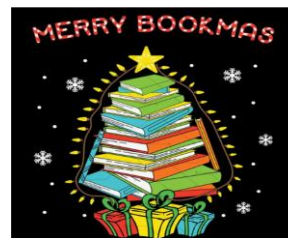


# Reading Newsletter



This term, six of our UKS2 children got to become proofreaders of the next novel by Julie Culpitt. The author had visited our school last year and was very impressed by our children's enthusiasm for reading. What a fantastic opportunity! We also held our first cash free book fair and thank you for your support during this. We raised [£271.82](#) of school rewards, which will help to keep our school libraries and classroom reading areas up to date and tempting places to be! This term's newsletter has plenty of reading recommendations for all ages to get cosy with indoors as the weather gets colder ... Happy reading!

Well done to this term's raffle winners:

Reception: Mikail, Esme and Alana

Year 1: Amelia, Reyan and Eugenie

Year 2: Gideon, Lily and Sydelle

Year 3: James, Mila and Louis

Year 4: Aaron, Connie and Mabel

Year 5: Ben, Maryum and Pippa

Year 6: Shriyansh, Nathan, Anya and Jed



Each winner has received a **£5 book token** to spend in Waterstones. Huge congratulations also to the **409 children** across the school who, as part of our celebratory reading assembly, received a certificate in recognition of reading consistently on at least 5 occasions each week. **This is 80 more than last term and a new record! Can we make this total even higher in 2025?** Don't forget, the more raffle tickets you earn, the more chances you have of winning! Start sharing the great books that you've read to inspire more readers among us.

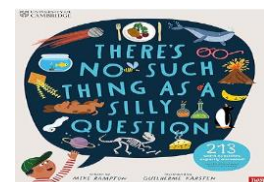


**Sprouts** is reviewed later ...

## There's No Such Thing As A Silly Question by Mike Rampton and Guilherme Karsten

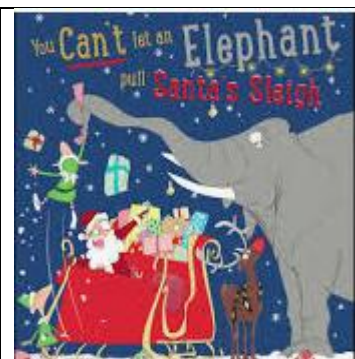
Did you know that there's no set number of bones in the human body? Most babies are born with around 300 bones, but by the time they've grown up, they usually have between 206 and 213.

An absolute delight of a book packed with 213 fascinating and unusual questions. What makes it truly special is how the authors balance fun with facts.





# ALL I WANT FOR MY CHRISTMAS READ ...

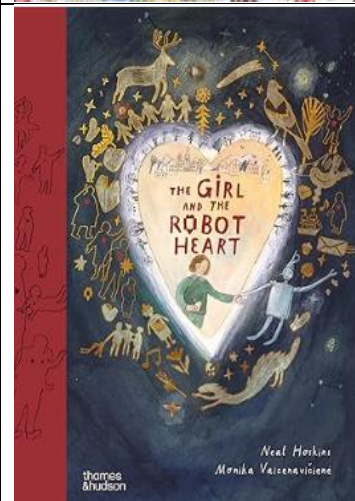


## **You Can't Let an Elephant Pull Santa's Sleigh by Patricia Cleveland-Peck**

Racoon's decorating your Christmas tree? Pulling crackers with alpacas? Kissing a buffalo under the mistletoe? This is a festive romp featuring all sorts of animals in all sorts of madcap situations, but remember ...

You can't let an elephant pull Santa's sleigh,  
If you want your presents on Christmas Day ...  
He'll do his best to tug it up to the sky  
but the sad fact is – elephants can't fly!

**A perfect festive read for EYFS.**



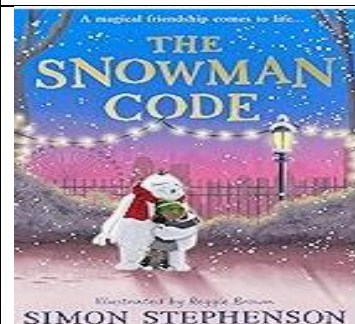
## **The Girl and the Robot Heart by Neal Hoskins**

How do you imagine a heart? How would you describe it? Anatomically, pumping blood with each beat or emotionally, filled with love and the source of kindness?

