

No Shelf Control

Edition 22: February 2023

Q&A with Dr Liz Flanagan



It is an absolute stellar month, so choosing a book of the month was impossible! But 'Wildsmith' won over our hearts the most! Here Dr Liz Flanagan talks to us about the book.

I loved the story and I think it is one of those fantastic books that could be enjoyed by all ages. The Story is illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton who is a phenomenal artist, how did it feel seeing his illustrations of your story?

I totally agree! I love his artwork, and seeing how he imagines each character and setting. They're even better than I could have dreamt. I don't know how he does it, but there is such atmosphere and emotion in every picture.

If you could meet/look after any mythical/fantasy creature, what would it be?

Ha, I have to say dragons, after spending years of my life writing about them! I love the transformation from small and fragile to enormous and powerful, plus flying and fire - what's not to love?

With a sequel already in the works, how many adventures do you have planned for Rowan and the gang? And do you have any sneak peeks of future adventures?

Yes! There are four adventures, one for each season, with a different mythical creature in each. The second book, Wildsmith: City of Secrets, will be out on 6th April 2023, so not long to wait. Rowan's dad appears in the middle of the night with a pegasus foal who is in great danger.

What are the best children's books that you've read recently?



So many! How long have you got? Some recent favourites include James Nicol's The Spell Tailors which has such great characters and magic; Tamsin Mori's Winter's Keep, which is such a gripping and satisfying conclusion to a trilogy; and I've just started Jasbinder Bilan's Xanthe and the Ruby Crown, which is so beautifully written and intriguing from page one.

Wildsmith is available now for £7.99 from UCLan Publishing



Books

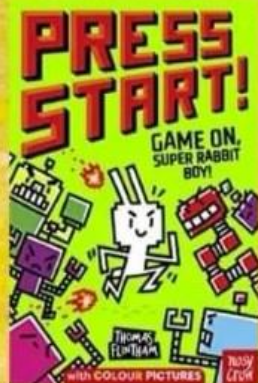


Reviews



chats

This Month's Book Reviews



Press Start

Thomas Flintham

Nosy Crow 6+

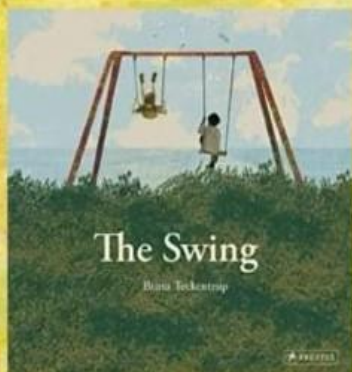
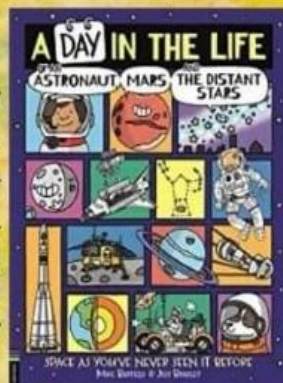
Readers may already recognise Thomas's illustrations from the hilarious Pamela Butchart books. This is a brilliant graphic novel following Sunny and his favourite game - Super Rabbit Boy. The colourful illustrations and easy to read texts make it perfect for early or less confident readers

A Day in the Life

Mike Barfield & Jess Bradley

Buster Books 7+

This is the third in the 'Day in the Life...' series and it is just as brilliant as those that came before it! Brilliantly informative, highly engaging and outrageously funny! Each page gives plenty of useful information about an element of space - from hairy stars to black holes. Essential for any space fans!



The Swing

Britta Teckentrup

Prestel 5+

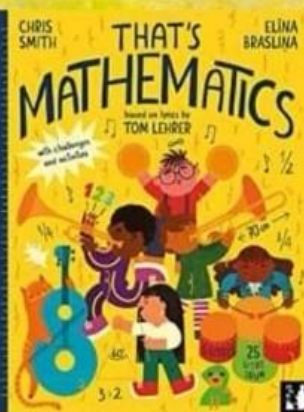
Some picture books grab your heart from the second you open them - this is one of them. Watching a swing through the years. Showing the passing of time and how life just keeps going with all of its ups and downs. One to be shared and discussed!

