

Talking Books

with Mrs Garrett



Issue 3 November 2020

“A book is a dream that you hold in your hand.” Neil Gaiman

WELCOME

I am so pleased to announce the names of our new Librarian team. Our pupil librarians have a very important part to play in the running of the Library and are a very conscientious and supportive group of children to work with. Well done to the following children who join the Library family:

Tanisha Chandrarajah 6CK
Anjali Pal 6AG
Harriet Stone 6AG
Isabella D'Abbraccio 6AG
Tillie Ward 7JG
Chloe Barnes 7MR
Mana Zhang 8AF
Isaac Lee 8AF
Poppy Campion 8CS
Hayley Chan 8CS

Librarians will carry out their Library duties within their year group bubbles and will follow the instructions on hand sanitisation and handling books safely.

There have been quite a few changes for everyone to get used to, but I'd like to remind everyone that children can still come into the Library to borrow books as long as I am there to help. Although children cannot touch the books, they can show me the ones they would like to look at and I can get them off the shelves so that they can read the blurb and make a choice. When children have finished reading the book, they just put it in the Returned Books box outside the Library and I will then quarantine the book. Let's keep reading!

LITERARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Reading is Magic Festival If you missed this children's digital book festival, you can still watch the recorded events with your children. It includes authors and illustrators such as Cressida Cowell, Robin Stevens, Steven Camden, Joseph Coelho, Kiran Millwood Hargrave and Jasbinder Bilan to name but a few. It is available to watch on demand until 31st December 2020 on this link: <https://www.readingismagicfestival.com/>

If your child does not find it easy to sit and read a book, you might like to try a new interactive online magazine called *Checkpoint Kids*. This celebrates gaming and stories and is free to download. It supports learning and literacy. It can be found here: <https://checkpointmagazine.com/checkpoint-kids/>

The *Book of Hopes: Words and Pictures to Comfort, Inspire and Entertain*, was released online to entertain children during lockdown and then published in hardback on 1st October. This book will now also be published as an audio version on 11th November with stories being read by Stephen Fry, Ben Bailey Smith and Helena Bonham Carter. The proceeds from the audio book will be donated to NHS Charities Together.

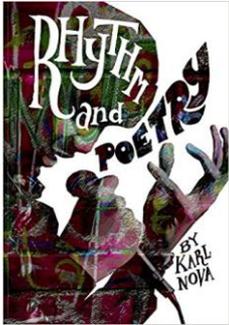
Caboodle has launched this year's Book Island Challenge that your children may enjoy playing. The idea is to look at each island and guess which book character lives there. There is a chance to win one of the 50 £10 National Book Tokens and a bundle of books. Have a look here: <http://caboodle.nationalbooktokens.com/bookisland/>

If you would like to support your local independent bookseller, then you may be interested in the Bookshop.org a new online business to challenge Amazon and which allows readers to buy books online while still supporting their local independent bookseller. You can find the Bookshop online here: <https://uk.bookshop.org/> and if you would like to read more about it, the Guardian published an article about the Bookshop: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/nov/02/this-is-revolutionary-new-online-bookshop-unites-indies-to-rival-amazon>

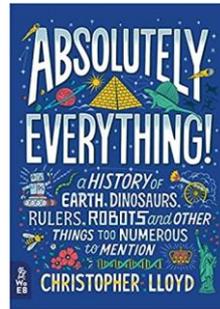
LET'S KEEP READING!

New books in the Library

There are quite a number of new books which have arrived in the Library this month from a wide range of topics and authors. Please do show the list to your children and discuss which titles they may like to borrow. (Synopses from Amazon and The Book Trust.)



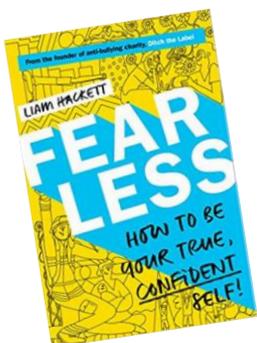
11+
Rhythm and Poetry by Karl Nova
Rhythm and Poetry (otherwise known as RAP) is by Hip Hop artist and poet Karl Nova. The beauty of rap lyricism and Hip Hop influenced poetry is displayed with wit, humour and positivity. His approach is to meet young people where they are and engage them with the style and attitude they are familiar with. This collection reflects on his journey of growth from childhood to adulthood through the lens of Hip Hop culture.



