

Book Buzz

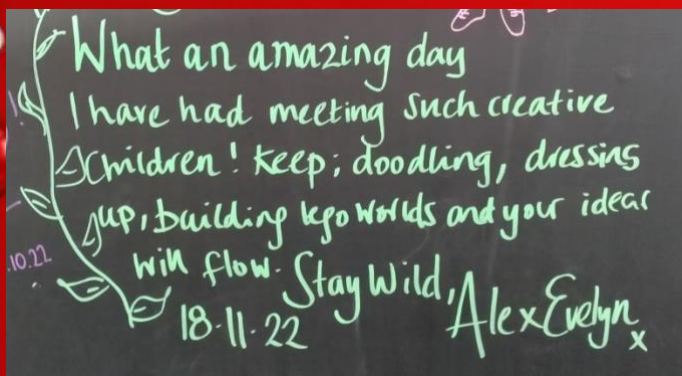
A reading newsletter for our whole school community



Newsletter 9: December 2022

With term two drawing to its close, this Book Buzz is packed full of reading news from across our school.

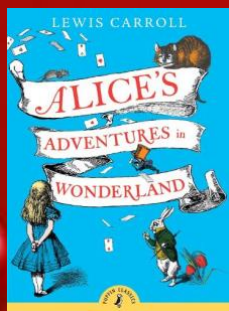
Children's author, Alex Evelyn, visited our school in November and delighted us all with her books "The Secret Wild". We enjoyed her presentations, interactive workshops and book signing. Author visits inspire a real buzz about writing and books across the school. Alex left us a lovely message on the library blackboard.



Our beautiful Christmas tree looks stunning in the reception area. Underneath the tree are piles of Christmas presents which our year 6 librarians have been eagerly delivering to different classes. Every class is building up its own little collection of Christmas books to share throughout the festive period.



The book swap bird boxes have been mended (thank you to our wonderful site manager Ms Clayton 🙌) so don't forget to browse these boxes and borrow whatever book takes your fancy!

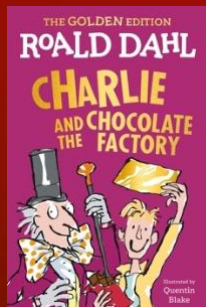


Key Stage 2 have been enjoying their guided reading sessions this term as they delve into the scrumptious delights of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the comical antics of Alice and her adventures in Wonderland. Both these books have inspired some wonderful writing from the children.

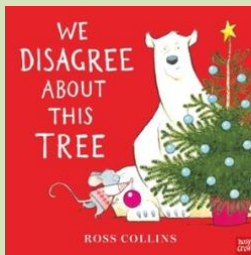


We ♥ Books

Some children in Year 5/6 have been working hard to contribute to our reading scrapbook. Thank you to Alfie, Freya, Jaianna, Jamie, Leo, Matilda, Olivia, Oscar, Rocci and Mrs Nevers for championing in our Pop Up Book club and Reading Scrapbook.

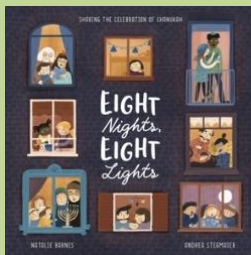


Festive books to share this Christmas



We Disagree About This Tree by Ross Collins

Decorating for Christmas can be stressful! When bear and mouse can't agree on how to trim their tree, chaos ensues. First the baubles are too big, then there are too many lights. Add in yards of tinsel and a blast of a fire extinguisher and there's a huge mess! In the end, they realise that what makes Christmas truly special is being together.



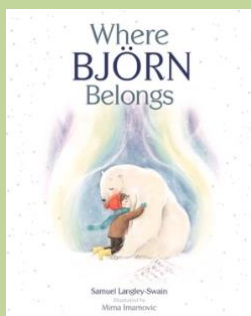
Eight Nights, Eight Lights by Natalie Barnes & illustrated by Andrea Stegmaier

Eight Nights, Eight Lights introduces the celebration of Chanukah through a wonderful story of community and traditions. It is a lovely overview of Chanukah traditions and helps children understand how what makes us different also makes us special. The final illustration showing a city filled with menorahs, Christmas trees, stars and a variety of religious buildings celebrates diversity and acceptance.



The After Christmas Tree by Bethan Welby

What happens to a Christmas tree once January arrives and no one wants it in the house anymore? In this charming story, children explore all the emotions of the end of the festive season.