That's Mathematics

Chris Smith & Elina Braslina

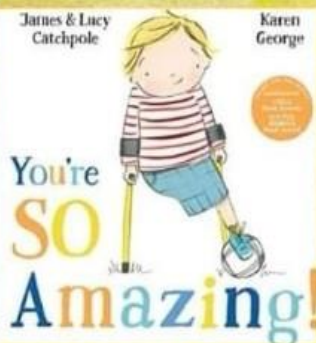
Mama Makes Books 6+

Maths is a subject which gets a bad reputation! This book tries to show that we use Maths everyday and it is fun, amazing and everywhere! Based on the song by Tom Lehrer. Readers are given practical activities to try that should foster and encourage their love of Maths and reading at the same time!



James & Lucy Catchpole

Karen George



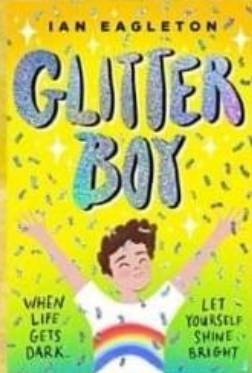
One To Wait for...

You're So Amazing

James & Lucy Catchpole & Karen George -

Faber & Faber - May 23

What Happened to You is simply a masterpiece, I've shared it with so many children. I can't wait to take a look at this book which offers disability awareness to its readers



Glitter Boy

Ian Eagleton

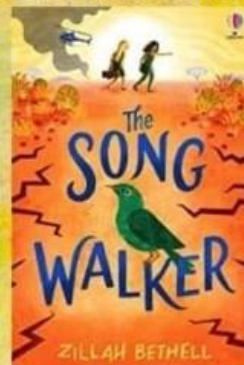
Scholastic 9+

Mr. Hamilton is getting married to his boyfriend and the choir have been asked to perform. But James is having a tricky time - his dad is uncomfortable about his involvement in the wedding, his dancing and his new friend Joel. His secrets are weighing him down and taking away from his usually sparkly self. We all know that letting the truth out is the best thing for our happiness, but it is always easier said than done!

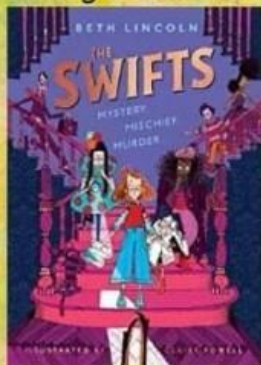
The Song Walker

Zillah Bethell

Usborne 9+



Set in the Australian outback, a young girl wakes up with no recollection of who she is, where she is and why she is carrying a suitcase. With the help of Tarni, can she find her way home and find the answers to her questions? As the two journey together, her memories slowly return but questions about Tarni's journey start to emerge. Will the two girls find what they are looking for?



The Swifts

Beth Lincoln & Claire Powell

Puffin 9+

If you think your family are weird, wait until you meet the Swifts... Their aunty makes them regularly rehearse her funeral so that she knows it will run perfectly and their names are chosen from the family dictionary and it is expected that they will behave like their name. A family reunion turns sour when there is a murder - surely it couldn't be a member of the family? A mystery packed with twists, turns and giggles.

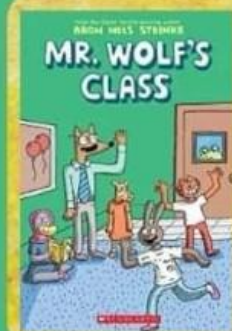
Like a Curse

Elle McNicoll & Kaye Wilson

Knights Of 9+



The sequel to 'Like a Charm' (which was a book of the month last year) is, in my opinion, even better than the original. Now that her powers are known by the family, Ramya is hating their over-protectiveness. Edinburgh has been overtaken by Portia, a powerful siren, and Ramya wants to help. Is she ready? Can she defeat the siren even though she hasn't finished her training? This adventure is unputdownable!



