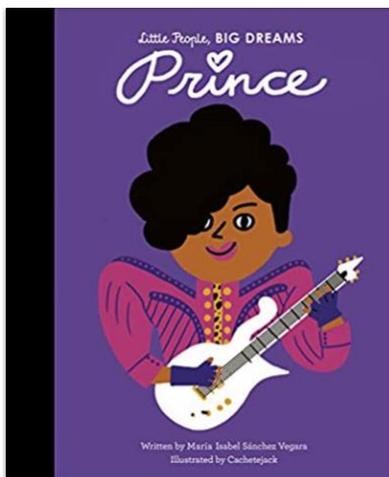
This paperback edition features EPIC fluorescent sprayed edges!!

Big changes are in store for Greg Heffley and his family. They are making home improvements!

But with unwelcome critters, toxic mould and the walls coming down, soon Greg discovers renovations aren't all they are cracked up to be.

When the dust finally settles, will the Heffleys be able to stay . . . or will they need to get out of town?

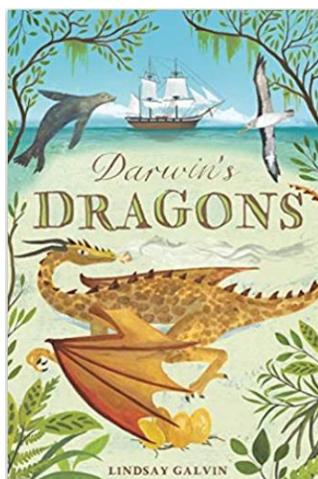
(age 8+)



From a young age, Prince was obsessed with music. Even though he couldn't read it, his talent – whether on piano, drums, guitar or vocals – turned him into an icon. Combining funk, disco, soul and almost every other genre out there, his songs are some of the best-loved all around the world. Prince knew that he didn't have to be like anyone else to be a star – and there was no one quite like Prince. This inspiring book features **stylish and quirky illustrations** and **extra facts at the back**, including a **biographical timeline** with historical photos and a detailed profile of the music legend's life.

Little People, BIG DREAMS is a **bestselling series of books and educational games** that **explore the lives of outstanding people**, from designers and artists to scientists and activists. All of them achieved incredible things, yet each began life as a child with a dream.

(age 5+)



'A striking and original adventure ... just the sort of story I love.' **EMMA CARROLL**

'WHAT a voyage! [Darwin's Dragons] is everything you hope it will be ...' **LUCY STRANGE**

Syms Covington has landed the job of a lifetime - cabin boy and fiddler on Charles Darwin's Beagle. But when he is separated from the crew during a storm, his life takes a truly extraordinary turn. Shipwrecked on a Galapagos island, he makes a discovery that could change the world - and make his fortune. But should he share his find, or will it lead to the extinction of a legendary species? There's one person who could help, but he's busy writing a book ...

(age 9+)



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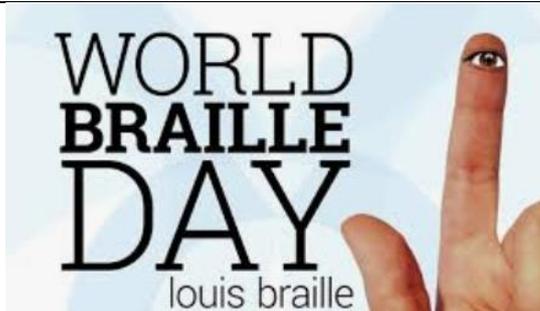
January Reading Dates and Events



National Science Fiction Day

2nd January

2nd of January was the date that was chosen to correspond with the official birth date of famed science fiction writer Isaac Asimov, who is thought to have been born January 2nd, 1920, was is responsible for some incredible works of science fiction literature such as "Nightfall" and the "Foundation Trilogy". Why not spend the day reading your favourite science-fiction book, or even better, share some science fiction reading with your children?



World Braille Day

4th January

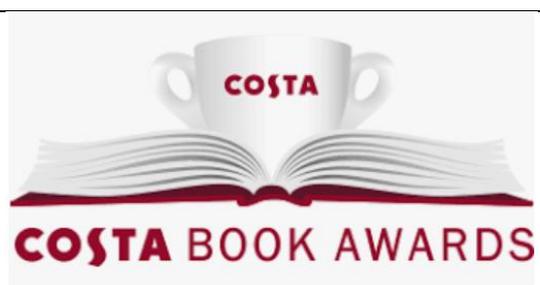
We celebrate World Braille Day every year on January 4th because it's Louis Braille's birthday. He's the inventor of braille! Louis was born in 1809 in France and became blind after a childhood accident. But, he quickly mastered his new way of living. When Louis was only 15 years old, he created a reading and writing system based on Charles Barbier's night writing system. We know Louis' system today as braille. Adjusted over time, braille is now easier to read and used all over the world!



National Winnie the Pooh Day

18th January

National Winnie the Pooh Day on January 18th commemorates author A.A. Milne's birthday in 1882. He brought the adorable, honey-loving bear to life in his stories, which also featured his son, Christopher Robin. Milne's lovable Pooh Bear, as he was fondly called, is a fictional bear inspired by a black bear named Winnie. Winnie lived at the London Zoo during World War I. The author's son, Christopher Robin, would visit the bear often and named his own teddy bear after her and a swan named Pooh.



Costa Book Awards Winner

26th January

The prize has five categories – First Novel, Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book – with one of the five winning books selected as the overall Costa Book of the Year. Books are entered by publishers and entry for the Awards closes at the end of June each year. The author of the Costa Book of the Year receives a cheque for £30,000, presented at an award ceremony at the end of January.



National Storytelling Week

30th January – 6th February

Stories belong to everyone...what's your story? What will you be telling and where will you be telling it? Every year there are hundreds and hundreds of events during National Storytelling week. It's a celebration of storytelling for all! National Storytelling week this year will run from 30th January to the 6th February.

<https://www.sfs.org.uk/national-storytelling-week>



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Happy reading!