Where Björn Belongs by Samuel Langley-Swain & illustrated by Mirna Imamović

When Arthur loses his favourite toy polar bear, he asks Santa for a new one. He doesn't expect a real polar bear to arrive in his snowy garden. It's more wonderful than he ever imagined. Unfortunately, Bjorn the bear soon grows too big and Arthur knows he needs to send him back where he belongs. This is a wonderful story of Christmas wishes, friendship and following your dreams.



The Christmas Department Store by Maudie Powell-Tuck & Hoang Giang

Christmas can be hard. This year, Benji's family can't afford a tree or even a turkey. Where has the magic gone? Just when Benji is about to give up hope, he discovers the most amazing department store with fun, animal employees and an opportunity to make very special Christmas wishes.



The Woodcutter and the Snow Prince by Ian Eagleton & illustrated by Davide Ortu

The Woodcutter and the Snow Prince is a beautiful Christmas story of love and friendship. The traditional tale of The Snow Queen has been transformed into something truly special.

This is a book to be treasured and read again and again



Libby and the Highland Heist by Jo Clarke & illustrated by Becka Moor

It's Christmas and Libby is visiting her best friend, Connie, in her family's large estate in the Scottish countryside. Sadly, the family has fallen on hard times and must make some tough financial decisions. Connie's mum and dad are on edge but everyone is still determined to have a wonderful Christmas with plenty of hot chocolate and shortbread.

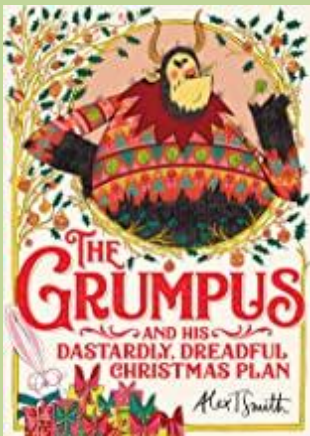
Libby's incredible observation skills tell her that something isn't right in the house. A secret passageway, hints of an intruder and missing art work lead to an even bigger mystery.



We Wish You a Merry Christmas and Other Festive Poems chosen & illustrated by Chris Riddell

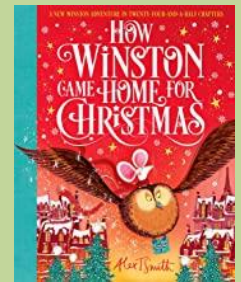
Chris Riddell has pulled together the most wonderful collection of classic and contemporary poems perfect for the Christmas season.

The poems come to life and leap off the page: some are peaceful and beautiful, while others are laugh-out-loud funny.



The Grumpus by Alex T Smith.

This is another fantastically festive Christmas adventure book from author-illustrator Alex T Smith. He also wrote **How Winston Delivered Christmas** and **How Winston Came Home for Christmas**.

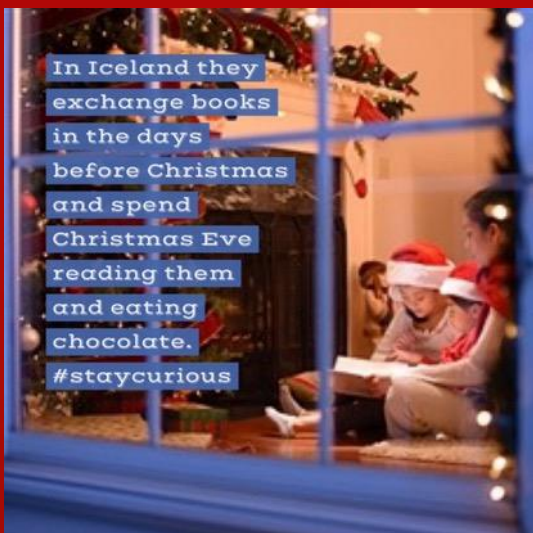


The Christmas Carrolls by Mel Taylor-Bessent

Funny, festive book for younger key stage 2 readers about the world's most Christmassy family! And even better, there are two books about this crazy Christmassy family!



*Happy
Jólabókafloð!*



In Iceland they
exchange books
in the days
before Christmas
and spend
Christmas Eve
reading them
and eating
chocolate.
#staycurious

Imagine this: It's Christmas Eve and after receiving a brand-new book from your family, you cosy up in your favourite reading nook or in front of the fire with a mug of hot cocoa and spend the rest of the evening reading.