One You Might Have Missed

Mr. Wolf's Class - Aron Nels Steinke

Scholastic - 7+

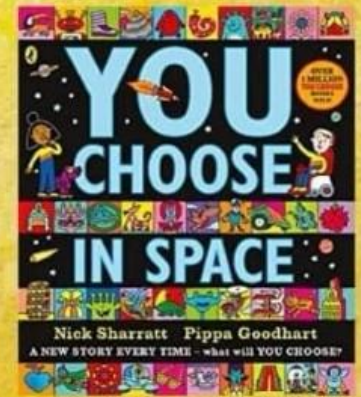
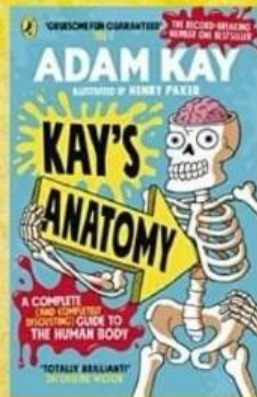
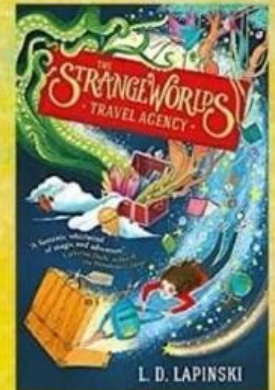
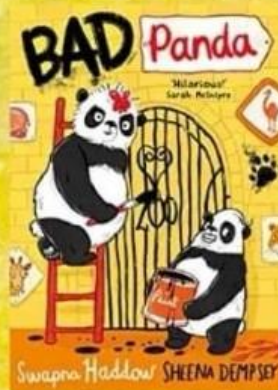
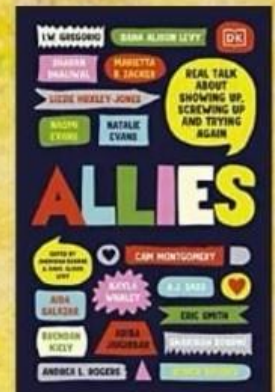
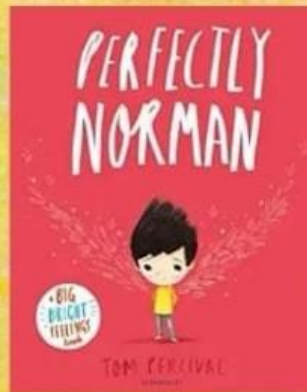
Mr Wolf's Class is a fantastic series of graphic novels that have been extremely popular in many classrooms up and down the country. It has always been difficult to get hold of... Until now! Finally Scholastic have given the book its official UK release and hopefully the others will be following soon!

9 Books by World Book Day Authors

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
2 MARCH 2023

The World Book Day £1 books are brilliant as always. We wanted to show you what other amazing books some of the authors have already written so that you know where to go next once you've read them!

1. Perfectly Norman
Tom Percival
2. Space Blasters
Katie & Kevin Tsang & Amy Nguyen
3. Allies
Shakirah Bourne & Dana Alison Levy
4. Bad Panda
Swapna Haddow & Sheena Dempsey
5. The Best Worst Day Ever
Sophie Henn
6. The Strangeworlds Travel Agency
L.D. Lapinski
7. Kay's Anatomy
Adam Kaye & Henry Parker
8. Fight Back
A.M. Dassu
9. You Choose In Space
Nick Sharratt & Pippa Goodhart



If you have any questions or have a book released soon that you feel deserves a place on the newsletter: Email us - MisterBodd@outlook.com