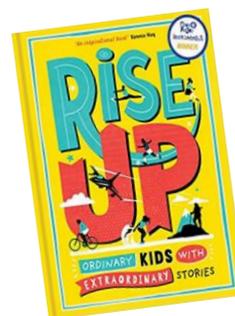
9+
Absolutely Everything!
by Christopher Lloyd
Discover how history, nature and science connect in this fast-paced, entertaining and incredibly informative history of the world, from the beginning of time to the present day. There is no better way to understand the earth's entire history.



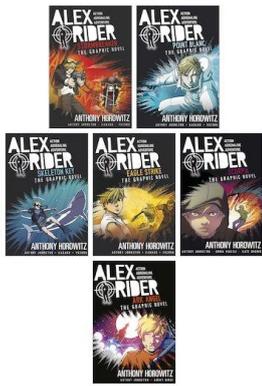
8+
Politics for Beginners by Alex Frith, Rosie Hore and Louie Stowell
With Brexit looming and constant political uncertainty in the UK, people are more confused by politics than ever before. *Politics for Beginners* answers the questions that people are afraid to ask, offering a no-nonsense guide to what politics is all about. Topics covered include political systems, elections, voting and government and issues including feminism, human rights, freedom of speech and fake news, all explained with clear text and bright, infographics style illustrations.



10+
Fearless by Liam Hackett
Fearless helps you find the confidence to be your true self. With vibrant colour illustrations throughout, *Fearless* shows that by breaking free from labels and stereotypes, together we can build a generation who are healthy, happy and can truly realize their full potential. *Fearless* explores how stereotypes influence *everything* – from how you feel about your body, to your interests and career aspirations.



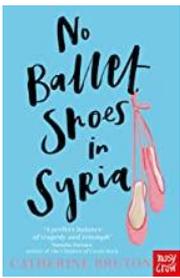
8+ Rise Up
by Amanda Li
Stories of girls and boys from around the world and the challenges they have faced and overcome. It features 29 tales of amazing young girls and boys who have achieved the unimaginable - from surviving a plane crash in the jungle to striking against climate change. There are tales of triumphing over illness and injury, and of overcoming bullying.



9+
Alex Rider Graphic Novels
 by Anthony Horowitz

The Alex Rider books are a series of spy novels about a teenage spy called Alex Rider who was forcibly recruited into MI6 after the mysterious death of his guardian. The 6 graphic novels in this set are: *Stormbreaker*, *Point Blanc*, *Skeleton Key*, *Eagle Strike*, *Scorpio*, *Ark Angel*.

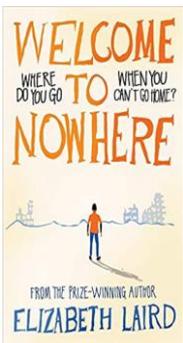
9+
No Ballet Shoes in Syria by Catherine Bruton



Aya is eleven years old and has just arrived in Britain with her mum and baby brother, seeking asylum from the war in Syria. When Aya stumbles across a local ballet class, the formidable dance teacher spots her exceptional talent and believes that Aya has the potential to earn a prestigious ballet scholarship. But at the same time, Aya and her family must fight to be allowed to remain in the country, to make a home for themselves and to find Aya's father - separated from the rest of the family during the journey from Syria.

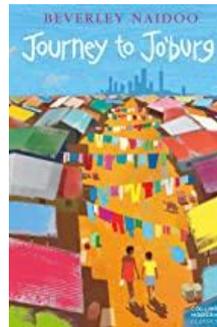
9+
Welcome to Nowhere

by Elizabeth Laird
 Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar doesn't care about politics - all he wants is to grow up to become a successful businessman who will take the world by storm. But when his clever older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some young political activists, everything changes . . . Before long, bombs are falling, people are dying, and Omar and his family have no choice but to flee their home with only what they can carry. Yet no matter how far they run, the shadow of war follows them - until they have no other choice than to attempt the dangerous journey to escape their homeland altogether. But where do you go when you can't go home?