That's exactly how Icelandic people celebrate Christmas each year. This tradition is known as Jólabókafloð, which translates roughly to "Christmas book flood" in English.

Jólabókafloð started during World War II, when paper was one of the few things not rationed in Iceland. Because of this, Icelanders gave books as gifts while other commodities were in short supply, turning them into a country of bookaholics.

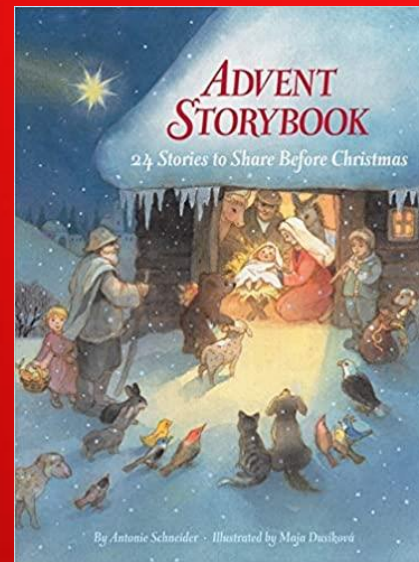
Ever since 1944, the Icelandic book trade has sent out a book bulletin to each household in the middle of November when the Reykjavik Book Fair happens. People use this catalogue to order books to give to their friends and family on Christmas Eve, the main gift-giving day in Iceland. After all the presents are open, everyone grabs a cup of hot chocolate and cosies up to spend the rest of the evening reading their books. What a wonderful tradition!

“Books make great gifts because they have whole worlds inside them. And it’s much cheaper to buy someone a book than it is to buy them the whole world!” Neil Gaiman

Enjoy the countdown to Christmas with these festive, book-filled advent calendars and texts.

Every winter Poetry By Heart creates a special poetry advent calendar. The Poetry By Heart Festive Poe-tree advent calendar is a digital anthology of poems – classic, contemporary and diverse – arranged in the shape of a Christmas tree with 24 little doors. From 1-24 December a door is unlocked each day and children and young people (adults too) can open it to find a festive poem. It's completely free for everyone to share and enjoy live from 1st December.

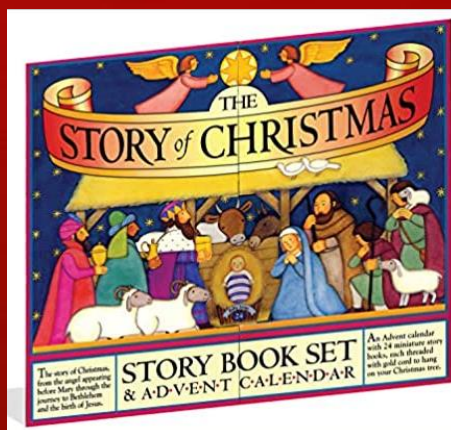
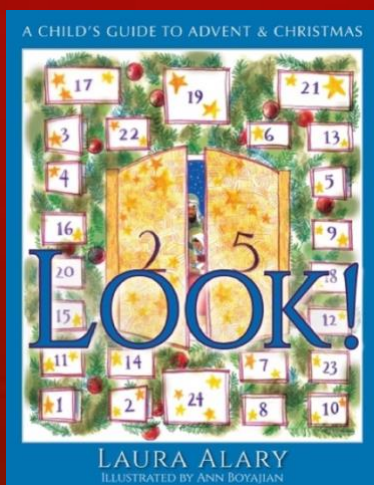
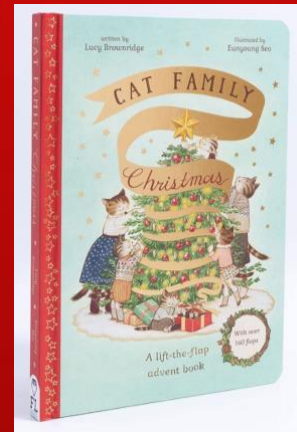
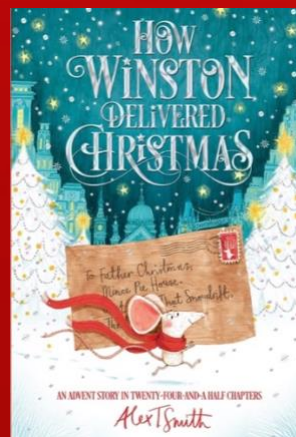
<https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/advent-calendar/>
POETRY BY HEART