One Christmas Eve, when a robot asks a girl "What's inside a human heart?" her answer is layered from memories, sacred places, loved ones and rooms filled with story books, building her robot a heart from the emotions that those tales elicit. This exploration of what makes us human, is paired with exquisite illustrations capturing the very essence of humanity alongside the beauty of storytelling.

As Christmas approaches, this stunning hardback would make not only a beautiful gift, but serve as a timely reminder of the important things in life.

**A great read for KS1.**

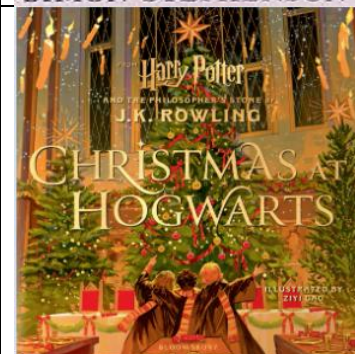


## **The Snowman Code by Simon Stephenson**

A debut novel to feature in all homes this time of year.

Hiding from bullies, 10-year-old Blessing hasn't been to school in months. Worse still, her mother is suffering from SAD – and winter won't end. When she meets Albert, a 600-year old snowman who is bound by the Snowman Code to help any child in need, together they must find Albert's long-lost love Clementine and bring the unnatural winter to a close.

**Sparkling, humorous and poignant: it's a perfect seasonal read for LKS2.**



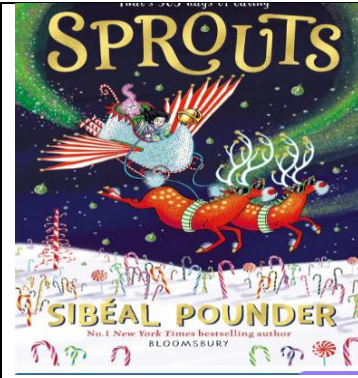
## **Christmas at Hogwarts by J.K. Rowling**

'Christmas was coming. One morning in mid-December, Hogwarts woke to find itself covered in several feet of snow.' So begins Chapter 12 of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, the story of Harry Potter's magical first Christmas at Hogwarts School.

This favourite moment showing Harry's first Christmas amongst friends is now fully illustrated for the whole family to enjoy.

Sure to be treasured and the beginning of an enchanting new festive tradition.

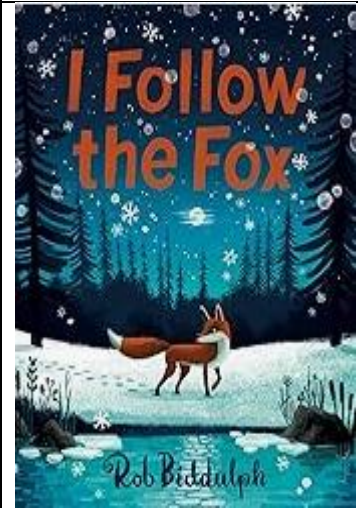
**A perfect festive read for Year 2 and KS2**



### Sprouts by Sibeal Pounder

If you've ever wondered what it would be like to have Christmas 365 days a year, enter the world of Carols and Krampuses with Gryla, a witch who has been given great responsibility, and find out. The year is 4042, and it is Christmas every day except on one tiny island. There are plenty of clever twists and turns along the way as the characters explore what makes Christmas so special. An enjoyable action packed festive read to enjoy the magic of Christmas whilst offering opportunities for the reader to question the idea of constant celebration and to consider the value of traditions and simplicity.