9+
Journey to Jo'burg

by Beverley Naidoo
 This is the story of love, commitment and the flowering of the human spirit against the background of South Africa's apartheid. Frightened that their baby sister Dineo will die, thirteen-year-old Naledi and her younger brother Tiro run away from their grandmother to Johannesburg to find their mother, who works there as a maid. Their journey illustrates at every turn the grim realities of apartheid - the pass laws, bantustans, racism, the breakdown of family life. The opulence of the white "Madam's" house contrasts starkly with the reality that Naledi and Tiro face - that their baby sister is suffering from starvation, not an incurable disease.

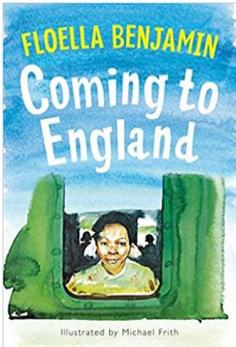




9+

Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah

Leonard is shocked when he arrives with his mother in the port of Southampton. His father is a stranger to him, it's cold and even the Jamaican food doesn't taste the same as it did back home in Maroon Town. But his parents have brought him here to try to make a better life, so Leonard does his best not to complain, to make new friends, to do well at school – even when people hurt him with their words and with their fists. How can a boy so far from home learn to enjoy his new life when so many things count against him?



9+

Coming to England by Floella Benjamin

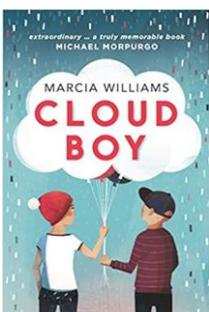
Floella Benjamin was just a young girl when she, her sister and two brothers arrived in England in 1960 to join their parents, whom they had not seen for fifteen months. They had left the island paradise of Trinidad to make a new home in London – part of a whole generation of West Indians who were encouraged to move to Britain and help rebuild the country after the Second World War. Reunited with her mother, Floella was too overwhelmed at first to care about the cold weather and the noise and dirt from the traffic. But, as her new life began, she was shocked and distressed by the rejection she experienced. She soon realized that the only way to survive was to work twice as hard and be twice as good as anyone else.



11+

The Space We're In by Katya Balen

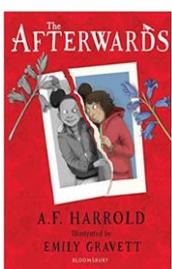
Frank is ten. He likes cottage pie and football and cracking codes. Max is five. He eats only Quavers and some colours are too bright for him and if he has to wear a new T-shirt he melts down down down. Sometimes, Frank wishes Mum could still do huge paintings of stars and asteroids like she used to, but since Max was born she just doesn't have time. When tragedy hits Frank and Max's lives like a comet, can Frank piece together a universe in which he and Max aren't light years apart?



10+

Cloud Boy by Marcia Williams

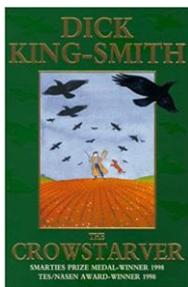
Harry Christmas and Angie Moon are best friends and almost-twins. Ever since they were born two days apart they've been partners in cloud-spotting, sweet-eating and treehouse-building. But when Harry is taken to hospital for headaches that won't go away, he needs Angie more than ever. Because when things fall apart, only a best friend can stitch them back together. Told through Angie's lively diary, this is a bittersweet story about friendship and growing up.



9+

The Afterwards by A F Harrold

There's nothing more to say about it. It is what it is. It is what will always be. Ember and Ness. Then Ness dies. It is sudden and unexpected and leaves Ember completely empty. How can this be? When Ember finds a way into the Afterworld, she is determined to bring Ness back because that's what friends do isn't it? They rescue each other. They help. They never give up. Ember and Ness. That doesn't change.

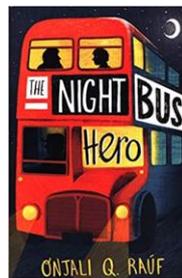


9+

The Crowstarver

By Dick King-Smith

Set in pre-World War II Britain, this is the poignant tale of an abandoned baby, adopted by a childless farming couple. As 'Spider' grows up, it becomes apparent that despite his physical and learning disabilities, he has a remarkable gift for communicating with animals.