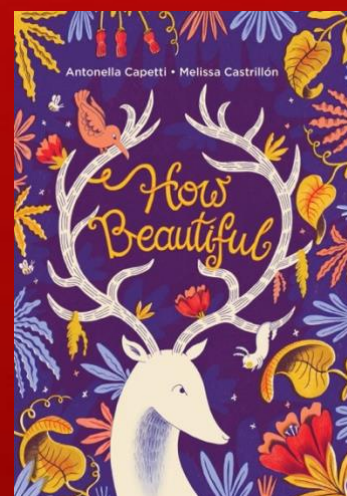
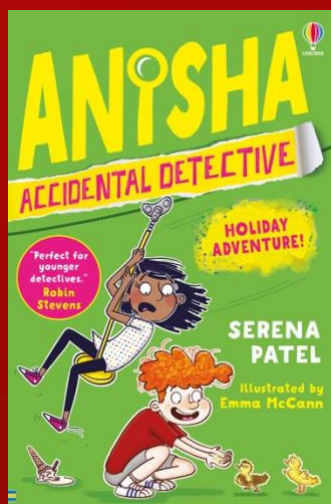
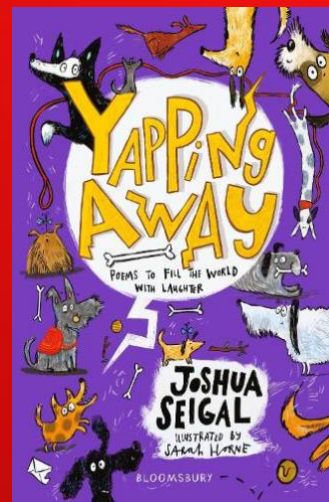
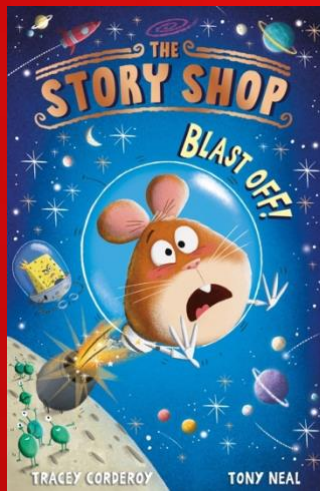
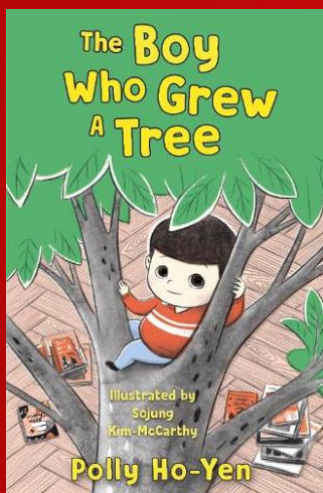
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Open each door on this lovely advent calendar to reveal a Christmas children's book and a linked video.

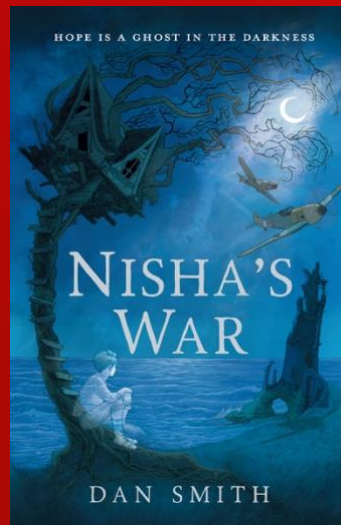
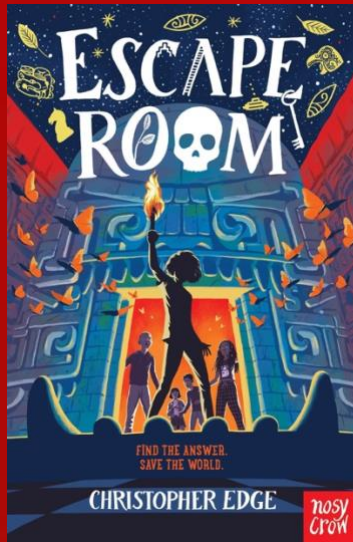
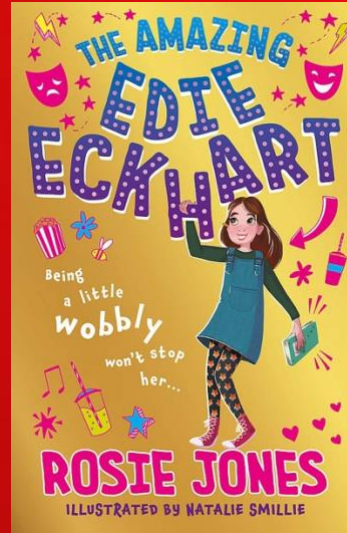
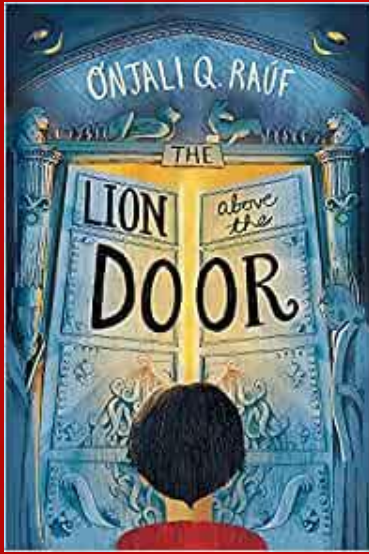
Countdown to CHRISTMAS