**A perfect festive read for UKS2**



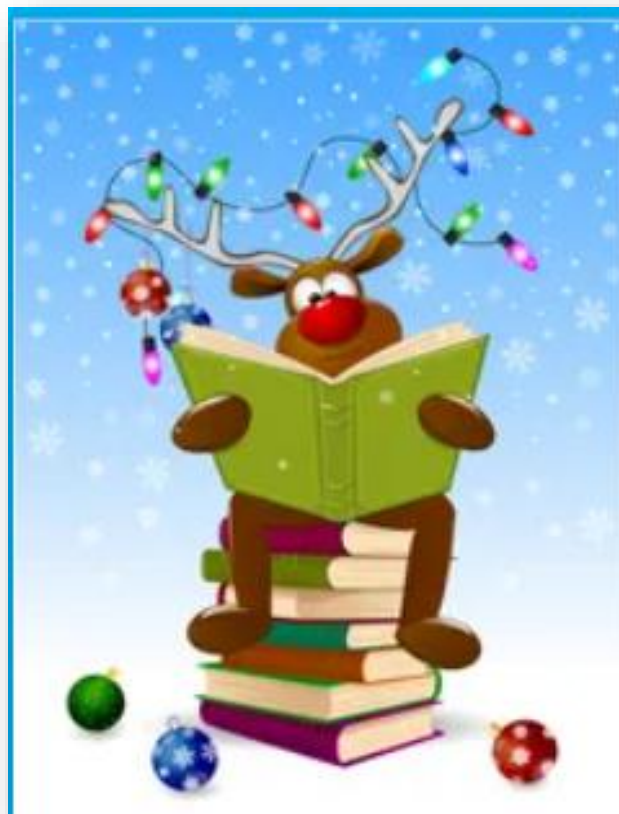
### I follow The Fox by Rob Biddulph

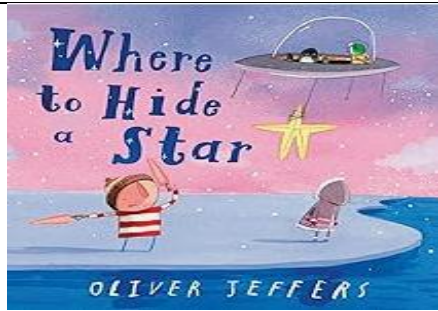
The mesmerising new illustrated children's book from the best-selling and award-winning author and illustrator, Rob Biddulph, is a magical tale about a boy, his teddy and a very special winter adventure.

Little Fox has gone missing in the park and the family search without success. Then one night, a beautiful fox calls at the window, and the young boy decides to follow her. They go on a magical adventure where the boy realises the fox has led him to something special, and that she needs his help.

A wonderful tale with opportunities to then learn how to draw fox using Draw with Rob videos too 😊.

**A perfect winter story for all ages.**



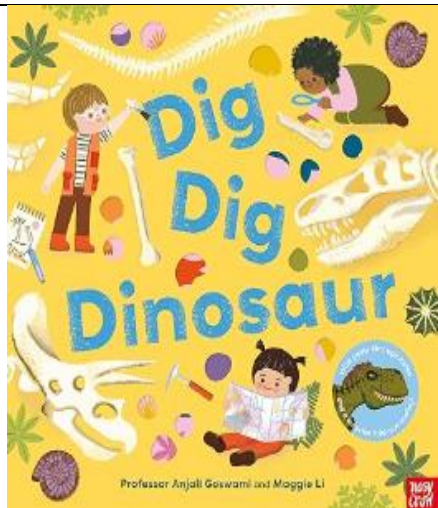


**Where to Hide a Star by Oliver Jeffers**

This is an adventure that will not disappoint: a simply glorious evocation of friendship, loyalty and home.

A beautifully illustrated, engaging story about friendship, belonging and sharing that finds our young hero journeying to the North Pole to find out what has happened to his cosmic friends.

**Great fun and a must read in EYFS and KS1.**

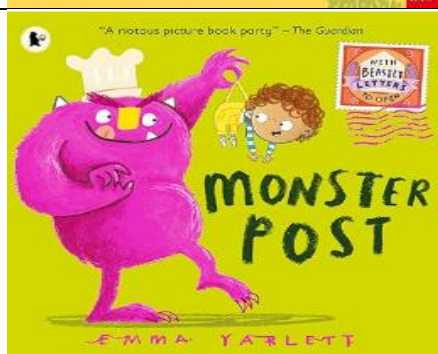


**Dig Dig Dinosaur by Anjali Goswami**

A fantastic introduction into the world of palaeontology. Starting with the equipment an explorer might need, follow 3 young children as they head off on an adventure and dig, dig, dig into various landscapes to discover surprises galore. Glimpses are given to what lies beneath via peepholes and as we lift the die cut pages, we discover the fossils of 4 popular dinosaurs.

