

# FISHBOURNE READS

OUR READING FOR PLEASURE NEWSLETTER



## Issue 5: CHRISTMAS Special



This edition is all about celebrating books that help us to get into the festive spirit! We asked you to share some of your favourite Christmas titles and here's what you said...

Penguins class (Y3) highly recommend **'The Dog that saved Christmas'** by Nicola Davies:

'The book teaches you to be kind and helpful all the time to everyone.'  
'The book has helped me to be a better friend' Bethany  
'I like this book because it teaches you about special needs.' Lillie  
'I think the moral of the story is that everyone is different' Anabel



### News from Sophy Henn

Sophy Henn is our wonderful Patron of Reading. She keeps in regular contact with us to let us know what she is up to and what she's working on. We followed her journey as she developed the new Pizazz series and had an amazing insight into the characters and plot. Here's news on what's she's been up to recently:

Hello to all the little, medium sized, and big fishes at the wonderful Fishbourne Primary School.

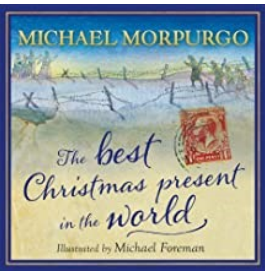
Well, it's been a while and there have been no videos to send you of what I have been up to because I have mainly been sitting at my desk, what with lockdown and everything, and that wouldn't make a very exciting video! But I HAVE been working...I finished Pizazz Book 1 AND Pizazz Book 2, written and illustrated two picture books, done a MILLION draw-along videos (maybe not \*quite\* a million, but nearly!), recorded the Pizazz audio books and eaten many, many, MANY biscuits!

I have also been making sure I make time for reading, and I hope you all have too! I found myself enjoying my old Judy Blume books again and the HILARIOUS Mr Gum by Andy Stanton. Not to mention the brilliant and brand new Shoe Wars by that clever stick, Liz Pichon! I seem to remember some of us got to meet her at the Lollies....she was lovely wasn't she?

2020 has been quite the year and I am sorry I haven't been able to come and visit you all what with us all being stuck at home for most of it. But thank heavens for books, through them we can escape to all sorts of wonderful places. So keep reading, keep washing your hands and I will see you all VERY soon!

Love, Sophy x

*Sophy Henn*

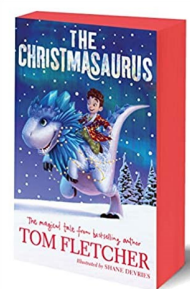


### The Best Christmas Present in the World by Michael Morpurgo

Another story to extend our learning about war time and some of the quite extraordinary things that happened in the trenches... this is the haunting story of Christmas 1914 when soldiers on both sides put down their weapons in honour of Christmas Day.

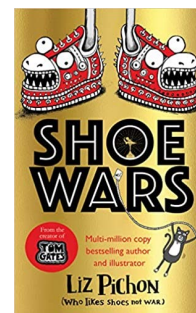
### The Snow Dragon by Abi Elphinstone

You can be late for many things in life, but you should never keep an adventure waiting... In Griselda Bone's gloomy orphanage, daydreaming is banned, skipping is forbidden and Christmas is well and truly cancelled. But for Phoebe and her sausage dog Herb, is it possible that, just when things seem at their bleakest, magic awaits in the swirling, snow-filled air?



### The Christmasaurus by Tom Fletcher

This is a story about a boy named William Trundle and a dinosaur named the Christmasaurus. It's about how they meet one Christmas Eve and have a magical adventure. It's about friendship and families, sleigh bells and Santa, singing elves and flying reindeer. It's about discovering your heart's true desire, and learning that the impossible might just be possible...

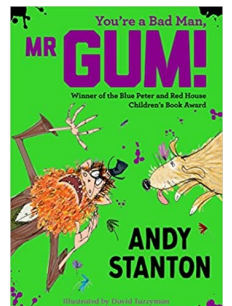


Welcome to Shoe Town - and meet brother and sister Bear and Ruby Foot. They are **running out of time** to rescue their inventor dad from his hideous boss, Wendy Wedge.

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...

Get ready for a gadget-packed, wedge-of-your-feet adventure like no other!

Mr Gum is a complete horror who hates children, animals, fun and corn on the cob. This book's all about him. And an angry fairy who lives in his bathtub. And Jake the dog, and a little girl called Polly. And there's heroes and sweets and adventures and EVERYTHING.



Have you visited our library recently? If not, make sure you do! Mrs Whitaker has put some of our Christmas books out for you to enjoy by the fireside!





In this issue, we interviewed Mrs Martin, our amazing office administrator, about her love of reading:

**What are you reading right now?** I have always enjoyed books by the author Jojo Moyes and when I came across *The Giver of Stars*, which has such super reviews, I thought I would try something a little different. Who knows what you might discover when you venture out of your comfort zone!