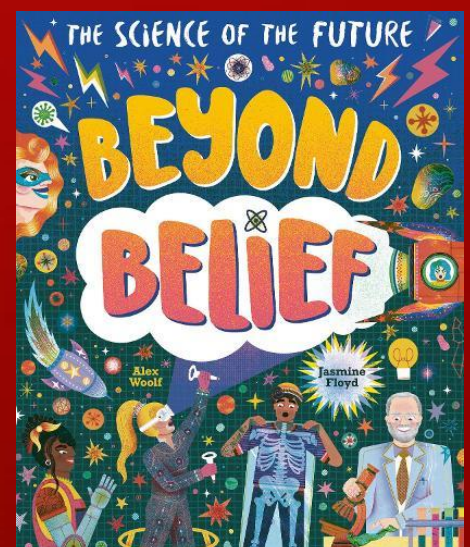
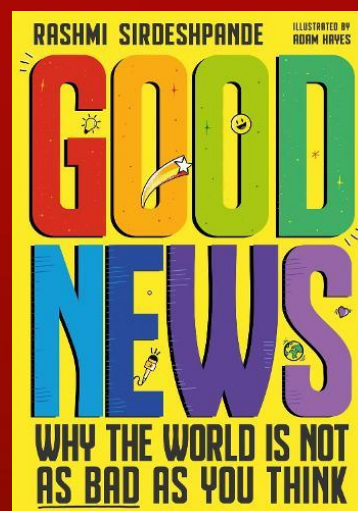
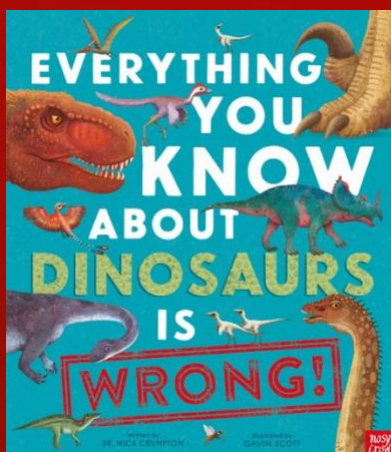
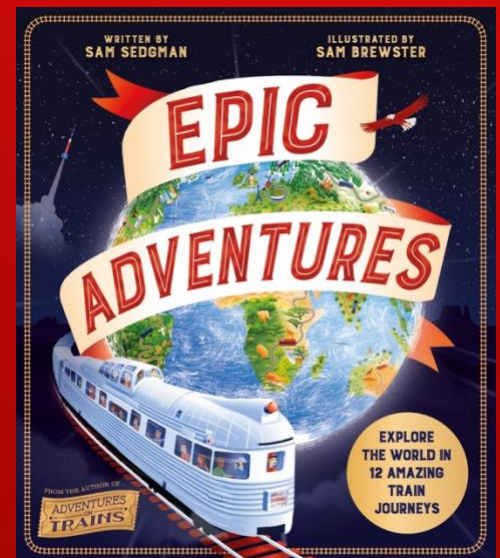
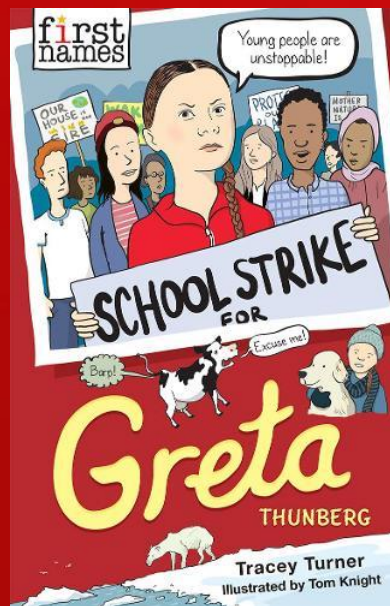