With distinctively playful illustrations bringing the archaeological dig to life, there is fun to be had on every page and in addition to the mentioned peep through holes, there is a fantastic surprise fold out at the end making this a thoroughly interactive example of 'factual fiction'.

**A perfect choice for our EYFS and Year 1 children.**

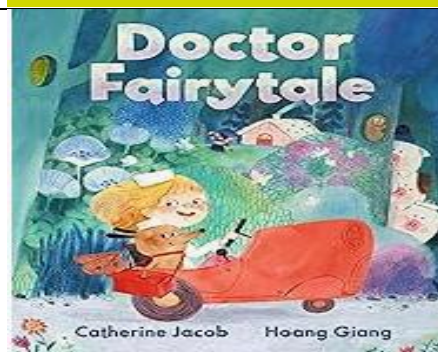


**Monster Post by Emma Yarlett**

When Beast catches 'Dinner' and invites all his friends over for a Beast Feast at the Beast Cave, each monster RSVPs by monster post and encloses their favourite recipes.

Hilarious and engaging with the most fabulous interactive items of post to open and read throughout, this will have you all giggling and planning your own funny food.

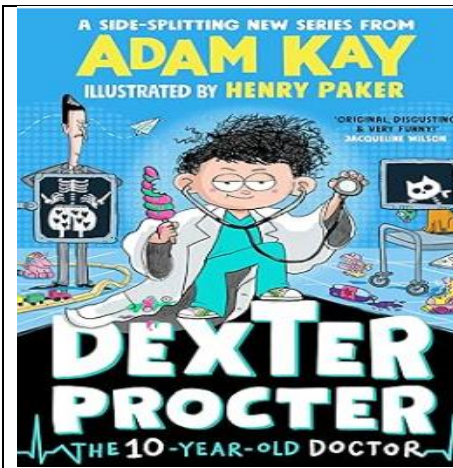
**A perfect choice for EYFS and KS1.**



**Doctor Fairytale by Catherine Jacob and Hoang Giang**

Have you ever wondered who tends to the many injuries sustained in the land of fairytales? When Cinderella gets blisters from running all over town without two shoes, or Rapunzel gets a headache from hoisting one too many people up a tower with her hair? Well, fortunately, Doctor Fairytale is on hand to rush to their aid and tend to their wounds.

**Brilliant fun and great illustrations with lots of classic story nods hidden in the detail, it's a great book choice for KS1.**

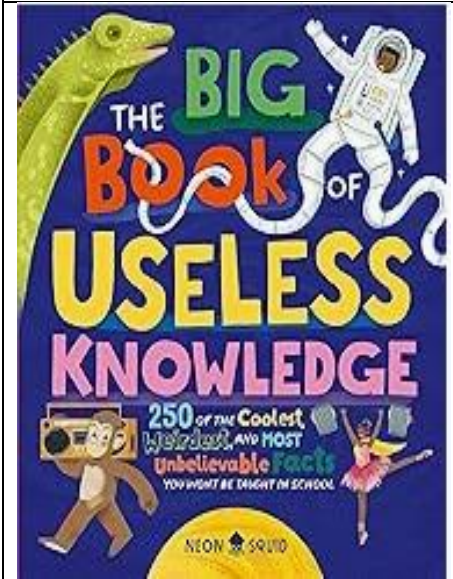


### Dexter Procter by Adam Kay

It was clear from birth that Dexter was different. He started speaking at 4 seconds and had 86 A-Levels by 5. Now at the ripe old age of 10, he has his first job as a doctor. Constantly undermined by his adult colleagues, can he save the world and his job?

In true Adam Kay style, this is a totally brilliant, hilariously funny and utterly disgusting story. When reading, whilst totally fantastical, you can't help but wonder if a few of Adam's old superiors provided inspiration for some of these characters and you will learn far more than you realise!