*Purest joy - even as it cheerfully breaks your heart. A go-get-em adventure about E Roosevelt's horseback librarians, it celebrates female friendship and the power of books — Damian Barr*

**Where do you like to read?** My favourite time to read is just before going to sleep. I snuggle up in bed with my cosy lights and disappear into a fictional world. When I find a good book, I really cannot wait for bedtime!

#### Favourite children's book of all time?

I find it hard to choose just one book but I would recommend for children aged 9 and upwards, which I have only recently discovered, *Where the River Runs Gold* by Sita Brahmachari. Dare - Hope - Dream - Believe....full of adventure, hope and friendship, and the importance of protecting our natural world.

#### A children's picture book you'd recommend for a younger audience?

As we are nearing Christmas, one of my favourite picture books I had as a child was *Morris's Disappearing Bag* by Rosemary Wells. I can still remember thinking how amazing it would be to find such a thing under the Christmas tree!



#### What's special about being a reader?

Whether I am cuddling up with my children and sharing an exciting adventure book, or quietly reading to myself to relax, reading is a very special time to escape the busyness of life, especially when you find a really good book!

#### A recommendation from Mrs Day:

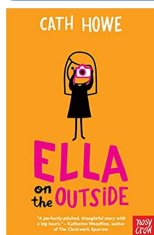
This book is a firm favourite in our house and we LOVE reading it in the lead up to Christmas. There's a chapter for each day of advent and lots of lovely ideas for craft activities too:



*Winston the mouse is on a Very Important Mission. On Christmas Eve, he finds a letter to Father Christmas that did not make it to the post box - so, with no time to lose, he sets out to deliver it himself in time for Christmas*

*Day! He has a lot of Very Exciting Adventures on his Very Important Mission and makes some wonderful friends along the way.*

## Recommendations from our Little Fish...



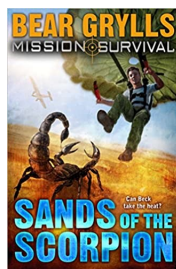
#### Ella on the Outside by Cath Howe

Ella on the outside is about a girl called Ella who has to move because her dad went to jail. Alongside her mum and brother, Jack, she had to move away from her lifelong best friend and her old school. I like this book because the author has created an almost real school scene and characters who seem real. I would recommend this book to a Year 5 or 6 but if there is an advanced reader in year 4 I would recommend it to them as well.

\*\*\*\* (4.5 out of 5)

Reviewed by Darcie (Y6)

#### Bear Grylls: Sands of the Scorpion



A teenager called Beck Granger and his friend is forced to parachute into the middle of the Sahara Desert by a group of diamond smugglers without any technology or food.

I would recommend this book for 8-10 year olds because it is gory, funny and packed full of facts.

\*\*\*\* (4 out of 5)

Reviewed by Adam (Y6)

This month, we had TWO guest reviewers from Koala class for our FR newsletter. They volunteered to read Tom Fletcher's new book, *The Danger Gang*. Here are their reviews:



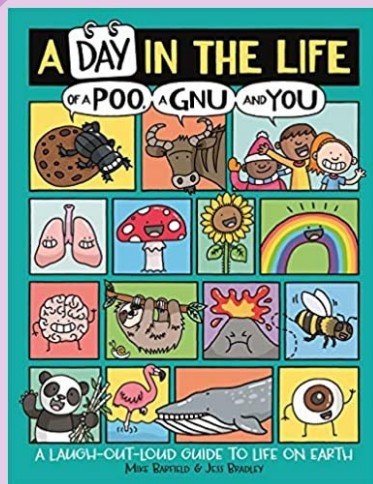
I think this book is cool, funny and awesome. I love how the story is told through letters written by the main character, Franky Brown, to his best friend. Franky is a cool name for someone who glows! I love this book and recommend it to anyone that likes funny, adventurous, cool books. By Harriette (The review, not the book!)

\*\*\*\*\* (5/5)

I give this book 4 stars out of 5 because it is brilliant. To write this book you would have to have a wonderful scope of imagination and an off the scale sense of humour. The only problem is that it does not tell you very many facts but overall I think this is a sensational book. I recommend this fictional book for 7 to 15 year olds whether you are a boy or a girl. Be warned for there are quite a few toilet jokes that will make you laugh. By Evelyn

\*\*\*\* (4/5)

Huge thanks to Harriette and Evelyn for writing their book reviews - what a lovely opportunity to have twintastic reflections on the same book!

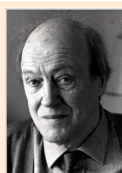


#### New Releases

*A Day in the Life of a Poo, a Gnu and You!*

If you've ever wanted to know what a panda does all day long, how your heart manages to shift all that blood around your body or what makes a rainbow shine, you've come to the right book. This non-fiction book has been shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Awards 2021.

**If you would like to be our guest reviewer this month, please do let Mrs Day know!**



**"So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall."**

Roald Dahl gave this view. Do you agree?

What would you do with your time if you didn't have a TV or computer?