8+ The Night Bus Hero

By Onjali Q. Rauf

I've been getting into trouble for as long I can remember. Usually I don't mind 'cos some of my best, most brilliant ideas have come from sitting in detention. But recently it feels like no one believes me about anything - even when I'm telling the truth! And it's only gotten worse since I played a prank on the old man who lives in the park. Everyone thinks I'm just a bully. They don't believe I could be a hero. But I'm going to prove them all wrong...

*Told from the perspective of a bully, this book explores themes of bullying and homelessness, while celebrating kindness, friendship and the potential **everyone** has to change for the good.*



9+

The Girl Who Stole an Elephant

By Nizrana Farook

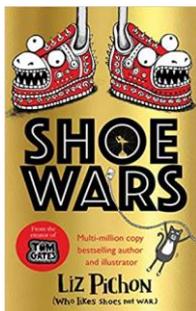
Chaya, a no-nonsense, outspoken hero, leads her friends and a gorgeous elephant on a noisy, fraught, joyous adventure through the jungle where revolution is stirring and leeches lurk. Will stealing the queen's jewels be the beginning or the end of everything for the intrepid gang?

8+

Shoe Wars by Liz Pichon

Welcome to Shoe Town and meet brother and sister Bear and Ruby Foot.

They are running out of time to rescue their inventor dad from his *hideous boss*, Wendy Wedge. She'll do ANYTHING to win the glitzy Golden Shoe Award and knows that entering flying shoes is her hot ticket to the trophy. Flying shoes that Ruby and Bear just happen to be hiding...

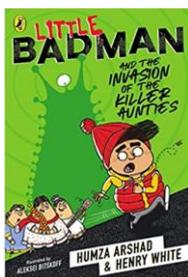


10+

Orion Lost

By Alastair Chisholm

The transport ship Orion is four months out of Earth when catastrophe strikes - leaving the ship and everyone on board stranded in deep space. Suddenly it's up to thirteen-year-old Beth and her friends to navigate through treacherous and uncharted territory to reach safety. But a heavily-damaged ship, space pirates, a mysterious alien species, and an artificial intelligence that Beth doesn't know if she can trust means that getting home has never been so difficult...

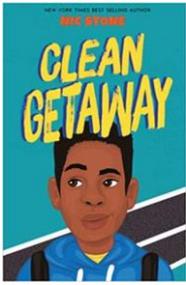


10+

Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties

by Humza Arshad and Henry White

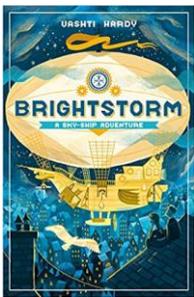
You've probably heard of me, right? Little Badman. No? Oh. Well. . . Doesn't matter. You will do one day. I'm gonna be big." I'm Humza Khan, the greatest eleven-year-old rapper Eggington has ever known; soon **everyone** will know my name. Only problem is school has got *really* weird, man. All my teachers are disappearing and our *aunties* are taking over. It wasn't too bad at the start, they keep feeding us delicious snacks. Like, all the time. But now these aunties are trying to mess with my music, so me and my best friends Umer and Wendy are going to hunt for the truth. Cos something big and bad is going on and we won't let anything mess with my music... or you know, the world.



9+

Clean Getaway By Nic Stone

When Scoob's grandma (G'ma) invites him to join her on an adventure in her brand-new campervan, obviously he says yes. As they watch Alabama drift past from the comfort of the van, G'ma reveals they're going to retrace the steps of a road trip she took with his grandpa fifty years ago. Back then, things in America were very different, especially for black people, and people were not very accepting of G'ma and G'pop's mixed relationship. Now, Scoob's in charge of G'ma's old map, marked up with all the places G'ma wanted to visit before, like the highest mountain in Alabama and the church where Martin Luther King held gatherings. Scoob loves hanging out with G'ma and hearing her stories, but it quickly becomes clear this is not just any road trip: she's on a mission to right a wrong from her past. And as he learns more about both his grandpa – and G'ma too – Scoob can't help questioning everything he thought he knew about his family history.