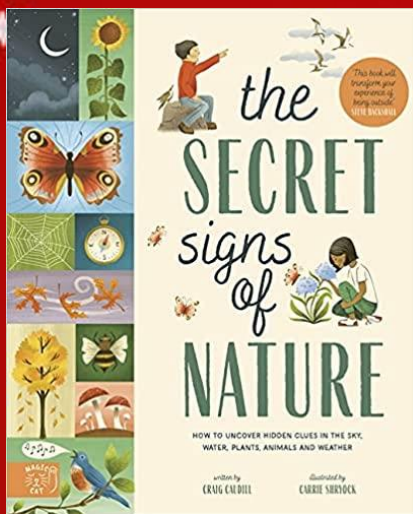
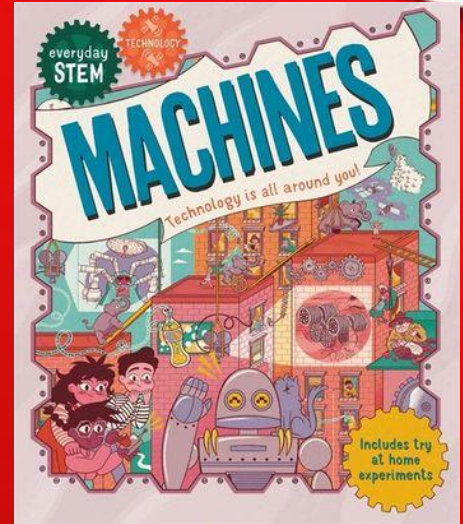
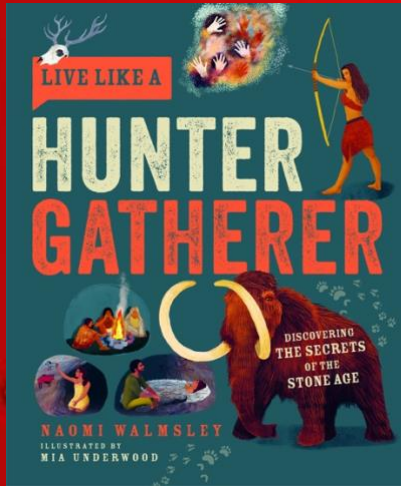
Some of our favourite books from 2022 for Key Stage 1