**A great choice for KS2: it will be a very popular choice.**



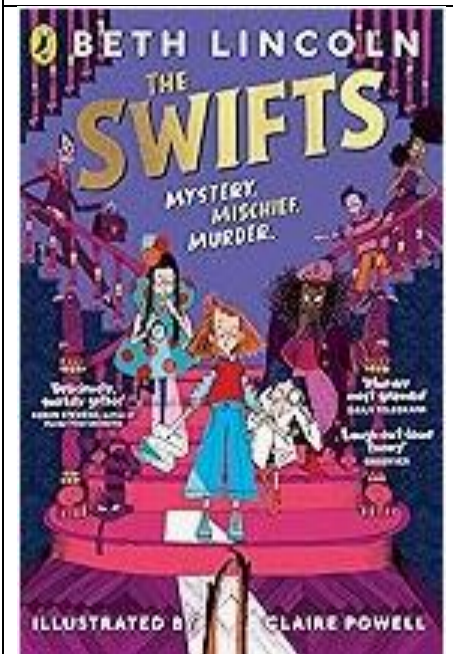
### The Big Book of Useless Knowledge by Neon Squid

Any book that opens with a lizard that can squirt blood from its eyes is bound to grab the interest of many children!

This compendium of obscure facts is divided into sections covering nature, the human body, places, prehistoric, history, culture, science, earth and space. It shares 250 "useless" facts: the silliest and most pointless facts from around the world. Each fact is accompanied by colourful and fun illustrations leaving you totally fascinated page after page.

*SPOILER: the information in this book isn't really useless. It will, inspire, shock and amuse the reader and maybe spark an interest that will last a lifetime. It won't help you with any school assessments though!*

**Whilst it is a perfect read for LKS2, it would appeal to all ages.**



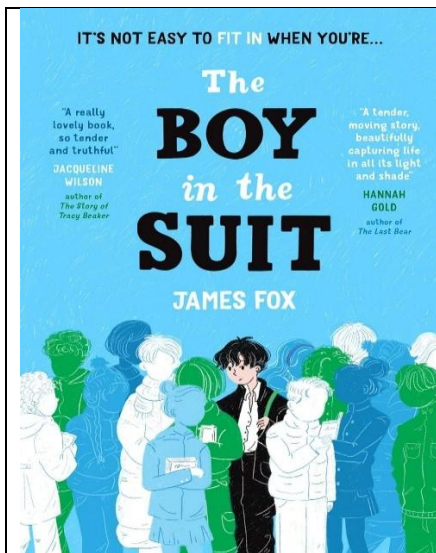
### The Swifts by Beth Lincoln

Do you have family traditions? Whatever they are, I can guarantee that they won't be as fascinating (or as macabre) as those of the Swifts. Larger than life scrabble duels, midnight treasure hunts, gravestones gifted at birth and as for names ... I loved the concept of being given a name at birth which would define your personality for life: pure genius.

When Shenanigan Swift's extended family descends on the ancestral home in search of hidden riches, an attempt on the life of their matriarch, Arch-Aunt Schadenfreude leaves the future of the family hanging in the balance, especially considering the would-be killer is still at large and the entire family is under suspicion

With more twists than peepholes and hidden rooms, this fabulous murder mystery with its rich vocabulary keeps you guessing right until the end

**A great (language rich) read for UKS2.**



### The Boy in the Suit by James Fox

Solo is a 10-year-old boy who lives with his mum, Morag. One day they crash a famous football legends funeral and get caught, their faces splashed across the newspapers. Solo fears that life will never be the same again. In the face of adversity, with the help of some very kind characters, Solo navigates a really challenging time in his life.

This is a deeply moving, kind and funny book. It is marketed as one which will break your heart and mend it again and it really does.

There are some more mature themes which may require a little caution. Aimed at 9-12 years, it is a good read for our children in Year 6 and will lead to increased awareness of the importance of foodbanks.

**A great choice for Year 6.**



### On The Wall by Anne Fine

On The Wall is an outstanding story about the transition to secondary school but, more importantly, it's about the importance of learning to accept yourself and understand the value of calm in a chaotic world. Finley is a delightfully complex protagonist.

Amid the frantic bustle of breaktime, Finley sits peacefully on the wall. Maybe tranquillity can be catching? Through Finley's calm contemplation, the author gently explores how students make their very different way through life at school and at home.

A warm and witty novel, with a lot to say about the value of silence.

**A must UKS2 read.**