9+

Brightstorm by Vashti Hardy

Twins Arthur and Maudie Brightstorm receive word in Lontown that their famous explorer father has died in a failed attempt to reach the southernmost point in the world. Not only that, but he has been accused of stealing fuel before he died! The twins don't believe the news, and they answer an ad to join a new attempt to reach South Polaris. It's their only hope of learning the truth ... and salvaging their family's reputation. As the winged ship *Aurora* sets sail, the twins must keep their wits about them and prove themselves worthy of the rest of the crew. But will Arthur and Maudie find the answers they seek?

WORTH A LOOK...

It can be difficult to interest some children in reading at the best of times and it was concerning to hear that many children now also lack the stamina to read and write – a problem that has developed since Lockdown in March. However, there are so many exciting new books to look at that you can encourage your children to pick up and read, including an ever growing list of graphic novels (more arriving in this Library shortly) and books based on gaming stories for children who are avid gamers. Check out the following three titles for children who would prefer to 'game' than read:

Fighting Fantasy: Crystal of Storms by Rhianna Pratchett

An astonishingly imaginative, edge-of-your-seat adventure – part story, part game!

You, the hero of this story, are a member of the Sky Watch keeping the floating archipelago of Pangaria safe. When the Nimbus isle suddenly crashes out of the sky into the Ocean of Tempests below, you must **explore** the remaining islands and battle both storms and sea beasts in your mission to raise Nimbus from the deep.

Wonderscape by Jennifer Bell

When Arthur, Ren and Cecily investigate a mysterious explosion on their way to school, they find themselves trapped aboard *The Principia* - a scientific research ship sailing through hazardous waters, captained by one Isaac Newton. Lost in the year 2473 in the Wonderscape, an epic in-reality adventure game, they must call on the help of some unlikely historical heroes, to play their way home before time runs out. Gaming and time travel collide in this exhilarating middle-grade adventure.

Knights and Bikes: Wheels of Legend by Gabrielle Kent

A new mystery has rolled onto Penfurzy island and the Rebel Bicycle Club are ready to investigate! Nessa, Demelza and Captain Honkers set-off to explore a travelling fun-fair when things begin to get strange. With new friends and a new legend to uncover, the best friends do what they do best: SAVE THE DAY FROM A FATE WORSE THAN HOMEWORK. A mysterious adventure with twists, turns and gross-out caravan invaders guaranteed to make you laugh!

For the football fans, there is a new Ultimate Heroes title out: **Ronaldo** by Matt and Tom Oldfield. Escaping the hot streets of Madeira, Cristiano Ronaldo first proved himself as a wonder-kid at Manchester United under Sir Alex Ferguson, before becoming a legend for Real Madrid and Portugal. This is the story of how the gifted boy became a man, a team-player and a legend. This adventure has a twist. The reader gets the chance to be their own football hero and make decisions about Ronaldo's career. Move to England or stay in Portugal? You choose.

Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatle

A book for our older readers (12+). This story is inspired by a real life rebellion in British-owned slave plantations in Jamaica in 1760. Fourteen year old Moa's dad warns him not to join in the rebellion being plotted by charismatic leader Tacky because he can't bear to lose another son, but Moa makes the decision to become a Cane Warrior and join the resistance - even a glimmer of hope of freedom is better than the horrendous life he is forced to live on the plantation. Moa never sees his mother, who works as a cook at the plantation owner's house, and Moa himself is forced to work back-breaking thirteen hour days in the fields. Tacky represents the chance to seize a new life; how could Moa refuse?

The Diverse Book Award Winners were announced on 22nd October and the Children's Fiction winner was *The Star Outside My Window* by Onjali Q. Rauf and the Young Adult winner was *Chinglish* by Sue Cheung. Both of these authors and these titles feature in our Library and I do recommend children borrow these books for a good and interesting read.

In the lead up to Christmas, it's worth having a look at a new book which takes a Christmas classic and puts a modern day spin on it. In ***The Miracle on Ebenezer Street*** by Catherine Doyle George is about to spend his third Christmas without his mum. Since she died, George's life has felt dull and grey; his dad has thrown himself into his work and has no time for family, and definitely no time for Christmas. Then, George stumbles across Marley's Curiosity Shop. There he finds a mysterious snow globe, which - though George can't quite understand how - appears to show a scene from George's past. A Christmas in which he and his family were together, and happy... That night, George and his dad are swept on an adventure to three Christmases - past, present, and future. With help from new friends, and just a touch of magic, can they begin living life in full colour again?