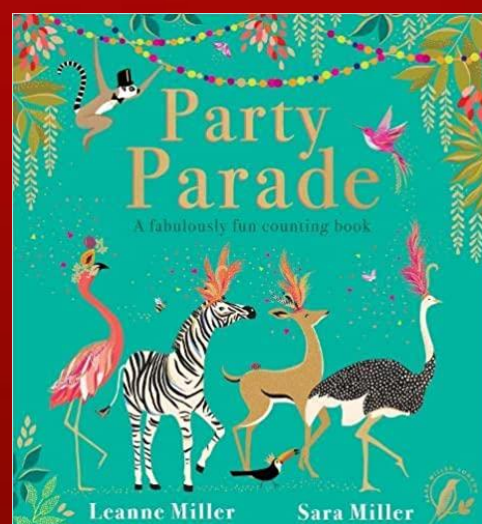
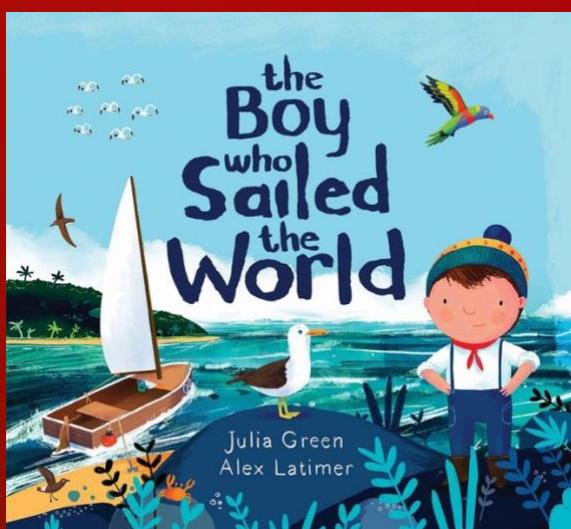
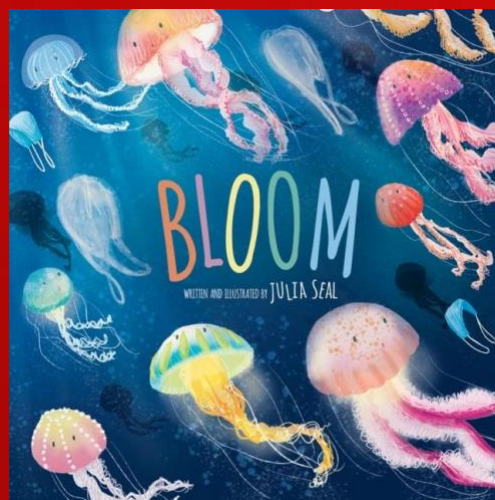
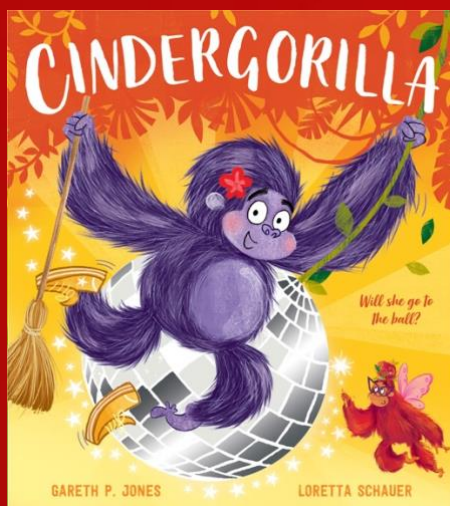
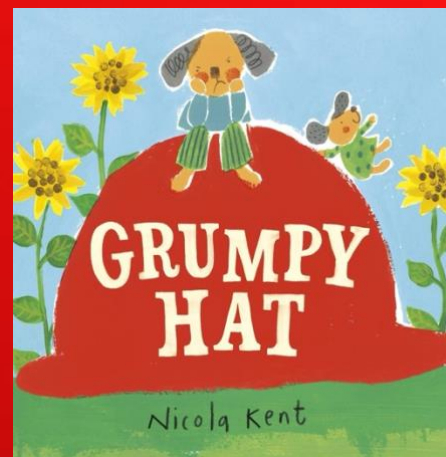
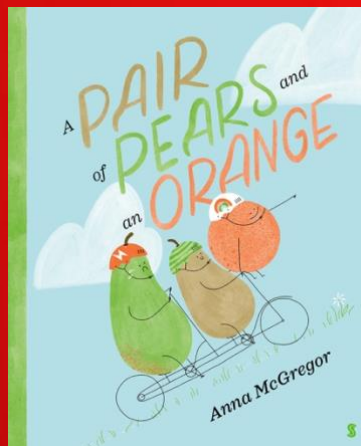
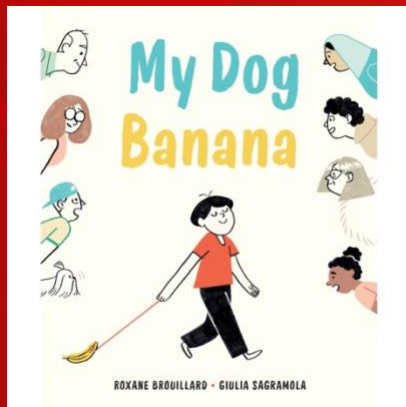
Some of our favourite books from 2022 for Key Stage 2



Some of our favourite non-fiction books from 2022



Some of our favourite books from 2022 for Foundation



GADGETEERS



Did you take part in the Summer Reading Challenge? The Winter Mini Challenge is a continuation of this, only it takes place online.

The annual Winter Mini Challenge is a fun reading adventure which encourages children to continue reading over the Christmas holidays with a free, digital platform offering rewards and prizes for continuing to read. The Winter Mini Challenge launched on 1st December and will run through until 20th February.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Don't forget to tell your class teacher that you have taken part in this challenge so that they can celebrate your love of reading with you!

